

20 APR 1946

APPROVED FOR RELEASE - Historical Programs Staff 30 August 2018

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EUROPE-AFRICA

1. FRANCE: Gouin desires MRP remain in Cabinet--Embassy Paris reported, just prior to the Assembly's approval of the draft Constitution on 19 April, that several observers had noted a significant change in Gouin's attitude regarding the MRP. Gouin apparently had reversed his view that an MRP vote against the Constitution would require the elimination of that party from the Government.
2. ITALY: US and UK oppose any election postponement--According to Embassy Rome, the British Ambassador has been asked by several conservative "non-official" Italians to take action to postpone the Italian elections. The British are strongly opposed to deferment of elections. The State Department has authorized Embassy Rome to declare that the US (a) would deplore any postponement and (b) looks for every effort by all Italian groups to guarantee free and orderly balloting.
3. FINLAND: Finnish mission to Moscow--Reports from US Naval Attache and Minister Hamilton at Helsinki state that (a) the Finnish General Staff was not informed of the visit to Moscow of the Prime Minister and five Cabinet members (see Daily Summary of 17 April, item 6) until two days before the mission departed and (b) that "certain facts support the idea that the Finnish Government had not planned to send a mission now.
4. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Communist pre-election attack on UNRRA--The US UNRRA representative in Czechoslovakia has reported that Evzen Loebl, chief Czech liaison officer with UNRRA, (a) has been increasingly uncooperative, and (b) recently wrote a newspaper article containing many "deliberate misstatements of fact" concerning UNRRA operations in Czechoslovakia. (Loebl is also chief of the Czech Relief and Rehabilitation Office and a prominent member of the Communist Party.) The US UNRRA representative (a) comments that Loebl's tactics are clearly designed to assist the Communist Party in the coming Czech elections by minimizing UNRRA assistance to Czechoslovakia, and (b) proposes to urge the Czech Government to relieve Loebl of his post as liaison officer.

Document No. 060NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIEDClass. CHANGED TO: TS S Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
DDA REG. 77/1763Date: 14 MAR 1978 By: 011~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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