

17 AUG 1946

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1. US and UK views on Soviet Straits note--In reply to the Turkish Government's request for US views on the Soviet note regarding the Black Sea Straits, Acheson has instructed Embassy Ankara to inform the Turks that the US cannot agree that the Straits regime is of concern only to the Black Sea Powers or to the Soviet proposal that Turkey and the Soviet Union organize joint means of defense of the Straits. The US will insist that the Straits regime be based upon and administered in accordance with UN purposes and principles. The US note adds that the US would be "pleased" to participate in a conference to revise the Montreux Convention.

Ambassador Wilson reports that the British have replied in similar vein to the Turkish request and have suggested that the Turkish Government offer to attend a conference to revise the Convention but indicate that it is not prepared to support all of the Soviet proposals for revision.

The Turkish Foreign Minister, following receipt of the British reply, indicated to Ambassador Wilson that Turkey could not agree to a conference at which the Soviet points regarding exclusive participation of Black Sea Powers and joint Turkish-Soviet defense of the Straits would be discussed.

2. McNarney's comment on rocket phenomena over Sweden--General McNarney reports his opinion that the rockets observed over Sweden are being launched from the ex-German experimental station at Peenemunde and that a total of about 100 rockets of the V-2 type are involved. He adds that, according to an unevaluated report, the Soviets intend to move the Peenemunde installations to the USSR after the current experiments are completed.
3. US to initiate new treaty negotiations with Austria--The State Department has requested Erhardt to discuss a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with the Austrian Government. The Department feels that a treaty should strengthen Austria's hand in resisting undue Soviet pressures and would define terms under which commercial relations can be encouraged.

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4. **BULGARIA: 40,000 in concentration camps**--According to US Political Representative Sofia, Regent Ganev has confidentially informed the British Representative that a minimum of 40,000 persons are now in Bulgarian concentration camps (approximately 1% of the country's adult population). Under the "Nazi" regimes the average was 5,000 and the maximum 10,000 persons, Ganev stated.
5. **GERMANY: State Department's views on political situation**--The State Department has informed Murphy of its opinion that US influence should be exerted in "every feasible way" to assure conditions permitting non-Communist political parties to continue activities in the Soviet zone and Berlin sector with the greatest possible freedom. The Department considers it inadvisable for the present (a) to forbid activity by the Communist-controlled Social Unity Party in the US sector of Berlin, and (b) for the Christian Democratic Union to withdraw from the political scene in the Soviet zone despite Soviet restrictions.

#### FAR EAST

6. **N.E.I.: Reports of Republic's weakness**--According to information reaching the US Embassy in The Hague, chaos exists in the parts of Java under Nationalist control. The same source reports favorable Indonesian reaction to the Malino Conference and native belief that the Dutch are sincere in abandoning pre-war colonialism in favor of a new order of cooperation.
7. **CHINA: UNRRA operations in Formosa**--The Chief of the UNRRA Regional Office in Formosa is recommending that UNRRA operations in Formosa be liquidated as promptly as possible, since relief is not needed there and UNRRA rehabilitation supplies either are unnecessary or will be misused "by present monopolies or authorities in control of Formosa's economy."

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