

Current Events

REVIEW

A newsmagazine published for high school students—devoted to the selection, organization, presentation, and review of current news for lessons in current events.

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- * Why the Latest London Conference Failed
- * How is the Russian Offensive in Europe Carried On?
- * How is the American Offensive in Europe Carried On?
- * Will France Become Communist?
- * Will the Arabs Carry Out a Holy War in Palestine?
- * How is the New China Governed Today?

FILE

EXCELLENT

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WHEN you read the **CURRENT EVENTS REVIEW** you will understand world developments because it presents and analyzes news and their significance. The magazine completes and makes up-to-date the study of history and other social science subjects.

The Director of the United States Information Service
rates the **CURRENT EVENTS REVIEW** as an
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of International Information
and Cultural Affairs

December 24, 1946

Mr. D. R. Manlapaz, Publisher
Current Events Review
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Sampaloe, Manila

Dear Mr. Manlapaz:

I have just seen for the first time a copy of your "Current Events Review" for high school students. This seems to me an excellent publication for keeping your schools informed of world developments.

We have now put your publication in our regular release list. I should be glad to furnish any other cooperation that we possibly can in providing your readers with information. Please feel free to call upon us at anytime.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Catherine Porter
Director, USIS

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CURRENT EVENTS REVIEW

A newsmagazine that completes and makes up-to-date the study of history and other social science subjects.

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*** Is Big Four Agreement impossible?**

Why the Latest London Conference Failed

Specific objectives:

1. To understand the problems discussed in the London Conference
2. To understand the reasons why the London Conference failed
3. To know the significance of the failure of the London Conference

Background of the conference

The conference of the Council of Foreign Ministers opened in London on November 24, 1947, and abruptly ended on December 15, 1947. The conference was attended by the Big Four — the United States, Russia, France, and Britain. The chiefs of the delegations were: George C. Marshall for the United States, Viacheslav F. Molotov for Russia, Georges Bidault for France, and Ernest Bevin for Britain.

The conference was held to discuss the preparation of the peace treaty with Germany and Austria. The conference in fact was a continuation of the latest Moscow Conference held in March and April, 1947. The conference completely failed because Russia insisted on impossible demands.

What issues were discussed? Why did the conference fail? The following extracts from the report of Secretary George C. Marshall gives us a complete picture of the proceedings of the conference.

We have failed on the Austrian Treaty

"We have failed to reach agreement on a treaty for Austria because the

Soviet Union has demanded for itself special 'privileges in Austria in an amount and to an extent which far exceed any rightful claims and which far exceed what a free Austria can afford. If Soviet claims were admitted, it would be at the price of Austrian independence and in violation of past agreements."

We have failed on the boundary question

"As regards Germany, taking first the subject frontiers, we have been unable to agree on what we mean by Germany. Three delegations are in accord that the Saar territory should be detached from Germany and economically integrated with France. The Soviet Union does not agree.

"With respect to the eastern boundary of Germany, the Potsdam protocol clearly provided that the final status of the western frontier of Poland should await the peace settlement. The United States believed that an effort should be made to establish a frontier which, while it would compensate Poland, would not become a formidable economic barrier preventing German access to food and raw materials from this eastern area upon which it has heavily depended.

"Three of the delegations agree that boundary commissions be at once established to examine frontier questions. The Soviet Union rejects this proposal. So we neither agree on what Germany is to be nor do we agree on establishing commission to study these vital boundary problems."

We have failed on sharing financial burdens

"We have failed to reach agreement on the sharing of the financial burdens. An ostensible agreement on the equitable distribution of indigenous resources is deprived of all meaning by the Soviet demand for a continuation of present Soviet withdrawals of current German production for reparations.

"The Soviet Union has refused to furnish vitally necessary information with respect to reparations removals. Thus, we have been asked to reach agreement while information essential to such agreement is withheld by the Soviet representatives.

"The Soviet delegation has refused to agree to the relinquishment of property interests in Germany unilaterally seized under the guise of reparations. As matters now stand, a large share of the produce of the eastern zone of Germany is drawn off for the Soviet account. An important part of its industry has been placed in a gigantic Soviet trust which enjoys special privilege and which is put above German law presumably in perpetuity."

We have failed in making Germany recover

"These Soviet practices in Eastern Germany have prevented Germany from playing its part in the recovery of Europe. In fact, they have greatly increased the necessity for the outside aid provided by the United States and the United Kingdom to enable Western Germany live. Nevertheless, the Soviet representatives have chosen to charge that this aid has as its purpose to use Western Germany as a 'strategic base against the democratic states of Europe,' and advance 'expansionist aims'. Apart from the complete absurdity of these charges, to discontinue this aid to some 40,000,000

Germans in the U. S. and U. K. zones until they have become self-supporting would doom them to mass starvation.

"The Soviet Union demands reparations for itself and Poland of \$10,000,000,000 at 1938 values which is at least \$15,000,000,000 today. These reparation payments, to an undisclosed degree would take the form of current production over 20 years. This demand is not in accordance with the Potsdam agreement. It is utterly impossible of achievement on practical economic grounds. It implies the establishment of an economic power so comprehensive that it would be in reality a power of life and death over any German government."

We have failed on political unification

"It was accepted by all at Moscow that full agreement on economic principles was essential to the establishment of political unification. We are unable to agree on what shall be the area of the German economy; we cannot agree on how to make German resources available to Germany as a whole, a condition prerequisite to the revival of German economy; we are confronted with a demand for reparations in excess of the Potsdam agreement which would make a German government subservient to its reparations creditor. It is therefore clear that agreement can be reached only under conditions which would not only enslave the German people but would seriously retard the recovery of all Europe.

"The simple fact is the present division of Germany has been caused by the policies and practices of the occupying powers themselves. Only the occupying powers can create German unity in the present circumstances. That is why the United States has consistently pressed for certain fundamental decisions by the

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How is the Russian Offensive in the Cold War in Europe Carried On?

Special objectives:

1. To understand Russia's foreign policy
2. To know the nature of Communist offensive in Europe
3. To understand the significance of the Communist offensive

A "cold war" (war of ideologies and economic battle) is going on between the United States and Russia. The most important battleground is Europe. What is the main purpose of Russia in waging the "cold war"? How is the Communist offensive being carried out? What is the significance of the offensive?

What is Russia's foreign policy?

A clear picture of Russia's foreign policy may be gleaned from the Statutes of the Communist International adopted in Moscow in August, 1920. Here is a quotation from these statutes: "In order to overthrow the international bourgeoisie and to create an international Soviet republic as a transition state to the complete abolition of the State, the Communist International will use all means at its disposal, including force of arms.... The ultimate aim is to replace world capitalist economy by a world system of Communism."

One of the conclusions of the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress of the United States in

its report on "Trends in Russian Foreign Policy Since World War I" is: "The summit of Communist hopes and aspirations is, in the last analysis, today as in Lenin's time, a complete change of the world's political, economic, social, and cultural setup, and at the base of Soviet foreign policy lies the desire to make the world safe for communism or sovietism."

Russia's first offensive — Iron Curtain

What is meant by the "Iron Curtain?" It means a group of states in Eastern Europe which are Communist-controlled. These states provide a defense for Russia by reason of their location. They cover the eastern boundaries of Russia.

The end of World War II gave the Russians an opportunity to fill in the vacuum left by the defeat of Hitlerism. The Russians considered it their single privilege to bring within their control territories once occupied by Hitler's armies. Slowly but certainly, the countries of Eastern Europe have been brought within Russia's "Iron Curtain." Russia's maneuver has resulted in the incorporation of 260,000 square miles of territory with a population of 22,000,000 people. Russia exercises a *de facto* control over Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Eastern Austria, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Eastern Germany, and Finland.

Russia's second offensive— Delay

Russia's second major offensive was *openly launched* after the announcement of the world-wide famous "Truman Doctrine" on March 12, 1947. The announcement coincided with the session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow which met from March 10 to April 25, 1947. Russia's reaction to the "Truman Doctrine" was bitter. Andrei Gromyko, Russian representative to the Security Council of the United Nations argued that the measure asking for economic aid to Greece and Turkey "undermines the authority of the United Nations Organization and inevitably produce distrust in relations among the state members of the United Nations."

Russia's offensive was noticeable in her refusal to cooperate wholeheartedly during the sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow. Russia made proposals which were impossible of attainment. These proposals were viewed by the United States, Britain, and France as means of delaying the preparation of peace treaties with Germany and Austria.

