

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - Historical Programs Staff 30 August 2018



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1. US position on Italo-Yugoslav negotiations--Secretary Byrnes has directed Embassy Rome to tell Foreign Minister Nenni that without further information on the future trend of the negotiations between Italy and Yugoslavia on the Trieste question, no advance assurance of a UN "guarantee" can be given. Any agreement not in harmony with the CFM decision and the Paris Conference recommendations would have to be scrutinized "with the greatest care."
2. Soviets urge Czech-Polish treaty--US Ambassador Steinhardt has been reliably informed that the Soviets have again requested the Czechoslovak Government to conclude a treaty with Poland similar to the recent Polish-Yugoslav and Yugoslav-Czechoslovak treaties. Steinhardt asserts that, although most Government members, including the Communists, oppose such a treaty while Polish-Czechoslovak frontier questions remain unsolved, the Czechoslovak Government may comply with the Soviet request.
3. UK suggests ACC consider Rumanian elections--Acting Secretary Acheson has requested US Representative Berry to comment on whether the US should join the UK in a proposal to the USSR that the ACC "consider" the Opposition's memorandum on the coming elections (see Daily Summary of 28 October, item 5) and make recommendations as to action to be taken in the light of the electoral malpractices revealed by the memorandum.
4. Factors delaying Sino-US air agreement--Ambassador Stuart reports that the main causes of delay in concluding the civil air transport agreement with China have been (a) the question of including Mukden as an international traffic point (see Daily Summary of 11 October, item 11); (b) the Chinese desire for a loan to improve civil airfields, and (c) a "behind-the-scenes" struggle between the Minister of Communications and the head of the Chinese Air Force for control of civil aviation. General Marshall, following a talk with T.V. Soong, has agreed on political grounds to the exclusion of Mukden from the proposed agreement.

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EUROPE

5. USSR: Zhdanov only Politburo member at Moscow parade--Embassy Moscow reports that the only full member of the Politburo on the reviewing stand during the 7 November parade was A.A. Zhdanov. The Embassy comments that never before have fewer than five Politburo members appeared on such an occasion.

US Military Attache Moscow believes that this circumstance may have given rise to the current unverified rumor that a plane carrying high officials to the celebration crashed. The MA comments that the parade was characterized by elaborate police measures and by public apathy.

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Stalin rumored seriously ill--The MA has heard [redacted] that Stalin is seriously ill. (see Daily Summary of 20 October, item 3).

6. ITALY: Decommissioning of ships prior to transfer recommended--US Naval Attache Rome considers that the "only safe method" of preventing the crews from scuttling the Italian fleet is to decommission the ships in Italian ports prior to the actual transfer (see Daily Summary of 9 November, item 6).
7. TUNISIA: Offer of military collaboration--According to US Consul General Tunis, the French Resident-General, Mast, on 10 October offered "in strict confidence" to consider preferences of the US War and Navy Departments regarding priorities to be given to the construction of military works in Tunisia. Mast stated that any suggestion would receive "prompt consideration" and would be included in his construction program for 1947, and asked the Consul General not to submit his suggestion "through Paris" because he felt his intentions might be "misconstrued" by officials who were not "as pro-American."

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

8. IRAN: Report of Soviet intentions to increase Azerbaijan army--US Military Attache Teheran reports that General Razmara, Iranian Chief of Staff, says he has "convincing proof of Soviet intentions to build up the Azerbaijan 'Democratic' Army to a strength of between 60,000 and 70,000 within a year," and that it is to be "composed largely of Caucasians who

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will be brought across the border." Razmara feels that if Iran is to recover Azerbaijan, it must do it by force and quickly. The MA doubts Qavam will take such action.

FAR EAST

9. CHINA: Nationalists expect to occupy Dairen--The Chinese Foreign Minister has informed Ambassador Stuart that Nationalist troops have "ceased their advance down Antung Peninsula for the time being." However, the Minister expressed confidence that "no startling difficulties would arise" and that Dairen, in due course, would pass under Nationalist control.

Consul-General Dairen reports that the Soviets will probably delay entry of Nanking officials as long as possible and attempt to retain an administration favorable to the USSR.

10. FRENCH INDOCHINA: USSR reported sending officers to Hanoi--US Naval Attache Nanking reports that two Soviet Army officers are preparing to depart for Hanoi to serve as military attaches in the office which Soviet sources claim will be activated there.

THE AMERICAS

11. COLOMBIA: Petroleum workers' strike continues--Wiley reports that an arbitration board proposal that would have terminated the petroleum workers' strike on terms apparently favorable to them has been rejected by the Communist-controlled union despite a strong plea for its acceptance by President Ospina.

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