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EUROPE-AFRICA

1. IRAN: Qavam embarrassed by press reports--Embassy Tehran reports that Qavam's position with the Soviets has been made more difficult by (a) a leak to the New York Times that the Soviet Charge had threatened Qavam in regard to placing Iran's case before the Security Council and (b) news stories that the State Department had told the Iranian Government that, if Iran did not place its case before the Council, the US would. The Embassy believes that these leaks are of British origin. Qavam is also disturbed by press reports that he had instructed Ambassador Ala to appeal to the Security Council. He had sent these instructions without consulting or informing his Cabinet, and therefore has been embarrassed by having the other Ministers learn of his action through the press.

[redacted] Iraqi Army contingents are now disposed so as to cover roads and passes from Iran into northern Iraq. The Iraqi do not expect by this deployment to block any aggression but to make certain that such aggression will involve casualties and thus dramatize the seriousness of the situation.

3.3(h)(2)

2. GERMANY: Wheat situation--In reply to a War Department proposal to stop all shipments of wheat to Germany, General Clay states that, in order to maintain a 1330 calorie ration, shipments of 46,000 tons of wheat per month will be needed until the September harvest. With such shipments, half the present ration of bread can be continued; the half ration is considered to be the minimum necessary to avoid starvation and riots.
3. POLAND: Mikolajczyk threatened--Ambassador Lane reports that increasing pressure is being applied to force Mikolajczyk, leader of the Peasant Party, to join the Communist-dominated electoral bloc. General Spychalski, Vice Minister of National Defense and influential Polish Army leader, told Mikolajczyk that if he persisted in his refusal to join the bloc, he would "get into serious trouble."

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- 3.3(h)(2)
4. USSR: Further demobilization announced--The President of the Supreme Soviet has announced that the next six classes of enlisted men (those between 23 and 31 years old) in the Soviet ground and air forces will be demobilized between May and September. [] estimates that this demobilization would reduce the Red Army by about 1,600,000 men from its present estimated strength of 3,400,000).
 5. USSR: Conciliation of Soviet Government considered futile--Charge Kennan considers that the "breath of life" for the prevailing political system of the USSR is the existence, real or imagined, of a hostile international environment. Thus the defeat of Germany and Japan left dominant elements in the USSR with no choice but to build up the US and Britain as implacable enemies of the Soviet Union. This attitude has affected the entire Soviet bureaucracy and Government. Attempts to reassure Soviet leaders of our peaceful intention are futile since the Soviets trust no one, not even their own officials. Kennan feels that US diplomacy should be adjusted to this situation, and adds that there could be no more dangerous tendency in American public opinion than one which demands that our Government accomplish the impossible by gestures of good will and conciliation toward a Government incapable of being conciliated.
 6. FRANCE: Spanish Issue embarrasses Bidault--Ambassador Caffery reports that Foreign Minister Bidault is now greatly perturbed over the awkward position in which he has placed himself by urging that the Spanish question be brought before the UNO. Bidault realizes that the Soviet Ambassador will press him for early action and has "pathetically" asked Caffery for suggestions. The French Cabinet is expected to make a final decision on the matter on 22 March.

FAR EAST

7. CHINA: Tai Li reported lost--According to the Commander of the Seventh Fleet, recent information appears to confirm reports that General Tai Li (Chief of the Chinese "secret service") and his party were lost on 17 March in the crash of a Chinese plane flying from Nanking to Tsingtao. Chinese officials are anxious to keep the news a secret until released by the Generalissimo.

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8. JAPAN: Shipping available for repatriating Japanese in southern area--General MacArthur is opposed to granting the British and Dutch requests that US ships be allocated to them for use in repatriating Japanese from Southeast Asia, N.E.I., and Australasia (See Summary of 15 March, item 6). He believes that such allocations are unnecessary, since, beginning in April, there will be available an excess of Japanese-manned Liberty ships now employed in repatriating Japanese from the China Theater.

THE AMERICAS

9. ARGENTINA: Tamborini supporters may claim fraud--From a "generally reliable" source, the FBI has learned that the Democratic Union, which supported Tamborini in the recent Argentine election, plans to disclose alleged election frauds by Peron's backers. The Union claims to have evidence of at least 10,000 cases of fraud and also evidence that the Ministry of War issued 300,000 false enrollment books which were subsequently used by the army, police and non-citizens. (In Argentina neither the police nor the army is allowed to vote in Presidential elections.)

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