Russia found in the *method of delay* an opportunity to pursue her Communization of her zone of occupations in both Austria and Germany. The Greek guerrillas fighting in Greece continue to receive support from the Communists. There is an existing plan to overthrow the legitimate government of Greece. Communist position in Hungary has been made secure. The Communists under Matyas Rakosi staged a *coup d'etat*, and overthrew the legitimate government of Premier Ferenc Nagy. Similarly, Nikola Petkov of Bulgaria was executed in October, 1947, for his opposition to the Bulgarian Communist-dominated government. In Yugoslavia, democratic leader Dragoljub Yovanovich was executed in the same month for opposing the Communists. In Ru-

mania Dr. Juliu Maniu, former head of the Rumanian Peasant Party, was tried for treason for the same reason. In Czechoslovakia Dr. Jan Ursiny, leading Slovak Democrat, was forced to give up his position as Vice-Premier to a Communist leader. An all-Communist "Free Greek" government was established in December, 1947, in the northern mountains of Greece under the rebel leader, Gen. Markos Vafiades, a professed Communist.

Russia's third offensive — Stalin Doctrine and Molotov Plan

The third offensive of Russia was launched immediately after the announcement of the Marshall Plan for self-help of Europe on June 5, 1947. The preliminary discussions on the Marshall Plan were held by British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault, and Russian Foreign Minister Viacheslav F. Molotov in June, 1947. The discussion failed because Russia objected to the proposal of Britain that a committee be set up for the coordination of the economics of the European states. Molotov insisted that this would lead to interference in the internal affairs of European countries.

A conference was called in Paris by France and Britain on July 12, 1947, to discuss the setting up of a "Committee of Cooperation" which would report on the available means and the needs of Europe for the next few years. The Paris conference was attended by only 14 European countries. The nine other European countries under Russian influence rejected the invitation.

Russia answered the Paris conference with the Molotov Plan, which is but an implementation of the Stalin Doctrine. The Stalin Doctrine aims at checking "western imperialism." The Molotov Plan serves to implement the

Stalin Doctrine. Several trade agreements were signed among the countries of Eastern Europe. The main purpose of these trade agreements is to make the countries of Eastern Europe economically dependent on Russia and independent of Western Europe.

Russia's fourth offensive— Revival of the Comintern

Russia is determined to wreck the operation of the Marshall Plan. Her leaders know that the Congress of the United States will act on the \$17,000,000,000 foreign aid asked by President Truman for the countries of Western Europe. Russia lost no time in launching an offensive. She knows that *time is essential* in wrecking the Marshall Plan.

Russia's offensive was launched with the revival of the Third Communist International, officially known as the "Comintern", a word formed by the opening syllables of "Communist" and "International." The "Comintern" was revived on October 5, 1947. It appeared that a secret meeting was held sometime in September, 1947, in Poland by Communist parties of nine European countries. These countries are: France, Italy, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland, and Russia. The conference was headed by Andrei Z. Zhadanoff and Georgi Malenkoff, two powerful members of the Politburo or Political Information Bureau of Russia.

The immediate objective of the "Comintern" is to fight the Truman-Marshall Plan. This will be done through the coordination of the Communist parties in nine European countries. For this purpose a Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) was created, with headquarters at Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Russia's fifth offensive— Communist-Inspired Strikes

Russia's fifth offensive was launched indirectly through Communist parties in France and Italy. These two countries are not in the "Iron Curtain." They are two main bastions of democracy in Western Europe. Russia believes that these two countries must overthrow its present government before the Marshall Plan operates. The Communists in these two countries wield great power. The Communists' voting strength is great in proportion to their numerical strength. Russia believes that what the Communists could not get through their votes could be obtained by discrediting the legitimate government before the people. To do this, the Communists inspired widespread strikes in both France and Italy during the second half of 1947.

The French Communists are led by Charles Tillon, Jacques Duclos, Gaston Monmousseau, Andre Marty, and Maurice Theorez. The National Committee of General Confederation of Labor voted to denounce the Marshall Plan as a means of "slavery for the Europeans". The strikes in general failed because the government stood firm.

The Italian Communists are under the leadership of Palmiro Togliatti. Togliatti convened the Communist Central Committee in Rome. He urged the liquidation of the present Italian government. The chief target of the Communists is to make troubles for the government before effective aid comes from the United States. The threat to the government of Italy is still serious.

Exercises to Develop Thinking

1. Why does Russia want to spread world Communism?
2. Is this policy just? Why?
3. Why was the "Iron Curtain" built?

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Why the Latest London . . .

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occupying powers themselves as the absolutely essential first step for the achievement of a unified Germany. Three delegations at this conference have registered their willingness to take these decisions here and now. The Soviet Union alone refuses to agree."

Study Helps

1. What do you think is the real intention of Russia in asking for great reparation claims on Austria? In what way would acceptance of Russia's interpretation of German assets (all German properties at the end of the war in Austria) endanger the independence of Austria?

2. Why is the determination of the boundary of Germany important in the preparation of the German peace treaty?

3. Secretary Marshall on reparation said: "We put in and the Russian takes out." Why is the United States opposed to Russia's taking reparations on the day to day German production with no return? Can you think of reasons why Russia refused to furnish the three delegations information on reparation removals?

4. Do you believe Russia is determined not to relax its hold on Eastern Germany? Why?

5. The non-compromising attitude of Russia at the London Conference signifies that she is not willing to let Germany recover. Would you favor the hastening of the approval of the ERP (European Recovery Program)? Why?

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How is the Russian . . .

(Continued)

4. Is the building of the "Iron Curtain" justified? Why?

5. Why is the *method of delay* useful for Russia? Why is it harmful to the interest of world peace?

6. Why are leaders of opposition parties in Eastern Europe being eliminated?

7. Will it be possible for the countries of Eastern Europe to become independent of the Western world?

8. Why is *time essential* to Russia in fighting the Marshall Plan?

9. What is the aim of the Communist-inspired strikes in Europe?

10. What is the best way of checking the spread of Communism in Europe?

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How is the American Offensive in the Cold War in Europe Carried On?

Specific objectives:

1. To understand the foreign policy of the United States
2. To know the nature of the American offensive in Europe
3. To appreciate the significance of the American offensive

An examination of recent books, magazine articles, debates on foreign problems, radio commentaries, newspaper columns shows that nations are being forced to take sides in the "cold war" (war of ideologies and economic battle) between Russia and the United States. The existence of two-warring worlds is significant—it delays global peace. The Communists have launched their offensive in Europe and in other parts of the world. The United States has launched its own counter-offensive. What is the aim of the American offensive? How is it carried out? What is its significance?

Deterioration of American-Soviet relationship

Premier Josef Stalin once said that the American democratic system and the Russian communistic system can live harmoniously in the world. But the events since the end of World War II have denied the assertion of the Russian Premier. What is the main reason for this non-cooperation between the two great powers of the world?

The main reason for the deterioration of American-Soviet relationship is the difference in their ideologies and in the

ways by which the ideologies are realized. Russian foreign policy is based on *power, security and prestige*. She needs *power* to protect herself from any future invasion. She needs *security* because Russia fears invasion from "capitalistic powers." She needs *prestige* to recapture her losses in the last global conflict. The United States views Russian moves in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and Antarctic, in the diplomatic field, and in the United Nations as non-cooperative. The United States regrets that Russia has delayed the construction of a peaceful world. Russia's moves are inconsistent with her pre-war pledge that she would work with other Allied powers in peace after World War II.

What is America's foreign policy?

America's foreign policy is in the making. On October 29, 1945, Navy Day, President Truman enunciated the following 12 fundamental principles which form part of America's foreign policy: (1) no territorial expansion; no plans for aggression; (2) eventual return of sovereign rights and self-government to all people who have been deprived of them by force; (3) no territorial changes except those done with the free wishes of people concerned; (4) self-government for all peoples prepared for it; (5) cooperation with the Allies to help defeated enemy states establish peaceful democratic governments; (6) non-recognition of

government imposed by force; (7) freedom of the seas for all nations and equal rights to the navigation of boundary rivers and waterways; (8) access on equal terms to the trade and the raw materials of the world; (9) right of Western hemisphere to work together; (10) economic collaboration among all nations to establish freedom from fear and freedom from want; (11) freedom of expression and freedom of religion; and (12) preservation of peace through the United Nations.

Implementation of America's foreign policy

The foregoing policy of the United States has been twice implemented since the historic Navy Day speech of President Truman. Former Secretary of State, James F. Byrnes, in his address reviewing the results of the Paris Peace Conference, said that the United States would continue to seek friendship with the Soviet Union and all other states on the basis of justice and the right of others. Again, on March 12, 1947, President Truman in announcing his Doctrine said: "I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political process."

