

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 51

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Volume II

The International Week

The Marshall Plan countries are meeting in Paris to consider strengthening the OEEC. In another step toward completion of the North Atlantic Treaty structure, a Defense Finance and Economic Committee was organized and met in London. Meanwhile, the UN Trusteeship Council called upon its president to draft a Jerusalem statute, after first ascertaining the positions of Jordan and Israel.

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Small power European labor encouraged by new international. The Socialist trade union leaders of Belgium and Sweden, long critical of British tutelage of Western labor's course, have returned from London generally satisfied over the formation of the US-oriented Free Trade Union Confederation (ICFTU). They cite the "spirit of cooperation" displayed at London, the absence of big power domination, and the recognition of small nation influence reflected in the location of the headquarters in Brussels and the choice of the Dutch-born Oldenbroek as General Secretary. The Swedes, who were observers at the London Conference, have intimated that the Swedish national federation may soon enter the new international. Belgian Catholic trade unionists, although less convinced of the absence of domination by US labor, also appear to be impressed with the balance struck in the Confederation's constitution between Socialism and US capitalism. However, they have pointedly warned that anti-Communism is not enough and that the new international must create a positive program if it hopes to bind its affiliated labor movements into a going concern.

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OEEC strengthening in prospect. As the Marshall Plan countries meet to consider the US proposal for appointment of an outstanding individual to strengthen the OEEC, it seems likely the US will have its way, although former Belgian Prime Minister Spaak may not be the choice for the post. Most continental states have responded favorably to the US suggestion, while the UK and Scandinavia, though hesitant, are not strongly opposed. However, the British have been distinctly unenthusiastic about such strengthening of the OEEC, a

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reflection of their generally cautious attitude toward such organizations as well as their concern lest appointment of a man like Spaak would reduce their hitherto dominant OEEC role. They have undoubtedly influenced the Scandinavian attitude. The UK apparently also fears Spaak's strong stand in favor of positive European economic integration and it is possible that while agreeing in principle to a new OEEC post, they may propose another candidate. Should this occur, the continentals would be disposed to go along with any genuinely adequate personality, but men of Spaak's calibre are very hard to find.

Will Albania pay Corfu Channel Award? It is questionable whether or not Albania will pay the £ 843,000. damages recently awarded by the ICJ to the UK in the Corfu Channel case with the Soviet and Czechoslovak judges dissenting. The sum is not trivial for Albania, but could of course easily be supplied by the USSR, should it so desire. The USSR wants Albania as a UN member, and compliance with an order of the UN tribunal would be a necessary preliminary to admission. The Soviet also obviously believes it advantageous to adhere to the ICJ statute, for one of its nationals is a judge of the Court. Moreover, no country has ever refused outright to comply with an award of an international tribunal. It is probable, therefore, that the USSR will suggest to Albania that it negotiate with the UK informally in an endeavor to secure time, or possibly some reduction in the amount to be paid, so that no definite repudiation will mar its record when it next applies for membership. Should Albania refuse to pay, the UK may, under the ICJ statute, have recourse to the SC for enforcement, although this would be subject to the veto.

WFTU seeks to organize European transport workers. Renewed Communist efforts to win support among Western European transport workers will probably follow the recent Bucharest conference to organize an International Federation of Transport Workers. This conference, steered by the Soviet Assistant WFTU General Secretary, was attended by representatives from East Germany, the Satellite countries and France. The presence of a large delegation of French railroad union officials may foreshadow early attempts by the French Communist railroad workers federation to tie up French rail transport.

New UN Secretary General? Although Trygve Lie has declared he will not be a candidate to succeed himself when his term expires in 1951, probable Soviet opposition to any other acceptable candidate may result in his being drafted. Lie was originally selected because, among other reasons, he was persona grata to the USSR at the time (the SYG's election is subject to veto). Neither General Romulo nor former Australian Foreign Minister Evatt, who have been suggested as potential successors, would be satisfactory to the USSR. Any Latin American candidate would probably also be unacceptable to the Soviet bloc. Should Lie refuse to run again, or should the USSR oppose his re-election, a hard and bitter struggle is in prospect.

WFTU Asian Bureau to promote revolt in Southeast Asia. The formation of Communist labor cadres in Southeast Asia to assist in the development of "national liberation armies," is apparently the immediate task which the USSR has assigned to the WFTU Asian Liaison Bureau recently established in Peiping. A call for such cadres was implicit in the speech of Liu Shao-chi, Chinese Communist theoretician, at the WFTU Peiping Conference characterizing "armed struggle" as the chief form of "peoples liberation" in the colonial areas. This analysis was echoed at the Peiping Asian Womens Conference by Madame Chou En-lai who called upon the women of Vietnam and Korea to overthrow "American imperialism" and, more specifically, to drive out "aggressive forces in South Korea." Meanwhile, something like a ground-plan for political upheaval in the Middle and Far East was sketched by the WFTU General Secretary, currently in China. In terms of the development of the Communist drive in this area, he divided Asia into: (1) countries where "the people" have already obtained the leadership like China, Mongolia and North Korea; (2) countries in which Communist-led labor forces "have the possibility of developing their influence" in the struggle for "national liberation" such as Vietnam, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaya; (3) countries where Communist labor may have to go underground to combat "terrorism," i.e. India, Burma, Ceylon, Pakistan, Iran and Japan.

The opposition to this Communist offensive is still relatively unorganized. Although an attempt to counteract it will probably be initiated in mid-January by the anti-Communist Asian Labor Federation at Ceylon, this federation, as presently constituted, is unlikely to offer a substantial challenge to the Communists. Little more than a committee of Nehru-oriented Asian labor leaders, it does not yet command resources or popular support sufficient for such an objective and in effect leaves the field open to Communist exploitation.