

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

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The combined impact of the hydrogen bomb, the Fuchs confession, and Secretary Acheson's statement focussed worldwide attention on the question of the adequacy of existing international machinery to deal with the awesome threats impending over mankind. Meanwhile the Soviet bloc extended its boycott of the UN to the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council resumed consideration of the Kashmir dispute in the absence of the USSR. In Geneva, the Trusteeship Council took up the drafting of a statute internationalizing Jerusalem.

The Jordan-Israel talks and Geneva. The Jordan-Israel talks have been conducted with a weather eye cocked toward Geneva where the Trusteeship Council is about to turn to its task of drafting a Jerusalem statute. Both Israel and Jordan appear anxious to reach some agreement on Jerusalem so as to forestall any sweeping internationalization of the city by the TC. Thus far, however, their conversations have been characterized by inconclusive haggling over the terms for dividing the Holy City between them. Nevertheless both parties have expressed confidence that agreement can ultimately be reached and will explore the basis for holding continuous sessions in an effort to reach early agreement. The continuance of these talks indicates some mutual desire to reach a settlement although the outlook for success is still dubious. There are even some indications that rather than make concessions to Israel in the Old City, Jordan might reverse its present position and support internationalization, thus leaving the Israelis isolated.

Meanwhile in Geneva, the Garreau plan for trifurcating Jerusalem commands little support in the TC. The Council instead decided to proceed at once with the drafting of a statute in accordance with the GA resolution of 9 December and both Israel and Jordan have been invited to attend the TC. These developments should exert pressure on both states to agree between themselves on the disposition of Jerusalem.

Problem of Libyan Federation. A cleavage has developed between the Libyan administering powers and UN Commissioner Pelt due

to his fear that the present plans of these states may prejudice the eventual form of the independent Libyan state. The UK and France plan the creation of separate semi-autonomous administrations in Tripolitania and the Fezzan, paralleling that in Cyrenaica, and Pelt believes that this will virtually lay the foundation for a federal state with insufficient consultation of the wishes of the Libyan people and prior to the organization of the UN's ten member advisory Council. While the Commissioner agrees personally that federal union may well be the only realistic solution, he insists that the fundamental question of the form of Libyan unity be left to the future National Assembly without interference by the administering authorities. Pelt has suggested that the composition of this Assembly be discussed by a preparatory committee from the three areas, which group might itself decide on a form of federation, but this suggestion has not been received favorably by the local administrations.

While the British and French cannot be expected to withdraw their plans for local autonomy, and though federation is favored by the US and reportedly has the assent of leading Libyan groups, it is likely that concessions as to timing and stages will be made to avoid open conflict with the UN's agent and an ensuing critical debate in the next GA.

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Peace Partisans prepare major drive in Western countries
Wider support for a "peace pact" among the world powers will be sought in coming months by the Soviet-oriented World Committee of Peace Partisans. Despite its recent preoccupation with the anti-MDAP campaign, the Committee has found time to: (1) select an "international delegation" to visit the US, the USSR, the UK, France, Italy and other Western countries; (2) schedule a second US "trade union conference in defense of peace" in Cleveland; and (3) prepare for another World Peace Congress to be staged in Stockholm during March, 1950. These plans, directed by the Committee's physicist-chairman Joliot-Curie, reflect the unwavering purpose of the Kremlin to exploit the Peace Partisans movement fully in its current bid for Western popular support of Soviet peace aims. Although earlier drives by this organization have had only limited success, its renewed efforts, closely coordinated with those of the WFTU and the Womens and Youth International, demonstrate that the USSR does not intend to abandon what it still considers a potent propaganda instrument. The choice of Sweden for the latest peace congress probably reflects a Communist effort to influence public opinion in traditionally neutral Sweden and to gain support that other European countries have withheld.

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Anti-MDAP campaign meets stiffening opposition. The Communist drive against the unloading of US arms shipments, although still in high gear, is encountering increasingly heavy opposition. The International Transport Workers Federation is accelerating the organization of anti-Communist "vigilance committees" in French, Italian and Scandinavian ports. In France anti-Communist organizers are successfully repeating in other ports the Cherbourg pattern for weaning dockworkers from the CGT leadership, coaching them to ask embarrassing questions about CGT's ability to make promised compensatory payment for loading time lost by strikes and about the political aspects of strikes which sabotage the national defense. In Norway the Transport Workers Union has indicated that it will not tolerate work stoppages designed to interfere with arms shipments. Only in the north of Italy, particularly in Genoa and Livorno, do Communist longshoremen possess the potential for making a Western European port unsafe for deliveries. However, reported Soviet efforts to make additional funds available to the WFTU by assessment of Polish, Roumanian and Czech workers indicate that the all-out campaign against the shipments will be continued so long as the USSR sees any prospect of impairing the Western Defense Program.

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