

6 NOV 1946

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - Historical Programs Staff - 30 August 2018

~~TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL~~

223

GENERAL

1. UK DMO's views on Soviet intentions, UK demobilization--According to US Military Attache London, the Director of Military Operations of the British Army declared recently before a conference of artillery commanders that the USSR does not want war "for many years, if ever," but will do everything short of war to extend its influence over buffer areas including Germany, Greece, the Dardanelles, Iran, Outer Mongolia, Manchuria, Korea, and possibly Japan, as well as to those along its European border.
He added that by the end of the year the British Army will be reduced to "total inadequacy," considering the numerous areas in which Soviet expansionism imperils British interests. Regarding UK troop dispositions, the DMO added that British forces in Greece will "probably" be withdrawn early next year; in Burma, "soon"; in the N.E.L., "by year's end"; in Austria, early in 1947; in Cairo, Alexandria, and the Nile Delta, by March, 1947, and the remainder in Egypt, within three years.
2. New US-Soviet understanding on Bulgaria urged--US Representative Barnes in Sofia recommends that, in view of the "new set of political facts" resulting from the Bulgarian elections, the US begin "further and immediate talks" with Molotov and Vishinsky on the Bulgarian problem. Barnes believes that it is "unrealistic" for the US to continue stressing "election irregularities" rather than to "make the most" of the 20 percent Opposition representation in the new Assembly. (The Moscow press has stressed the "freedom" of the Bulgarian elections and accused the Western Powers of "intimidation" and "direct intervention" in Bulgarian affairs.)
3. UK views on UN discussion of Poland--US Charge Keith reports that the British Ambassador to Poland recently informed London of his belief that UN discussion of the "danger of a totalitarian police state being established in Poland" would encourage the Polish public and strengthen its resistance to a Communist dictatorship.
4. Removal of industrial property from free territory of Trieste--The Italian Foreign Office has protested to US Ambassador Key the removal by Yugoslavs of industrial machinery from that part of Zone B destined to be part of the free territory of Trieste. The Foreign Office stresses the "most

Document No. 095NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIEDClass. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

Date: 20 MAR 1978 By: OH

- 1 -

~~TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL~~

grave consequences" of this action to the economic well-being of the population remaining in the area. Key believes that, since the US has permitted Italians to remove capital equipment from those parts of Zone A scheduled to be "free," it is in no position "to castigate Yugoslavs for similar actions."

5. Soviet delegate cites US "interest" in European affairs--Austin reports that in a recent General Committee session on UN sites, Gromyko declared that at first the chief argument in favor of the US had been that this country might "disinterest itself" in European affairs but added: "We now see that the US has a very deep interest in European affairs."

EUROPE

6. USSR: Soviet acceptance of international atomic control hinted--According to US Military Attache Moscow, the Soviet censor held up for two days and then passed an AP dispatch quoting an "informed source" to the effect that the Soviet Union has not rejected the principle of international atomic control and general disarmament. The MA believes that the delay indicates that the message was passed by the Soviet Foreign Office and therefore may indicate an important policy change, but he does not believe the USSR would permit any effective inspection of atomic development in the USSR.
7. YUGOSLAVIA: No opposition candidates expected in election--US Charge Hickok reports that there is no provision for an opposition ballot in the 10 November election for Serbian and Croatian Constituent Assemblies. Special militia reportedly are being sent to each village to force the people to vote. Hickok asserts that "this system of terror is so effective that in Serbia over 95 percent are expected to vote, although much fewer than 50 percent are pro-regime."

~~TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL~~

FAR EAST

- 3.3(h)(2) 8. **CHINA: Replacement of Soong rumored--US Naval Attache Nanking reports information** [redacted] that General Chang Chun, Governor of Szechwan, is to replace T.V. Soong as President of the Executive Yuan within two months, and that the Generalissimo has chosen General Ch'en Ch'eng, present Chief of Staff, as his own eventual successor.

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL~~