America's first offensive— Truman Doctrine

The first American offensive in Europe was launched by President Truman on March 12, 1947, when he asked Congress for \$400,000,000 economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey and for authority to send "civilian and military personnel to these two coun-

tries." This announcement is very important because it shows that the United States is now ready to "contain" or check Russian expansion. It is also important because it opened the way for other countries to seek the aid of the United States in restoring their economy. The Truman Doctrine was approved by Congress when it approved the \$400,000,000 Greek and Turkey Aid Bill on May 10, 1947, by a vote of 287 against 107 in the House of Representatives and by a vote of 67 against 23 in the Senate.

The machinery to carry out the aid to both Greece and Turkey was set. The American technique in Greece demonstrates how the United States is carrying out the aid program. The American mission is headed by Dwight Griswold. Military aid is being rushed. Sixty percent of the 16 million worth of military materials are now in the hands of the Greek Army. More lands are being brought under cultivation. Health is receiving great attention. Engineers are rapidly bringing about Greece's and Turkey's economic revival. Assistance in planning an export-import program is underway.

America's second offensive— Marshall Plan

The second American offensive was the launching of the Marshall Plan. On June 5, 1947, Secretary George C. Marshall delivered a speech at Harvard University. He urged the nations of Europe to cooperate in the reconstruction of European economy. He urged them (1) to prepare a balance sheet of their resources and needs (2) to collectively prepare a program of self-help for economic recovery; and (3) to submit a program outlining how American dollars must be spent.

In announcing this Plan, Secretary Marshall said: "It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of

normal health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is not directed against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can develop."

America's third offensive— Balkan Watch Commission and Little Assembly

America launched her third offensive in the second regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1947. The Balkan Commission of Inquiry created by the Security Council in 1946 to make an on-the-spot investigation on Greek guerrilla warfare in northern Greece blamed Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania for supporting the guerrilla warfare. During the discussion of the report submitted by the Balkan Commission of Inquiry, the United States proposed the creation of a Commission to watch for border troubles in northern Greece. The proposal was vetoed by Russia who charged that the creation of such a commission would mean "the creation of a screen in order to hide foreign intervention by certain powers in Greek domestic affairs."

Secretary of State George C. Marshall carried the fight to the General Assembly. He rallied world opinion on why the creation of a Commission to watch for border troubles in northern Greece would mean peace in Europe. Russia and her satellites fought hard to defeat the proposal. The General Assembly approved the creation of a Balkan Watch Commission. Russia announced that she would boycott the Commission.

America's fourth offensive— Credits to France

America's fourth offensive was launched in France in October, 1947. Several days before the first municipal elections in France under the new constitution of the Fourth French Republic, Russia offered wheat to France in exchange for manufactured goods. Russia's aim was to secure more votes for Communist candidates. The United States countered by giving France \$143,000,000 in credit and 31 former German naval ships which could be used for cargo carriers. The American aid strengthened the fight of the French people against Communism.

America's fifth offensive— Promise to Stand by Italy

The Italian government of Premier Alcide de Gasperi is still fighting Communism. During the second week of October, 1947, the Italian government was severely attacked for inefficiency. Communist chief, Palmiro Togliatti, and Socialist Pietro Neni attacked also the government for its inability to solve Italy's problems. A motion was introduced in the lawmaking body to give a vote of confidence to Premier Alcide de Gasperi. Simultaneously Gasperi dramatically announced that the United States had given up its share of Italian warships which were awarded to the United States under the peace treaty with Italy. This greatly strengthened Gasperi's government. In the third voting Gasperi won.

On December 13, 1947, President Truman pledged to preserve the freedom of Italy. Under the Italian peace treaty, it is provided that American troops should withdraw from Italy by December 14, 1947. President Truman said: "Although the United States is withdrawing its troops from Italy in fulfillment of its obligations under the

treaty of peace, this country continues its interest in the preservation of a free and independent Italy." The United States would take measure to see that Italy's independence is not jeopardized directly or indirectly.

America's sixth offensive— Stopgap Aid

The sixth offensive of the United States was launched by Congress when it approved the emergency relief (stopgap aid) bill. The bill was passed during the special session of Congress, called by President Truman in November, 1947. The bill which was signed by the President on December 24, 1947, provides for \$18,000,000 aid for China, and \$522,000,000 for France, Italy, and Austria.

America's seventh offensive— European Recovery Program

The seventh offensive was launched when President Truman sent a 9,000-word summary of European needs and United States plan for aid on the basis of international economic cooperation. The message proposed the expenditure of \$17,000,000,000 by the United States for four years and three months.

In his message the President said: "The economic plight in which Europe now finds itself has intensified a political struggle between those who wish to remain free men living under the rule of law and those who would use economic distress as a pretext for the establishment of a totalitarian state. The next few years can determine whether the free countries of Europe will be able to preserve their heritage of freedom. If Europe fails to recover, the people of these countries might be driven to the philosophy of despair — the philosophy which contends that their basic wants can be met only by the surrender of their basic rights to

totalitarian control. Such a turn of events would constitute a shattering blow to peace and stability in the world. It might well compel us to modify our own economic system and to forego, for the sake of our own security, the enjoyment of many of our freedoms and privileges. It is for these reasons that the United States has so vital an interest in strengthening the belief of the people of Europe that freedom from fear and want will be achieved under free and democratic governments."

Exercises to Develop Thinking

1. Do you think it is very difficult for both the United States and Russia to live peacefully? Why?
2. One political writer in a recent book said "that if Russia confines her Communist aspirations in Russia" there is a possibility that the United States and Russia could live peacefully side by side. Do you agree with him? Why?
3. Explain the three bases of Russian foreign policy.
4. Explain the different foreign policies of the United States.
5. Why is the Truman Doctrine significant for the world?
6. Newspaper reports announced the formation of a "Greek Free State" by the Greek guerrillas in northern Greece. Is this a challenge to American aid to Greece? Why?
7. Is the main purpose of the Marshall Plan laudable? Why?
8. Why is there a need for a Balkan Watch Commission?
9. Why must Italy and France be saved from Communism?
10. Why is the ERP (European Recovery Program) significant?

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Will France Become Communist?

Specific objectives:

1. To understand the present political problems of France
2. To know the aim of Communism in France
3. To study the chances of France in preserving her democratic government

Winston Churchill, whom Prime Minister Attlee once called the "Architect of Victory," delivered a stirring speech at the University of Zurich, Switzerland on September 19, 1946, advocating the formation of a United States of Europe. "The first step," he said, "in the recreation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany. In this way only can France recover the moral and cultural leadership of Europe. There can be no revival of Europe without a spiritually great France and a spiritually great Germany." Why is France a pillar for the democracies of Europe? What are the problems of France? Why are the Communists trying to convert France into a Communist country? How is France fighting the battle for democracy?

What are France's problems?

Although France was liberated three years ago, on August 24, 1944, still she is faced by many problems that might bring about the collapse of her democratic government. Cost of living in France is rising every day. The official price of food has just jumped to 25%. The prices of finished goods are eight times the prices in 1918. And worse still, France's production is great-

ly hampered by numerous strikes. There is food shortage. "Bread strikes" have taken place in many sections of the country. Workers demand increase in wages. And the workers feel that they bear most of the tax burden for the government deducts the tax from their pay. Those who are not in the service of the government evade tax-payments. The value of the Franc is officially 188 to the dollar. The value in the black market is 326 dollars. There is a shortage of dollars which the government needs badly in order to make purchases abroad. Farmers hoard wheat. Capitalists hoard gold. This condition would inevitably bring about a serious inflation.

What are France's political problems?

The Fourth French Republic was born on January 16, 1947, with Vincent Auriol, Socialist leader and previously Speaker of the National Assembly, as president. A coalition cabinet was formed, in which five large parties are represented—the Communist, Socialist, MRP (Popular Republican Movement), Radical-Socialists, and Democratic and Socialist Union of Resistance. Paul Ramadier, a Socialist, became Premier.

The greatest political problem of France is how to make the coalition cabinet work harmoniously. During the first six months of 1947, the government succeeded in passing the period of storm and stress. The coalition cabinet of France is peculiar. The Communists control 31% of the voting strength in the Assembly; the Social-

ists 11%; the MRP, 30%; and the Radicals, 8%. Why did the cabinet succeed? The various parties temporarily cooperated in the belief that the solution of the economic problems of the nation is paramount. Later, the Communists refused to cooperate.

The Communists were expelled

In April, 1947, the coalition cabinet faced a political crisis. Paul Ramadier issued a decree requiring a 5% reduction in prices. In the same month 32,000 workers in a national Renault automobile plant went on strike. The Communist members of the cabinet supported the demand of the workers for increased wages and the demand for the abolition of wage-freezing. Paul Ramadier asked for a vote of confidence. He was supported by a vote of 360 to 186. The Communist members of the cabinet were dropped from the coalition cabinet. During the following months, however, Paul Ramadier met more difficulties in running the government. He had difficulty in securing a majority in the Assembly. He was forced to resign on November 19, 1947, in the face of a continued political, economic and Communist-inspired crises.

