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The International Week

Spurred by US threats to reduce dollar aid, the UK has indicated willingness to participate in a European Payments Union. Meanwhile at the UN, Secretary General Lie has sought to resolve the impasse over seating the Chinese Communists by advocating adoption of the criterion of de facto control as the determining consideration.

SYG Lie's Memo on Chinese UN Representation. The Secretary-General's recent memorandum on the legal aspects of representation in the UN is the latest of his attempts to end the Soviet boycott of the UN and could furnish a convenient vehicle for ending the impasse. Lie makes three main points: (1) that national recognition of a government is distinct from representation in the UN; (2) that the UN, as an organization based upon "universality" of membership, must of necessity contain nations representing conflicting ideologies; and (3) that ability to "exercise effective authority" over its national territory is the proper criterion to be applied in determining which of two rival governments should represent a member state.

Admitting that the present situation, in which two governments claim to represent the same state, is not specifically covered in the UN Charter, Lie rests his argument on an analogy drawn from Article 4 which requires that applicants must be "able and willing" to carry out the obligations of UN membership. Although the "willingness" of the Chinese Communists to fulfill charter obligations is open to doubt, this objection ignores the doubtful "willingness" of certain other states whose UN membership has gone unchallenged on these grounds. Furthermore, this weakness in Lie's case is offset by the fact that when the more easily applied test of "ability" to fulfill charter obligations is used it is clear that the Chinese Peoples' Republic is the only government which can "exercise effective authority" over Chinese territory.

Lie's memorandum may offer some delegations a "way out" of the present impasse. Ecuador recently clearly indicated that in voting against the Chinese Communists it believed it was complying with a US "request" and that US declarations that each Security

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Council member should decide according to its own interests thus appear to be "double-talk." The Egyptian delegate felt that the US is not assuming the responsibility and leadership incumbent upon it but rather is waiting for smaller nations to make the decision for the US. These frank criticisms, implying a feeling that the US stand has been deliberately ambiguous, indicate that at least some of the nations presently opposed to seating the Chinese Communists might review their positions if they were convinced that the US sincerely intended to avoid exerting pressure.

Prospective strengthening of NATO. Some strengthening of the still embryonic North Atlantic Treaty Organization appears in prospect as a result of the widespread desire, both public and at governmental level, for greater Western unity in face of increased Soviet aggressiveness. UK Foreign Minister Bevin, for example, feels that immediate consideration should be given to creating a more effective and coordinated organization and to giving it more vitality. Most European countries will strongly favor any strengthening of the NATO as a means both of committing the US more fully to support of Western Europe and of assuring the continuation of US military and perhaps also economic aid.

Apparently the trend will be toward use of the NATO as the focal point for stressing the close inter-relationship within the Atlantic Community and its common stand in the cold war. The sphere of NATO activities would be expanded from primarily military to political and economic as well, as provided for in Article 2 of the NAT. The high level NAT Council, composed as it is of the foreign ministers, will probably be used increasingly as a forum for coordination of Western cold war policies, while new bodies may be created within the NATO to deal with common problems. In this connection Dutch and French officials have shown interest in creating a new NATO economic agency after 1952, perhaps as a successor to the OEEC.

Resumption of Jordan-Israel negotiations likely. Notwithstanding the recent Jordan cabinet flare-up touched off by the King's effort to conclude a non-aggression pact with Israel, negotiations have been only suspended not broken off. Abdullah has expressed his determination to resume them after the April elections in Jordan. These elections will increase the representation of the Palestinian Arabs in the government, however, and in view of the strong feelings of this group, are likely to add, if anything, to the King's difficulties in accomplishing his objective.

Communist "peace" campaign seeks mass support at Stockholm Congress. The Third World Congress of Peace Partisans in Stockholm 16-19 March will afford the movement a major opportunity to exploit its strategy of seeking to align the Western peoples against their "warmongering" governments. The choice of Sweden for the meeting apparently reflects the Peace Partisans' hope that they may find in this traditionally neutral country a mass support which other European countries have withheld. By holding the congress immediately prior to the first MDAP shipments, they will also be in a position to concentrate the scattered Communist fire in one broadside against Western defense arrangements.

The recent rebuff to the Partisans' five-point "peace program" by the Belgian and Dutch Parliaments and the US Congress will not deter them from aggressive promotion of this program at Stockholm. Even if the French and Italian parliaments should follow suit, this rebuff will inevitably be interpreted as further proof of the "undemocratic" character of governments that oppose the popular will for peace. The integral connection between this Congress and Soviet objectives is reflected in: (1) the compression of the five-point program into a demand for "immediate reduction of military budgets and strength of the Armed Forces" and "prohibition of the atomic weapon"; (2) the selection of prominent atomic physicists to head the French, Belgian and UK delegations; and (3) the important role assigned to the WFTU Secretary General, a key figure in the Communist anti-MDAP campaign. Although the USSR can hardly expect the Stockholm meeting to result in any direct East-West peace talks, the timing of this new "peace congress" suggest that it represents a major Communist effort to capitalize on European war-weariness and to put the US on the defensive, propagandawise, by highlighting its rejection of the latest Communist "peace program."

Asian and Colonial Powers at odds over ILO Asian office.

Early formation of an ILO Asian Advisory Committee, essential to effective ILO participation in technical aid for Asian countries, is being impeded by disagreement between India and Australia over the national membership to be permitted in this body. India feels that the Committee's members should be drawn exclusively from the Asian members of the ILO, while Australia, with UK backing, advocates membership from all the countries represented at the recent ILO Asian Regional Conference in Ceylon. Since this dispute centers over the right of the Colonial Powers to participate in an Asian regional organization, a right which India is reluctant to concede, its solution will not be easy and may plague the ILO for some time.