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The International Week

Britain's bold devaluation of the pound sterling, already followed by 17 other countries with several more in the offing, will be a powerful stimulus to European economic recovery and resolute expansion of world trade. Meanwhile the Fourth Session of the UN General Assembly opened at Lake Success with Carlos Romulo elected GA President. The annual UNESCO Conference met in Paris. Seven UN membership applications were vetoed by the USSR, as its five Satellites once again failed of a majority vote.

Prospects for reconvening the CFM. The impressive Soviet UN delegation headed by Foreign Minister Vishinsky points to the USSR's intention to take the initiative in pressing for a new meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, if only as a gesture in support of continuing East-West conversations. The Western powers, on the other hand, prefer to delay reconvening the CFM, from which it would be difficult to exclude the subject of Germany, until the recently established West German Republic has gotten under way. The West does seek prompt resumption of the deputies' meetings on the Austrian treaty and the USSR, while probably more interested in propaganda exploitation of renewed German discussions, has agreed to the Western request.

The USSR is nevertheless likely to bring up the matter of a CFM meeting on Germany at New York. If turned down, it should have another opportunity to renew its request whenever the deputies for Austria again reach an impasse, which seems probable. The Soviet request will be aided if the Foreign Ministers are still attending the GA. But while there may be some jockeying between East and West as to the timing of the next CFM and the topics for the agenda, the prospects are that unless the discussion is limited to Austria, the CFM will be postponed until next year.

Military observers likely to be sent to Korea. In the fact of continued East-West deadlock over Korea, the GA will probably vote to remain seized of the question and to retain a

commission with new terms of reference. The new commission, reduced in size but strengthened by military observers, will undoubtedly be instructed to observe and report on military developments which might lead to civil war between the US-sponsored Republic of Korea and the Soviet Satellite north of the 38th parallel. The commission will probably also be told to continue its efforts to lift economic barriers and effect unification of the Korean peninsula.

The present UN Commission on Korea, frustrated by Soviet refusal to deal with it and hampered by its own general lack of ability, has actually completed but a few of the tasks assigned to it. Every effort of UNCOK to enter the territory north of the 38th parallel has been repulsed, but the mere physical presence of the Commission has served to indicate to the Korean people that the world is interested in their problem and has acted as a stabilizing factor vis-a-vis the North. Thus, the primary value of the commission is as a barrier to overt Communist aggression and, with new authority to report military activities, it might make a real contribution toward preserving the peace.

Technical assistance central theme of UNESCO Conference.
The determination of the US and other Western powers to enlist the aid of a revitalized UNESCO in the economic and social development of underdeveloped and war-devastated areas will probably dominate the debates of the Paris UNESCO Conference opening this week. UNESCO's staff, still absorbed with widely diffused projects, will be urged to integrate its work more closely into the general UN structure, to adopt a workable program for educating the masses, and to support strongly free cultural exchange among the peoples of the world. To counter the burgeoning propaganda of the Communist-inspired "peace congresses", it will also reassert its role as the recognized UN agency for promoting fundamental understanding among peoples and will emphasize more active participation by intellectuals and popular masses in UN-oriented peace efforts. To facilitate achievement of these objectives UNESCO will probably: (1) set up long-discussed regional UNESCO centers in Latin America (Havana), the Near East (Beirut), and possibly in the Far East; (2) accept the active participation of German and Japanese "consultants" in efforts to democratize the German and Japanese peoples; and (3) implement UNESCO blueprints for extending educational assistance to the underdeveloped areas. More concrete results from these and other UNESCO efforts appear probable as a consequence of the recent resignation from UNESCO of such pro-Soviet personnel as Edmund Ferenczi, the permanent Hungarian representative.