How strong are the Communists in France?

Communists' strength in France is difficult to measure, because it is very difficult to tell who are the real Communists in the Russian sense of the term. Andre Kieffried, a noted French writer, observed that many Communists voted one way and prayed another. The meaning of this, according to Harold Callender, is that "they elect Communists to Parliament without the least desiring Communism in France."

The strength of the Communists in France may be gauged by the following figures. In 1932 the Communist Party

polled 796,000 votes. They secured 10 seats in Parliament. In 1936, the Communist Party polled 1,453,000 votes and elected 76 Deputies. In the national election of November 10, 1946, the party polled 5,138,000 votes and elected 169 deputies. The Communist Party became the largest party in France.

The Communists control the General Confederation of Labor with 6,000,000 members. This labor organization controls all unions in France, except the Catholic unions. Their control of the General Confederation of Labor makes it possible for the Communists to inspire labor strikes at will. With such power, they could give much trouble to the government of France. The events during the months of August, September, October, and November, 1947, show that almost all the labor strikes were Communist-inspired.

The people fight back

The October 26, 1947, municipal elections in France was a significant event, because it indicated a new trend in French political life. Gen. Charles de Gaulle's new party, RFP (Rally of the French People) captured 40% of the votes. The MRP (Movement Popular Republican) of Georges Bidault was given a set back because more than two-thirds of the voters voted for the RFP. The Communist lost its standing as France's largest party.

What is the significance of the victory? "Frenchmen," wrote the *World Report*, "are growing desperate. They had enough of moderate governments that are weak to take decisive stand against either the Communists on the one hand or the anti-Communists on the other hand. The Communists themselves have frightened the middle class into the arms of De Gaulle. French Communists before the election joined an international group of Communists (the Comintern) dominated by Russia.

They then sponsored strikes that immediately immobilized transportation in Paris for a week." The Cocos, a name given by Parisians to the Communists, called the strike before the election. To the surprise of the Communists, they lost in the polls. They lost prestige.

The government fights back

France was faced by a peculiar situation during the last six months of 1947. The national election took place in November 10, 1946. After this election the RFP was organized. The RFP which won the largest vote in the municipal election of October 26, 1947, has no representative in the French Assembly. Rumors then spread on whether De Gaulle would be asked to form a new government. Even De Gaulle was surprised at the immediate result of the elections. He expects to take the helm of the government by Easter.

The election was followed by a series of Communist-inspired strikes in France. Premier Robert Schuman succeeded Paul Ramadier. At the time of the formation of his coalition cabinet, France was faced by 1,500,000 strikers. He took a bold step. Nineteen Russians were expelled from France for interfering in the affairs of the government. The number of strikers later increased to 2,000,000. He proposed anti-strike legislations. The Communists launched a counter-measure. More strikes were called. The government responded by sending police forces to seize the Paris power plants. By a vote of 209 against 84 the Council of the Republic approved the mobilization of 80,000 reservists to preserve order in the country. The Communists fought hard. Some members of the Assembly filibustered, for 30 hours on the anti-strike legislations. They also declared a sit-down strike in the parliament session hall. They were ousted from the assembly hall by gov-

ernment guards. The Communist majority in the General Confederation of Labor announced that they would never negotiate the settlement of strikes if the anti-strikes legislations proposals would be passed.

The French Assembly took courage in the face of sabotage and crippling strikes. By a vote of 403 to 183, the anti-strike and anti-sabotage bills were passed. Under the law the maximum penalty for sabotage was raised from 6 months to 10 years. The fine was fixed as high as \$8,000,000. The use of threat or violence to start strikes is punishable by a maximum of 5 years imprisonment and fines up to \$4,000,000. In a few days, after passage of the anti-strike and anti-sabotage bills, the month-long Communist attempt to overthrow the government through 2,000,000 men strike was defeated. France received a temporary breathing spell. French democracy was temporarily saved.

What is the future of France?

The Communist-inspired strikes were called to discredit the efficiency of the French government in solving the problems of the nation. They were also calculated to wreck the future operation of the Marshall Plan. The Communists believe that by embarrassing the government with serious problems, the people might overthrow the government. The strikes failed because the government stood firm. The Communists temporarily suffered a setback not only in the municipal elections but also in their attempt to embarrass the government.

The future of France will be determined on how well the government can solve the economic problems of the country. France may still be saved by strong government leadership and by the successful operation of United
(Please turn to page 256)

What is behind the Arab protest?

Will the Arabs Carry Out a Holy War in Palestine?

Specific objectives:

1. To understand the objectives of the Arabs
2. To know why the Arabs oppose the partition of Palestine
3. To understand the significance of the gravity of the situation in the Middle East

The General Assembly made a historic decision in its second regular session on Nov. 30, 1947, when it partitioned Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state, except Jerusalem which is under a United Nations trusteeship system. The decision gave the Jews a homeland which they had been seeking since more than 2,000 years ago. The Jews welcomed the decision. They celebrated it with dances and songs. The Arabs, on the other hand, defied the decision and started a series of violence. Why do the Arabs oppose the decision? What are the objectives of the Arabs? Why is the decision difficult to carry?

Who are the Arabs?

It is difficult to determine who is an Arab because of his diverse origins. In an article entitled "Enigma of the Desert, the Arab," Clifton Daniel wrote: "An Arab is an inhabitant of that great stretch of territory between the Atlantic Ocean and the Iranian border, who, as a consequence of the Arabian conquest in the seventh century, has become Arabized. That is to say, he has adopted the Arabic language and usually the Moslem religion and has thereby become heir to the Arab tradition. He may,

moreover, have Arabian blood."

During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries of the Christian Era, the Ottoman Turks conquered western Asia, north Africa, and they even went as far as the Atlantic Ocean. A vast empire was thus built in the Middle East where the three continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa meet. For four hundred years, the Arabs were divided into different separate tribes. Each tribe had its own political chief and government, but they all had the same culture and traditions. Politically the Arabs were weak because they were not united. The World War I brought about the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The various Arab tribes hoped that as a result of the war they might attain national unity, but instead they were divided into several states.

What are the aims of the Arabs?

The treaty of Lausanne signed on July 24, 1923, provided that Mesopotamia, Palestine, Syria, and Arabia be made independent of Turkey. The Arabs who expected to have political unity found themselves divided into several states. Syria and Lebanon became mandates of France. Palestine, Transjordan, and Iraq became mandates of Britain. Arabia was broken into several free states.

A movement for complete independence of the Arab states was started. Several factors hastened the movement. The Arabs claimed that Sir Henry Mac-

Mahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, pledged to the Sharif of Mecca in 1914 that Palestine would be an Arab state. On November 2, 1917, Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour issued the famous Balfour Declaration favoring the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine. This declaration was supported by the Zionist Movement. The Father of Zionism is Dr. Theodore Herzl. The main purpose of Zionism is to unite all the Jews in a movement to acquire Palestine as the national home of the Jews. Since then the Jews began settling the Holy Land which the Arabs claim as their own.

What are the aims of the Arab League?

The awakening of Arab nationalism was hastened by improved methods of communication and transportation. Modern means of communication enabled the Arabs to understand one another. Reading materials helped much in fostering their movement for national unity. During World War II the use of the radio helped revive the notion that Arab strength would be greater if the people were united.

The Arab League was formed through the initiative of Mustafa al-Nahhas, former Prime Minister of Egypt. In July, 1943, he held conversations with the leaders of the Arab states for the purpose of forming a league. A full session of the delegates of seven Arab states was held. The "Pact of the League of Arab States" was signed on March 22, 1945. The signatories are Syria, Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, and Yemen.

What are the aims of the League? The aims are (1) to strengthen the relations among the member states, (2) to coordinate the policies of all Arab states in order to achieve cooperation and to safeguard their independence

and sovereignty, (3) to develop common concern on such activities as tariffs, currency, communications, passports, visas, agriculture, industry, cultural and social affairs, and health matters.

Why are the Arabs opposed to the partition decision?

One of the aims of the Arab League is to secure the establishment of an Arab state in Palestine. The Arabs claim that Palestine is their real homeland. F. Khouri, the Syrian delegate to the United Nations, said: "For no one should forget that Palestine has been for ages, and should continue to be, an Arab land, a patrimony the Arabs have the obligation to defend to their utmost."

What do the Arabs fear? Prince Faisal of Saudi Arabia declared that the decision to partition Palestine is a violation of the United Nations Charter. But this is not all. There are 1,100,000 Arabs in Palestine and 670,000 Jews. The Arabs fear that sooner or later there would be more Jews than Arabs in Palestine. The increase in Jewish population might eventually dominate the whole Palestine.

