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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

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The International Week

Despite British non-participation, France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries are proceeding with negotiations on the Schuman proposal to pool coal and steel. Meanwhile in Geneva, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) opened its 5th session with the Soviet bloc participating.

UN Eritrean trusteeship sentiment rising. With the UN Commission of Inquiry (UNCOMINQ) divided on the question of Eritrea's future, prospects for UN trusteeship over the territory are growing. It is noteworthy that no strong support was given in the commission to the US-UK proposal for partition. Two principal theses have emerged from the investigation, one proposing a loose federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia, and one calling for a direct UN trusteeship leading to eventual independence.

The appeal of independence is such that only a compromise agreeable to both Ethiopia and Italy could command powerful support as an alternative solution. Some observers feel that UNCOMINQ's divided report may furnish an opportunity for a renewal of Italo-Ethiopian discussions, but it is no longer certain that Italy, which has long favored Eritrean independence, would be anxious for agreement.

Under these circumstances, the idea of a ten year trusteeship, with a UN-appointed administrator assisted by an advisory council of states, may very likely gain the necessary two-thirds majority in the General Assembly. Support within the commission for this solution by Guatemala and Pakistan indicates that Latin American and Moslem backing will be forthcoming. Should the Soviet bloc participate in the GA, it would also be expected to line up on the side of colonial independence, at an even earlier date and with no vestige of Anglo-American influence.

WFTU seeks to strengthen trade union support of "peace offensive". At its recent independence conferences, the World Federation */ Paul*

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of Trade Unions concentrated on a review of trade union "peace activity" in the Western countries and on measures for strengthening and expanding such activity. Soviet representatives emphasized that the WFTU's principal task in these areas is to support the Soviet peace policy by opposing the manufacture and shipment of arms and by collecting signatures for the Peace Partisans declaration against the use of atomic weapons. Other important WFTU tasks "in the defense of peace" were defined as: (a) formation and strengthening of peace committees in workshops and factories; (b) promoting labor support for the Second World Peace Congress to be held in Rome this fall; and (c) launching a public campaign to defend the UN Charter against "Anglo-US imperialist actions".

Especial stress was laid upon the "moral and financial support" which the WFTU trade union internationals (TUIs) will be expected to supply increasingly to dockers, seamen and railway workers opposing the US arms program. It was made clear that, in the struggle against the arms program, opposition to French shipments to Vietnam would be regarded as of equal importance with the campaign against US shipments to Western Europe. To strengthen "working class unity" in the effort to defeat the arms program, the Soviet delegates recommended: (a) establishment of ties with individual unions in countries where the national labor organizations are no longer affiliated with WFTU; (b) the admission of new unions, particularly from colonial areas which may be consignees for the arms shipments; (c) broadened "unity of action" with non-Communist labor; and (d) greater use of the radio, press, and information bulletins.

The Budapest conference decisions indicate that Soviet leaders, recognizing that overt sabotage tactics have so far failed to disrupt arms shipments, are attempting to increase mass support for their campaign against Western defense preparations. Future Communist efforts in this campaign will probably stress mass "peace" demonstrations in Western cities and the organization of strikes against the production and processing of armaments for the North Atlantic Treaty nations.

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Catholic-Socialist cooperation in European labor still unachieved. Progress towards closer association between the Socialist and Christian trade unions of Western Europe has been retarded by the failure of the Free Trade Union Confederation (ICFTU) and the Christian labor international (CISC) to agree on terms. In place of direct affiliation of the national Christian labor federations with the ICFTU, the Christian international has offered "collaboration" between the two internationals, leaving both intact but permitting consultation on matters of common interest. The French and Belgian Catholic labor federations, which originally favored direct affiliation, have recently accepted the view of the CISC majority which is not prepared to liquidate the Christian international (with an estimated membership of 3-1/2 million workers) as the price of admission into the ICFTU. Last week the ICFTU refused the Christian international's offer, emphasizing that it

organizations. A major factor in the ICFTU's refusal appears to have been its desire to encourage minority elements in the French Catholic unions which hope eventually to reverse the vote against direct affiliation with ICFTU.

Some progress towards resolving the differences between the two Western labor internationals may be achieved during current and future sessions of the ILO and the OEEC, in which both the Catholic and Socialist trade unions participate. Although a modus vivendi will not be easily achieved, since deep-rooted antagonisms still divide the two groups of European unions, nevertheless their common antipathy to Communism and interest in European recovery will continue to pull them together. Moreover, it is likely that the early inclusion in ICFTU of the new, heavily Catholic, Italian labor confederation (CISL) will be a potent force in promoting such cooperation, since the Italians strongly support the US concept of "non-denominational" unions still largely unfamiliar to European workers.

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Outlook for current ECE session. In contrast to the quiet efficient operation of some of its technical committees such as those on transport, coal and timber, the ECE at its current session will as in the past serve largely as a forum for economic and ideological polemics. The Soviet bloc will exploit familiar propaganda themes such as the baleful effects of the Marshall plan, trade discrimination against Eastern Europe, unemployment and the plight of small western European farmers. However the western members are in a good position to tax the USSR with the deadlock in the trade and agricultural committees where Soviet obstructionism and refusal to furnish economic data have brought work to a virtual standstill. The past record and future program of the various ECE committees will be reviewed and the commission will probably uphold Executive Secretary Myrdal's intention to suspend further meetings of the trade and agricultural committees until prospects for accomplishing something useful are improved. Myrdal's suggestion to extend full ECE membership to non-UN members however, while supported by the USSR, will be opposed by the US, UK and probably France and may be rejected. East-West trade will be a major subject of controversy and it is likely that the surprisingly quick Soviet response to Myrdal's suggestion for a European grain agreement was made more with an eye to propaganda than in the serious expectation of exchanging Soviet grain for desired western manufactures.

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Yugoslav proposal for intellectuals' congress likely to be shelved. Despite considerable interest at the UNESCO conference

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in a Yugoslav proposal for a congress on intellectual cooperation, it is not likely that the operating portions of the resolution will reach the conference floor. Supported by the UK and France, the US believes that the proposal should be buried in the Program and Budget Commission which has the task of fusing all proposals on the subject of peace into an overall resolution combining the best features of each. Although initially the US delegation had thought some political advantage might be gained from support of such a congress, convened expressly to "combat war psychosis" and to counter the belief in inevitable war between nations with different social systems, the State Department feels the congress would give rise to impractical proposals and anti-western propaganda, generating more heat than light and duplicating the work of UNESCO. Ambassador Allen in Belgrade, on the other hand, while not contending that the congress would materially change the world situation, believes US opposition might be misunderstood. He states that many "people of good will" in strategic political positions in Europe and Asia believe the capitalist system inevitably forces the US toward imperialist exploitation and wars of expansion and feels we must convince these people of our desire for peace before they will join with us enthusiastically in opposing aggression. US coldness toward the Yugoslav proposal, he asserts, will confirm the suspicions of many that we are afraid "peace might break out."

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