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GENERAL

22 APR 1946

1. The US wishes to discuss the Austrian draft treaty at the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' meeting in Paris, the US has informed Molotov. The US hopes that the Soviet representative will also be prepared to discuss this question.
2. Soviet objectives in Paris Conference--Dunn believes that the issues to be discussed at the Foreign Ministers' meeting between (a) the USSR and (b) the other three powers reflect basic objectives so divergent that the chances of agreement lie chiefly in the possibility that the USSR will find it essential to improve its world standing and its relations with the UK and US. Soviet willingness to make the necessary concessions will depend largely on (a) specific advantages such as reparations or ships, (b) the effect of the treaties on the Soviet position with the "ex-enemy states" and (c) the effect on Soviet relations with the UK and US.

EUROPE-AFRICA

3. FRANCE: Present Government likely to remain--Caffery reports that, despite MRP opposition to the Assembly-approved Constitution, MRP ministers (especially Bidault) are willing to remain in the Government. Caffery adds that the Socialists will attempt to preserve the present Government because they fear (a) a too-intimate association with the Communists, (b) weakening French prestige on the eve of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, and (c) Bidault's replacement by a Communist as Minister of Foreign Affairs.
4. GREECE: Greek, UK, and US views on plebiscite--According to Embassy Athens, the Greek Foreign Minister fears that extreme rightist and royalist groups may force an immediate plebiscite on the question of the Monarchy. The British Ambassador in Athens believes (a) that the plebiscite probably cannot be postponed beyond September, and (b) that Foreign Secretary Bevin is "coming around" to the same opinion.

The State Department was recently informed by the Greek Ambassador that his Government feels Greek economic rehabilitation can make no real progress until the question of the plebiscite is settled. The Department replied that the US (a) considers Greek economic problems to be much more pressing than the constitutional question, and (b) feels that the plebiscite should not be held before the spring of 1947 at the earliest.

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5. GREECE: Government presses claim to Northern Epirus--Dunn reports that the Greek Government has again requested the Council of Foreign Ministers to consider Greek claims to Northern Epirus (now part of southern Albania). Dunn comments that the present Greek request (a) is clearly within the terms of reference of the Council of Foreign Ministers under the Potsdam protocol, and (b) might properly be considered after discussion of the peace treaties. The British have informed Dunn that they will probably favor discussion of the Greek claims.
6. USSR: US stand on tug boat delivery--The War and Navy Departments have agreed that it is undesirable for Soviet Naval personnel to sail tug boats purchased by the USSR on US inland waterways and have therefore specified New Orleans instead of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, as the point of delivery for the vessels (see Daily Summary 18 April, item 8).
7. USSR: Interest in US news broadcasts in Russian--Ambassador Smith reports that many Soviet informants, who have indicated that they listen regularly and with great interest to BBC Russian-language news broadcasts, state that US broadcasts to the USSR would be even more popular since British news is considered "slightly suspect." Smith comments that Soviet listeners would have greater confidence in US Government broadcasts than in any news broadcast by private concerns, which the Soviet public regards as "capitalistic and monopolistic."
8. AUSTRIA: New Soviet position on land requisitions--Foreign Minister Gruber has informed the US Political Adviser that the USSR agrees to take no Austrian land, but to negotiate for German-owned land under the terms of the Potsdam protocol. Gruber estimates that the negotiations might involve some 60,000 acres, 40,000 of which the Austrian Government would agree might be taken by the USSR, since forced transfer to the Germans could not be proved.
9. LIBYA: Arab League supports Libyan "rights"--US Legation Cairo has received a note from the Arab League stating that the Libyans, supported by the Arab world, (a) reject reestablishment of Italian rule in Libya or a division of the country, and (b) demand a plebiscite, to be conducted by UN and the Arab League, as well as a chance for independence and a suitable form of government.

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EAST ASIA

10. CHINA: Leaders believe unification is US responsibility--China
Theater Headquarters reports that during General Marshall's absence
neither Generalissimo Chiang nor Communist leader Mao advanced
any "suitable solutions or compromise proposals" (a) to stop the full-
scale civil war in Manchuria or (b) to settle the political disputes con-
nected with the establishment of a coalition government. Both apparently
consider the attempt to unify China, begun under US leadership, is now
a direct US responsibility.

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