Will the Arabs carry out a Holy War?

The decision to partition Palestine was greeted by the Arabs with violence. The Palestine Arabs immediately declared a general strike. The Arab Higher Committee charged that the decision is a "declaration of war" on the Arabs. Abdel Rahman Azzam Pasha, secretary general of the Arab League, announced that the decision would be "resisted by force." He said that the total Arab population of 33,000,000 would never permit the United Nations to partition Palestine. Thousands of Arabs support the declaration of a *Jihad* or Holy War.

Will peace come to the Holy Land?

The disturbances in Palestine pose the question: "Will peace come to Palestine now that United Nations had decided to partition the Promised Land?" The events of the next few months will give the answer to the question. The present attitude of the Arabs is merely the outcome of a well-planned decision to resist partition of Palestine. In June, 1946, a special session of the Arab League was held. It adopted two important decisions: First, all attempts of the Jews to colonize Palestine would be opposed; second, efforts should be exerted to work for the independence of Palestine. And then in October, 1947, the Arab League held another session at Lebanon. It decided to do what it could to push the project of an Arab-controlled Palestine. It also decided to work against the partition of Palestine. Recently, the Arab leaders planned to defeat the carrying out of the United Nations decision to partition Palestine.

What is at stake now? The peace of the Middle East is now at stake. The Arab League could muster an army of 80,000. Most of these, however, are not well trained. The Jews can depend on its Haganah, the Jewish defense army. The Jews could muster 75,000 soldiers. Most of these are well trained and well equipped. There are two groups of Jewish terrorists: the *Irgun Zvai Leumi* (National Military Organization) which claims to have 12,000 members and the *Stern Group* (Fighter for the Freedom of Israel) which claims no less than 2,000 members. The Jews of Palestine condemn the methods of both terrorist groups.

The Arabs have announced that preparations are being made to liberate Palestine. Thousands of Arabs have approved of a Holy War. Both Jews and Arabs have begun their skirmishes.

The British, however, are still responsible for order in Palestine pending her withdrawal by August 1, 1948. Will the Arabs strike hard after the British withdrawal? An international police force must be created to carry out the decision of the United Nations.

What is the chance of peace? What is the chance of economic interests of the great powers in the Middle East? If a civil war larger than the civil wars that rocked Palestine during 1936-1939 takes place, *oil concessions*, the life-blood of both foreigners and Arabs, may suffer inestimable destruction.

Exercises to Develop Thinking

1. Why do the Arabs desire national unity?
2. How did World War II influence Arab unity?
3. How was the Arab movement for national unity hastened?
4. Are the aims of the Arab League justified? Why?
5. Why do the Arabs oppose the decision on Palestine?
6. What are the chances of peace in the Middle East?

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How is the New China Governed Today?

Specific objectives:

1. To study the make-up of the new Chinese government
2. To understand the role of the new Chinese constitution
3. To get acquainted with the main trend of Chinese political life

On December 25, 1947, China took her place among the democratic countries of the world. On that day the new China constitution approved on December 25, 1946 first came into operation. How is China governed under the new constitution? What is the role of the new Chinese constitution? What is the main trend of Chinese political life?

New experience for the Chinese

The Chinese people got their first democratic break in their history. The adoption of the new constitution ended the undemocratic government of China and incidentally the one-party dictatorship. The *New York Times* calls the new Chinese constitution a blend of Western democracy and the philosophy of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, "Father of the Chinese Republic." China under the new constitution enters a new era of constitutional government. This is a unique experience in the life of a people that has struggled for constitutional government.

What heritage of the nation is embodied in the new constitution?

The new constitution embodies the "Three Principles of the People." These principles, according to the late Dr. Sun Yat Sen, are: (1) nationalism, (2) de-

mocracy, and (3) means of livelihood. Nationalism means the people should be free from political foreign control. Democracy means the sovereignty of the people. Adequate means of livelihood calls for the improvement in the economic and social conditions of the people. The preamble of the constitution declares that the Republic of China is founded on the Sun Min Chu I (Three People's Principles), that it is a democratic republic of the people, for the people, and by the people.

How is legislative power exercised?

There are three bodies that exercise legislative power. These are the National Assembly, the Legislative Yuan, and the Control Yuan.

The National Assembly: The members of the National Assembly are elected for a term of six years. The members are elected from local districts, the Mongolians, Tibetan tribes, overseas Chinese, and women's associations. The National Assembly has limited powers. It elects the President and Vice-President of the Republic. It may recall them or act on impeachments instituted by the Control Yuan. It passes on amendments proposed by the Legislative Yuan. "It cannot take part either in legislation or in control of the government except through measures of impeaching the powerful President or amending the Constitution."

The Legislative Yuan. The real legislative power is exercised by this body. Its members are elected from provinces and municipalities directly under the National Government. Members to this body are elected by the Mongolian

leagues, by Tibet, by racial groups in border regions, by overseas Chinese nationals, and occupational groups. The members are elected for three years. This body enacts the laws.

The Control Yuan: Another body that exercises legislative power is the Control Yuan. The members are elected by provincial and municipal council and the local district councils of Mongolia, Tibet, and of overseas Chinese communities. The members serve for six years. This body has the following powers: (1) power to investigate the members of the Executive Yuan; (2) power to impeach a public official of either the central or local government for neglect of their official duties or violation of the laws; (3) power to suggest measures for the rectification of the violation of laws and neglect of the duties of public officials; (4) power to approve or reject the appointments of officials to the higher judiciary and members of the Executive Yuan; and (5) power to exercise an audit function.

How is the executive power exercised?

There are two bodies that exercise the executive power.

The President: The President and Vice-President are elected by the National Assembly. They will not serve more than two six-year terms. The President is the chief of the state, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, Navy, and Air Forces. He promulgates the law, declares war, and concludes peace. The law he promulgates, however, must be counter-signed by the President of the Executive Yuan. The declaration of war and conclusion of peace must be according to the resolutions of the Legislative Yuan. The President appoints and removes officials of the government according to the law. He grants amnesty and pardon. He may declare martial law but this must be confirmed

by the Legislative Yuan. Emergency decrees can be issued only during the recess of the Legislative Yuan. These decrees must be approved by the Legislative Yuan.

The Executive Yuan: The highest administrative organ of China is the Executive Yuan. It is composed of a President and ministers appointed by the President of the Republic. It carries out the laws. It originates legislations, including treaty bills and bills affecting various ministries or commissions. It submits the budget to the Legislative Yuan.

How is judicial power exercised?

The judicial power is exercised by the Judicial Yuan. The body is headed by a President and Vice-President appointed by the President of the Republic with the consent of the Control Yuan. The other members of the Judicial Yuan are appointed in a similar manner. The members hold office during good behavior. Their independence is assured. The organization of the courts is to be prescribed by law.

What is the function of the Examination Yuan?

The Examination Yuan is a unique body. This really represents the civil service system. The heads and members of this body are appointed by the President of the Republic with the consent of the Control Yuan. All citizens in China have equal rights to hold public office. Public officials must be appointed after passing an open competitive examination. Technicians and professional personnel are also examined by the Examination Yuan for employment in the government.

How is local self-government exercised?

There is a new change in the exercise of local government under the new con-

stitution. Under the old constitution the provincial governors were appointed by the national government. The provincial governors in turn appointed the head of the Hsien (counties). Today it is required that there must be an elective provincial legislative Council and an elected governor. The Hsien head must also be elected. The new provision on the local self-government is significant in that the central government has lost its control of the local government.

How are the rights of the people guaranteed?

The Constitution enumerates the following rights of the people: freedom of speech, of religion, of petition, of voting, of holding office, the right to work and the right of private property. These rights are defended by the power of the Judicial Yuan to declare null and void any infringement of the right of the people according to provisions of the constitution.

What are the high principles or ideals of the constitution?

The Constitution provides that the foreign policy of China should be based on the principles of justice, reciprocity, and peace. China will cultivate good-neighborliness with the nations of the world. China also adheres to the United Nations Charter in the interest of national security, international justice, and world peace.

The constitution prohibits the use of the nation's armed forces as an instrument in the political struggle for power. No individual in the military service can at the same time hold a civil office.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen's philosophy on Livehood is assured in the Constitution by the provisions on the equal distribution of land and private capital, protection

and limitation of private property, government management of public utilities, definite provisions for the allocation of the national budget for educational, scientific, and cultural purposes, adoption of national insurance system, protection of women and child labor, arbitration between capitalists and laborers, improvement of productivity, public health, and employment for all able-bodied persons.

What will be the role of the new constitution?

It will take some time before the Chinese could fully realize the effects of their Constitution on their national life, and before they could fully realize the significance of democratic principles enshrined in their Constitution. The new Constitution must thrive and grow on a "fertile ground." China is in the throes of a civil war. She still fights for national unity. Dr. Sun Yat Sen once remarked that it might take China a hundred years to establish a smoothly working political system.

