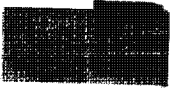


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GENERAL

1. Indications of Soviet withdrawals from Austria--According to General Clark, Soviet General Zheltov indicated at the Allied Commission meeting on 3 December that he expects Soviet troops to be withdrawn from Austria during the "third quarter" of 1947. Clark adds that a member of the Soviet Political Division recently told his US counterpart in Vienna that Soviet forces in Austria "are being substantially reduced." Clark reports, however, that there are no indications of any "current reduction" of Soviet forces in Austria.

US Delegation ACC Hungary, on the other hand, reports that the first train carrying Soviet Army personnel from Austria to the USSR passed through Hungary during 1-2 December. The train, according to railway records, originated in the Vienna area and carried 1,700 officers and men. A Soviet officer with the Hungarian railways has indicated that present plans call for 12 trainloads and some more would likely follow.

2. Re-equipment of the Italian Air Force--The Commanding General Mediterranean has informed the War Department that the Chief of the Italian Air Staff will defer acceptance of a new British plan to re-equip the Italian Air Force until informed of details of a similar pending US proposal. General Lee stresses the desirability of making the IAF fully operational before the Allies withdraw and points out that re-equipping it prior to that time will be "difficult or impossible" if much longer delayed.

3. UK Foreign Office approves State Department's views on Iran--US Charge Callman reports that British Foreign Office fully approves the State Department's recommendations to Premier Qavam to inform the Security Council of the Azerbaijan situation (see Daily Summary of 3 December, item 7). The Foreign Office is now awaiting text of Qavam's letter of notification to SC before instructing British representative to SC.

4. Possible use of US air technicians in USSR--The Soviet Air Director in Berlin has indicated to General Keating, OMGUS, that the USSR proposes to improve the Berlin-Moscow airway by using US equipment and operating methods. Keating believes that the probable Soviet need for US technical assistance would offer the US an opportunity to penetrate the "iron curtain." Keating adds that the Soviet official referred to "much talk" of Soviet agreement to a Moscow-Berlin-London-Washington airline.

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5. Argentine threat to Bolivia discounted--US Ambassador Messersmith believes that reported Argentine troop movements near the Bolivian frontier do not constitute a threat to Bolivia. He adds that this is the usual maneuver period for the Argentine Army and that his Military Attache regards this recurrent report as of no importance.

EUROPE

6. AUSTRIA: Government may buy Soviet-seized oil properties--The Austrian Economics Minister has informed the US Political Adviser that a Soviet official recently "hinted strongly" that the USSR would be receptive to an Austrian offer to buy Soviet-seized oil properties at Zistersdorf. Austrian leaders have decided to make a formal offer, if support by all three political parties is assured.
7. SPAIN: Connally resolution discounted--Both the US Charge and the Military Attache Madrid report an inclination in Spanish Government circles to regard the US resolution on Spain in the UN as a tactical effort to forestall passage of the Polish resolution to break relations with Franco.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

8. IRAN: Soviet pressure on Qavam continues--Ambassador Allen reports that Qavam informed the Shah and the Cabinet that the Soviet Ambassador had reiterated his warning against the dispatch of Iranian forces to Azerbaijan. The Shah said he told Qavam that there could be no thought of altering policy at this time and that Qavam showed no sign of weakening.

Firuz opposes Iran's policy--Allen also reports that Muzzafar Firuz, Iranian Ambassador to Moscow, had sent Qavam a violent protest against the latter's Azerbaijan policy and had warned him that disastrous consequences would result for Iran. Firuz also warned Qavam not to depend on "constant" support from the US and UK.

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