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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PANEL

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 8

For week ending 6 July 1948

UN action difficult in Berlin Dispute. The request of the Berlin City Assembly that the Soviet blockade of the city's western sectors be referred to the UN has so far met with little support from the western occupying powers. The General Assembly does not meet until the end of September. The Security Council is now under the unfriendly presidency of Manuilsky (Ukraine) and the USSR would certainly veto any action which could be taken. Article 107 of the Charter removes from UN jurisdiction any action against an enemy state taken by an occupying power, and the USSR would probably use this article to justify its action in refusing transit for food and supplies across its zone, despite the obvious fact that such a move is directed against its former allies. The UN would be powerless to act in this situation and could be used only as a forum for propaganda against the USSR. The suggestion that the Berlin imbroglio be referred to the UN is typical of the present tendency to bring all manner of disputes before the international organization without analysis of its ability to take effective action. The UN was not originally intended to effect the peace arrangements following World War II. Yet the fate of the Italian Colonies will probably be settled by the General Assembly under the terms of the Italian Peace Treaty and the GA is now seized of the Korean occupational difficulties between the US and USSR.

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Palestine. UN Mediator Bernadotte, aware of the hopelessness of effecting any immediate agreement between the Arabs and Jews, is now concentrating his efforts upon the extension of the truce and demilitarization of Jerusalem. He is finding the going hard because of Arab hostility to truce extension, although the Jews clearly favor it. The Mediator himself has no power to extend the truce which can be done only by the Security Council. It is almost certain that the Security Council will order an extension of the truce on the same conditions, if the parties should fail to agree to Bernadotte's recommendations. In the 29 May cease fire resolution the Security Council warned both parties that a rejection of the proposal would be followed by consideration of sterner measures under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Document No. 008NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763~~SECRET~~

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The awareness of both belligerents of this situation may enable the Mediator to bring them to reason before the present truce runs out. Should either party be responsible for the rejection of a cease fire resolution, Article 40 provides that the Security Council may then take account of failure to comply with such provisional measures. The Council could then invoke measures against the recalcitrant side, such as lifting the arms embargo on the complying party.

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Western Trade Unions establish liaison with OEEC. The recent decision of the 15-nation Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to set up an emergency committee to consult with OEEC is a victory for those Western labor leaders who insist on a vigorous ERP trade union body capable of working closely with OEEC and of preparing counter measures against Communist labor saboteurs. The new committee is to seek: (1) incorporation of TUAC into OEEC (2) participation of trade unionists in OEEC as labor advisors. The AFL with the recent support of the CIO, has repeatedly manifested impatience with the dilatoriness of TUAC and promises "fireworks" at the TUAC Plenary Session 29 July if there has been no progress toward these objectives. The British and Dutch representatives are apparently reluctant to see the TUAC develop into a policy-making body. The AFL attributes their hesitancy to an unwillingness to back a world organization which might become a rival to the WFTU.

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USSR to veto Ceylon UN membership. In contrast to its support of Burma, Siam and Pakistan's applications for UN membership, the USSR has indicated it will veto Ceylon's application on the ground that there is insufficient evidence that the new dominion is "independent and democratic." Apparently the USSR wishes to pry loose close ties which still bind Ceylon to the British Empire. Furthermore, the communist movement in Ceylon is relatively weak and split into three groups. While the USSR is sedulously courting the peoples of Southeast Asia, it probably does not feel that Ceylon is sufficiently ripe for large scale communist infiltration to justify its admission to the UN from the Soviet standpoint.

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