The new Constitution opens for the Chinese an era of constitutional government. It broadens their government which has been criticized as undemocratic. It is an attempt to work out a system of government that will fit conditions in China. "One day in the future," wrote John Rodeck in 'Experiment in Democracy', "people in both Communist and Nationalist areas may be able to say that they have a hand in self-government." The elections under the new constitution are not important according to Walter Logan in an article entitled "China Goes to the Polls." "The fact that there are elections, is." The Constitution of China is a beginning. National unity of the Chinese will be the second step in the implementation of the constitution.

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Significant World News Roundup

POLAND

Death of democracy

Democracy received its greatest death blow in Poland recently. The opposition democratic party, Polish Peasant Party was crushed by the Communist-controlled government. Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, staunch leader of the Polish Peasant Party, had escaped to London. The government through its official spokesman, Gen. Wiktor Groz, made the announcement "that his (Mikolajczyk's) escape was engineered by foreign friends abroad."

The Communists seized the opposition's printing plant, *Gazeta Ludowa*. The opposition party is now apparently integrated with the government sponsored party. Suspicious oppositionists are summarily arrested on "unexplainable charges."

What is the significance of the news?

The flight of Stanislaw Mikolajczyk to London signalled the death of democracy. Three years ago he had returned to Poland to lead Poland back to the road of democracy. But he waged an unequal fight because Poland became dominated by the Communists. In the election of January 19, 1947, the oppositionists' victory was nullified for an unknown reason. Before his flight his name was mentioned in connection with the "political trials of Polish members of the ground." Today it is likely that Stanislaw Mikolajczyk has been declared a traitor by the Communist-ruled Poland. The fate suffered by his opposition party is similar to that of the opposition parties in Hungary, Bulgaria, and Rumania.

RUMANIA

Opposition party received a jolt

An unfair trial conducted by the Communist-run government of Rumania sentenced another democratic leader to life imprisonment. Dr. Juliu Maniu, an aged peasant leader of the only democratic party in Rumania is a staunch opposition leader, like Stanislaw Mikolajczyk of Poland and Nicola Petkov of Bulgaria. The trial has been described as "grotesque" and unfair.

Dr. Juliu Maniu was tried for the crime of "leading a democratic party" and of "collaborating with the United States."

What is the significance of the news?

There is a very ironical fact in connection with the trial of Dr. Juliu Maniu. The prosecutor was Col. Alexander Georgescu who was an important official in the pro-Nazi regime of dictator Antonescu. Now that the country has fallen under Russia's control, the Colonel must serve Russia, too.

The irony of the trial is in the nature of the "crime" imputed to Dr. Juliu Maniu. He was charged of leading a democratic party in opposition to the Communist-run government; and yet under the treaty signed by the Big Four and Rumania, the existence of opposition parties is guaranteed, together with freedom of the press, free elections, and freedom of speech. The world now asks: Is the Rumanian treaty a mockery?

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Will the opposition party die?

An all-out attack is underway in Czechoslovakia. This country is one

of the countries in Eastern Europe that have not been fully brought within Russia's "Iron Curtain." The success of the Communists in destroying opposition parties in Poland, Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria has encouraged the Communists in Czechoslovakia to destroy also the opposition party in that country.

The Communists are resorting to threats to weaken the opposition parties. Dr. Jan Kempny and Dr. Milos Bugar, two outstanding leaders of the Slovak Catholic Party, for example, were charged of "conspiracy" and are now under government custody. Their conviction would mean silencing the Slovak Catholic Party. This is the usual Russian method of silencing oppositionist parties. Likewise pressure is being exerted to make the Czech Socialist Party join the Communist-dominated National Front party.

What is the significance of the news?

The movement to destroy the opposition party is gaining momentum. It is important to remember that Czechoslovakia is one of the two countries in Eastern Europe willing to accept the Marshall Plan in the beginning. But pressure from Russia forced Premier Klement Gottwald and Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk to reject the invitation. In exchange for their refusal of the Marshall plan, Czechoslovakia was promised aid by Russia. And now to make complete the communizing of Czechoslovakia, the Socialist Party is being coerced to join the National Front Party. Will the Communist government succeed?

GREECE

What is the future of the Greek Free Government?

The establishment of a "Free Greece" in the northern mountains of Greece poses a difficult question in interna-

tional relations. The establishment of the "Greek Free Government" had been expected since the beginning of the Greek guerrilla warfare. In fact talks of such establishment was brought out in connection with the establishment of a "Free Macedonia" in northern Greece. General Markos Vafiades, a famous guerrilla and an avid Communist is now the head of the "First Provisional Democratic Government of Free Greece."

What is the significance of the news?

The establishment of the free government has several significances. First, it is a challenge to the government of Greece to continue the fight that is now going on in northern Greece. Second, the establishment of "Free Greece" is an example to most European countries that the problems of Europe are very difficult to settle. The Communists would like the countries of Europe to know that it is not wise to accept the Marshall Plan. Third, the Balkan Watch Commission recently created by the second regular session of the General Assembly will be challenged in its task of settling peace in northern Greece.

The international complication of this situation is: Will this free government receive support from Communist countries in Eastern Europe? This is the problem facing all democratic countries today.

ITALY

Death of a King and Birth of a Republic

The history of Italy since its liberation has been marked by historical events. Three important historical events are worthwhile noting. First, the Italians decided to end the monarchy. In a plebiscite held on June 3, 1946, 12,672,000 Italians voted in favor of a republic and 10,688,000 voted for the retention of the monarchy. Second,

Vittorio Emanuel III, king of Italy for 46 years, died on December 29, 1947, in Alexandria, Egypt. Third, the Italian republic was formally born on January 1, 1948.

What is the significance of the news?

The results of the plebiscite ended the 900-year old House of Savoy. The Italian election, the first free national election in twenty-five years, showed that the majority of the Italians are against Communism. The death of King Vittorio Emanuel III put an end to his 46 eventful years of reign which covered two world wars, two minor political conflicts, and the period of 24 years of Fascism under Benito Mussolini. Actually, the king had abdicated on May 9, 1946, when he also announced that he would be succeeded by his son, Prince Umberto. And then the plebiscite finally ousted the House of Savoy. A republic was born. Enrico de Nicola was chosen President. The new Italian constitution which became effective on January 1, 1948, formally made Italy a republic.

RUMANIA

Birth of another "Republic"

A new "Republic" was proclaimed on December 31, 1947. King Mihai of Rumania abdicated his throne, and on the same day the Rumanian parliament voted unanimously to abolish the monarchy and to frame the constitution. A "popular democratic republic" was proclaimed by the deputies. The cabinet under Premier Petru Groza resigned. It was later reconstituted, but one important member, the Education Minister was eliminated. There is at present a move to call a constituent assembly and to prepare another constitution.

What is the significance of the news?

In his proclamation, King Mihai

stated that present conditions in the country do not justify his position as monarch. The most important reason given by him was the dominance of the Communists in the government. The Communists welcomed the abdication. They said that King Mihai would be free to marry Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma.

The abdication of King Mihai has deeper political implications. Historical events show that the king was merely a figurehead in the government. His government was practically under the Communists. Premier Petru Groza is a Communist and the majority of the members of the parliament were Communists. The Communists had been trying hard to bring Rumania under their grip. The abdication solved their problem.

The abdication is significant for two reasons: First, the country is now open for complete sovietization. The Communists have been working hard since 1932 to bring Rumania nearer to Russia. The Communists will now have the complete freedom to rule the country. Second, the abdication brings Rumania, the last country in Eastern Europe, under Soviet dictatorship.

GERMANY

Another move to strengthen the Bizonia

Efforts are being exerted by both the British and American military administration in Germany to bring close cooperation between their zones of occupation. In 1947, the British and American zones of occupation were merged economically. This step was taken to help Germany solve her economic problems. Both the British and the Americans believed that economic cooperation in both zones would be for the good of both the Germans and the occupying forces. Lately, top German

officials accepted the proposals for the setting up of a joint administration in both the British and American zone.

What is the significance of the news?

The term Bizonia is given to the merged British and American zones of occupation in Germany. The decision to merge the British and American zones economically last year is gradually solving the German economic problems. The experiences of the Allies in Germany since the beginning of the occupation of Germany in 1945 proved that the lack of economic unity hindered greatly the solution of German problems. Consequently, a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers was called to discuss this question. The meeting was a failure. The failure forced the British and American authorities to consider the necessity of bringing closer cooperation between their zones. The proposal for the establishment of a joint administration will eventually mean a government for western Germany. Russian papers condemned the British-American move as tantamount to "partitioning" Germany. Talks have also started for the merging of the French, British, and American zones of occupation. If the merging of the three zones succeed, will Russia incorporate her zone of occupation into her territory? Such an act would be a great problem for the Big Four.

BRITAIN

Will the British finally oust the Labor Party?

One great event that is being viewed with concern in British politics is the result of the municipal elections recently held in Britain. The elections were for city and town councilmen. The issues, however, were national. The final returns of the municipal elections show that the Labor party won only 831 of the 3,265 seats contested. The Conser-

vatives, Liberals, and Independents obtained 2,434 seats.

The victory of the Conservative party was nation-wide. It should be remembered that in the 1945 national elections, the Conservative party suffered a humiliating defeat. In the last municipal elections, the result is just the opposite.

What is the significance of the news?

The issues in the municipal election were national. Far more voters than usual went to the polling booths. This means many people voted to register their opposition to the policies of the government. The leaders of the Labor party announced before the election that the "Tories are trying to prove at these elections that there is discontent and dissatisfaction with Labor's policy." The results of the elections confirmed the pre-election campaign of the Conservatives. It cannot be denied wrote the *News Review*, a London weekly, "that many thousands of votes were cast against the established authority of the day out of the widespread sense of annoyance and frustration caused by the present economic crisis." Will the government be forced to call a general election to determine the true wish of the people? This is the question uppermost in the minds of the Conservatives. Should the Attlee government call for a general election and the results show the defeat of the Labor party, then it would mean a setback to one of the great experiments in modern history—socialism in a democratic country.

UNITED STATES

Grave decisions to be made

The American people through their chosen representatives will make grave decisions this year. The Congress is now faced by numerous problems. First, there is the program to control infla-

tion. Second, there is the problem of acting on the ERP (Economic Recovery Program) for Europe. Third, there is the shaping of the foreign policy of the country. Fourth, there is the Presidential election in November.

What is the significance of the news?

The present session of the U. S. Congress is important in the history of the United States. The *Detroit News* points to the responsibility of the American people. "In facing toward 1948, the nation has one goal of such high importance that no other compares with it. What will count most in determining our future fortunes is our ability to establish in 1948 the line of foreign policy which was blueprinted in 1947. That objective transcends every domestic consideration, but the achievement of it will be made difficult by the oncoming national election." The *New York Herald Tribune* wrote: "Unfortunately, world affairs are at a critical point. The decisions which the United States makes in the next 10 months will be decisive in world history for many more than as many years, and delay beyond the brief space that destiny has allotted will be just as decisive."

JAPAN

Limit Japanese food imports

The Far Eastern Commission recently made public a policy decision directing the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan to take measures that would bring about maximum production of home-grown food and that would assure its equitable distribution. Because of world food shortage, it also established the policy of limiting Japanese food imports to the minimum required to prevent starvation, widespread disease, and civil unrest.

What is the significance of the news?

The decision arrived at by the Far

Eastern Commission is in keeping with the world-wide program of preventing hunger and starvation in the world. Figures released by the FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization) show that the threat of hunger and starvation in the world is critical. The acute shortage of food, which is not confined to Japan, is causing serious hardships in countries which suffered as a result of Japanese aggression.

CHINA

Is there a Comintern for China?

There is a general belief that Russia is trying to bring certain sections of China under the Russian "sphere of influence" or under any other form of control. Recent news brought disturbing complaints that Russia is giving aid to the Chinese Communists in Manchuria. Recent news also brought up the question why Russia has not opened the port of Dairen to all nations. Both Nationalists and Communists spoke of annihilating one another within this year. American writers continue to point that there is a kind of Comintern in China.

What is the significance of the news?

The word Comintern stands for the Third Communist International, an international Communist organization recently revived by nine Communist parties of Europe. The Chinese government is continually being disturbed by the Russian support of the Chinese Communists. There is evidence that Russian Communists are trying to strengthen their influence on the Chinese Communists. American editorial columnists and radio commentators are apprehensive of the trend of the civil war in China. They see the working of a Comintern in the continued resistance of the Chinese Communists. More political leaders in the United States are now in favor of extending aid to

China. "American aid," wrote the Washington Daily News "should not be withheld until the Chinese will to survive is sapped to the point where she accepts the Communist chains waiting for her."

BURMA

Burma faces important problems

Free Burma became independent on January 4, 1948. The first president of the youngest nation in the world, President Sao Shwe Thaik, expressed confidence that Free Burma would be able to solve her problems. Recently, Burma signed the pact with Britain permitting Britain to maintain military mission in Burma, cancelling Burmese war debts of \$60,000,000 to Britain, and transferring 37 small vessels to Burma. Burma, however, faces numerous problems, most important of which is the economic reconstruction of the damages brought by the last war.

What is the significance of the news?

A great responsibility weighs heavily on the shoulders of a nation newly set free, because such freedom necessitates radical adjustments in the national life of the people to meet attendant problems. In the case of Burma, however, the adjustments needed are simple. Burma is not faced by religious division like India. Burma's only great problem is her economic rehabilitation. Stability must be attained before the government could be on solid ground to continue this freedom.

Study Helps

Discuss the following:

1. Why is Russia very much interested in Poland?

2. According to the peace treaty signed by Rumania, opposition parties should be let alone. Is the recent event in Rumania a mockery? What possible steps could be taken by the other powers who signed the treaty to save the opposition?

3. What is the possible international implication if the Communist countries of Eastern Europe recognize the rebel "Free Greece"?

4. Italians now have a republican government, but the country is still faced by difficult economic problems. Do you think democracy will survive in Italy?

5. Do you believe the statement that the abdication of King Mihai is the death of democracy in all Eastern Europe? Why?

6. What problem confronts the merger of the French, British, and American zones? Would you favor the merging of the three zones of occupation? Why?

7. What is the significance of the British elections?

8. Why must the U. S. Congress make grave decisions this year?

9. What is the wisdom of limiting Japanese food imports?

10. Should American aid be further extended to China? Why?

11. Is the maintenance of British military mission in Burma significant? What is the significance?

ATING WIKA

a sister publication to this magazine contains abundant, illustrated materials of instruction in the Filipino National Language for grade-school children.

Special Report on the Activities of the United Nations

What UNESCO did in 1947

The official report of the activities of the UNESCO in 1947, submitted by Dr. Julian Huxley, Director-General, presents the following important accomplishments: (1) The machinery to carry out the program of the organization has been set into motion. (2) A general conference was held by 55 international organizations to prepare plans for reconstruction of the cultural, educational, and scientific life of many countries destroyed by the war. (3) Surveys have been made to find out the educational and technical needs of several countries. (4) The maintenance of fellowships and scholarships has been assured. (5) The program of education for international understanding has been stated. A six-week seminar was held in Paris for teachers all over the world. Teachers studied the textbooks used in schools all over the world for the purpose of recommending improvements on how international understanding might be accomplished. (6) Field teams of scientists were sent out to the Far East, Middle East, and Latin America for the purpose of bringing the scientists in these regions into close cooperation with the other scientists of the world. (7) Two thousand libraries destroyed by the World War II have been restocked. (8) Help has been extended to thirteen countries in the reconstruction of museums and public collections. (9) Step has been taken to establish an International Theater Institute. (10) Financial aid has been extended to private international organizations which are also engaged in the attainment of objectives similar to the UNESCO.

Study Helps

1. Do you consider the projects undertaken by UNESCO worth while? Why?
2. In the light of its accomplishments in 1947, does the UNESCO deserve better support? Why?

An example in world cooperation

The WHO (World Health Organization) has recently shown an example in international cooperation. A cholera outbreak occurred in Egypt recently. The WHO called an immediate meeting of the members who had already ratified the proposed constitution. Several member countries responded. In less than a month, the organization was supplied with more than 1,000,000 doses of anti-cholera. They were immediately sent to Egypt.

Study Helps

1. Why is there need for the World Health Organization?
2. Why did our country join this international organization?

To spread correct information on the United Nations

The General Assembly in its last session approved Norway's resolution urging that the principles, structure, and activities of the United Nations be taught in the schools of all members of the United Nations. The resolution states in part: "Knowledge and understanding of the aims and activities of

the United Nations are essential in promoting and assuring general interest and popular support in its work." It has been noted that newspapers devote a great space to the political discord taking place in the United Nations and less to the positive work of the United Nations, such as the work of the Trusteeship Council in administering dependent areas, work of the World Health Organization, work of the International Refugee Organization in aiding displaced persons, and the international cooperation in fighting narcotics.

Study Helps

1. Why should high school students be taught the principles, structure, and activities of the United Nations?
2. The *Current Events Review* has been publishing news about the United Nations since 1945. If you have been reading the magazine regularly, can you give the values that you have derived from the reading of the magazine?

Exchange of workers

A resolution was approved by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on the exchange of workers. It was agreed that member states should exchange workers to improve their professional training and to study the economic and social problems of workers in other countries.

Study Helps

1. Why is the resolution significant?
2. Can you suggest methods on how the exchange of workers may be done effectively?

Action on false reports

The General Assembly in its last regular session approved unanimously a resolution inviting all members of the United Nations to combat the diffusion of false or distorted reports which are

often injurious to the relations between states. A detailed study of how to make the resolution effective will be taken in the forthcoming Conference on Freedom of Information.

Study Helps

1. Why is the resolution important?
2. Propaganda has been defined as an "attempt by individuals or groups to influence an individual or group to a predetermined action." May propaganda be considered false report?

Political information to be encouraged

One of the resolutions adopted in the last session of the regular meeting of the General Assembly is the adoption of a standard form for the transmission of political information on dependent territories under the trusteeship Council. The main aim of the resolution is to enable administrators to acquire correct political information. The resolution will enable the public to know what is being done to develop the political life of non-self-governing peoples.

Study Helps

1. Why is the resolution significant?
2. Why is it important for the public to get acquainted with the political development of non-self governing peoples?

Items listed on Genocide Draft

The United Nations Legal Committee has set down the items to be taken up in the next convention on Genocide. In 1946 the General Assembly requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft on Genocide. A tentative agreement has been reached on the meaning of Genocide—the intentional destruction of racial, national, linguistic, religious or political groups of human beings.

(Please turn to the next page)

Special Report . . . (Continued)

The draft of the Legal Committee lists a number of acts to be considered criminal. The following fall under the crime known as Genocide: outright massacre, mutilations, deprivations of the means of livelihood, sterilization, segregation of sexes, destruction of books and of historical or religious monuments, cultural extermination, and prohibition of the use of the language, of a conquered people.

Study Helps

1. Why is the resolution significant?
2. Do you believe it necessary to include all the acts listed above under the crime known as Genocide? Why?

How is the American . . . (Continued from page 235)

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Will the Arabs Carry . . . (Continued from page 241)

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How is the New China . . . (Continued from page 244)

Exercises to Develop Thinking

1. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in his book *China's Destiny* said that the future of China lies in the hand of the Chinese. What is the significance of this statement in the functioning of the new Constitution?

2. In what way does the new constitution give the Chinese a new experience? Cite an example.

3. How does the Constitution preserve the heritage of the Chinese?

4. How are the rights of the people protected?

5. Some writers comment that China's Constitution is the first Constitution wherein adherence to the United Nations is specifically affirmed. Can you give the possible reasons why this adherence is affirmed?

6. What conditions are necessary to make the constitution workable?

7. Social justice means giving to the group what is due to it according to its status in society. It means the promotion of the welfare of the people. What provisions in the new Constitution promote the principle of social justice?

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The Philippines and the World

Unprecedented increase

Overseas trade of the Philippines for the first ten months of 1947 totalled P1,191,077,999, of which P839,414,558 represented the value of our imports and P351,663,441 the value of our exports. The trade balance was still unfavorable for the Philippines. The leading exports of the Philippines in 1947 were: copra, abaca, desiccated coconuts, coconut oil, tobacco, copra cake or meal, scrap metals, hides and other skins, timber, crude rubber, rattan furniture, gold ore, chrome ore, embroideries, and hats. The mainstay of our exports is copra, amounting to P314,609,166.

U.S. papers keep interest in industries

More interest is being shown in the recovery of Philippine industries. Papers in the United States are giving more space to news about the Philippines. The boom in copra and hemp is followed with keen interest by many newspaper editors. More capitalists are watching the economic development of the Philippines.

Comments on mission abroad

Two missions which recently returned to the Philippines from a visit abroad make significant remarks. Filemon Rodriguez, chief engineer of the Philippine National Power Corporation, who had just returned from the United States remarked that in the light of his observation abroad, the Philippines should promote (1) the development of water power; (2) the development of fertilizers; (3) the production of

lighter materials, such as nails, reinforced bars, and building frames; (4) the construction of textile mills; (5) and the building of inter-island shipping.

The seven-man architect mission to the United States and to Latin America also gave its impression of the foreign capitols they had seen. The mission was sent abroad to observe which capitol is suitable for adoption in the Philippines. The mission was favorably impressed by the type of architecture in Lima, Peru, and by that of the capitol in Mexico. The mission will soon prepare the plan for the Philippine capitol in the light of their observations abroad.

To prepare a blueprint for our economic development

The recently reactivated National Economic Council began its study of the several plans for the economic development of the Philippines. The reactivation of the National Economic Council will mean the integration of national planning and formulation of national economic policies. The first task of the Council, according to Vice-President Elpidio Quirino, is the examination of the reports of the joint Philippine-American finance commission and the technical staff of the National Development Company under the supervision of the Beyster Corporation. Other reports from the government branches and private entities will also be examined. Out of this study will be drawn the blueprint for the economic development of the Philippines.

A warning on national resources

The Philippines today stands out as having the largest dollar reserves of all countries outside of the United States. According to Budget Commissioner Pio Pedrosa, the stable currency of the Philippines is one of the most important reasons for the present prosperity in the Philippines. Two important suggestions have been advanced by leading Filipino economists concerning the conservation of Philippine dollar reserves. First, the country must set up a selective control through the limitation of imports on non-essential goods. Only imports of capital goods and rehabilitation supplies which are beneficial to the rehabilitation projects of the country must be encouraged. This step, if taken, will help prevent inflation. Second, our present foreign exchange resources should be channelled toward the purchase of productive goods. The enactment of a legislation imposing high taxes on luxuries will help much in limiting the importation of non-essential goods. Mexico recently enacted a similar legislation.

Place of the Roads Administration in rehabilitation

One United States government agency that has received little public attention is the USPRA (United States Public Roads Administration). This agency ranks close in importance to the War Damage Commission in the rehabilitation of our country. The United States government has allocated \$40,000,000 to USPRA on annual basis. The USPRA has actually spent \$1,000,000, and has awarded contracts amounting to \$9,000,000. It has also mapped out the expenditure of \$19,000,000.

The USPRA has been advising the Bureau of Public Works. It has com-

pleted the training of some Filipinos in designing and planning public works. The 1948 program of the USPRA includes the rehabilitation of approximately 100 bridges and about 20 road sections throughout the Philippines.

The Philippines and the United Nations

The Philippines has named two outstanding legislators to two important Commissions created by the second regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations—Senator Vicente J. Francisco to the Palestine Commission and Senator Melencio Arranz to the Korean Commission. The Palestine Commission will carry out the decision of the General Assembly to partition Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state. The Korean Commission will work for the unification of the Koreans, supervise the election of the members of the National Assembly, and prepare the Koreans for eventual independence.

Senator Vicente J. Francisco discounted rumors that his assignment to the Palestine Commission is a holiday. The senator said: "I shall perform my assigned task to the best of my ability, and I hope, with credit to the people and government of the Republic of the Philippines."

Senator Melencio Arranz also answered criticisms levelled at his appointment to the Korean Commission. The senator said: "I consider it my solemn duty to accept the designation regardless of the consequences to my personal or political interest. The interest of the country is above all kinds of interests. It is no secret that the work of the Commission may well determine the stability of political, social, and economic institutions in this hemisphere."

(Please turn to the next page)

Will France Become . . .

(Continued from page 238)

States economic aid. The Communists, however, plan to bring about an increase in their membership by underground methods. In the meantime the government is trying hard to solve France's economic problems. Gen. Charles de Gaulle may be the next national leader of France. His return to political power was welcomed by the French voters. The stage is set for a new government. The Communists may not succeed again in calling a 2,000,000 men strike. The battle for democracy, however, will continue because the man whose party won in the last municipal elections is against Communism in France. Will Gen. Charles de Gaulle step in to save French democracy and check Communism?

Exercises to Develop Thinking

1. Why is France needed in the revival of a strong Europe?

2. What makes France occupy an important position in Europe today?

3. Give several reasons why France is facing numerous economic problems.

4. Why is a coalition cabinet a great problem in French politics?

5. How strong are the Communists in France?

6. Why did the people support the RFP party of De Gaulle?

7. Were the measures taken by the government against the Communists justified? Would you favor such measures in the Philippines? Why?

8. What do you think is the future of France?

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The Philippines and . . .

(Continued)

Good prospects for 1948

A survey conducted by the Business Writers' Association of the Philippines shows that business in the Philippines in 1948 will be good. According to the survey the following important factors will help effect the progress of business (1) further recovery in industry; (2) greater expenditures to be made in the Philippines by the United States—War Damage Commission, United States Public Roads Administration, and back payments; (3) stepping up in the construction of buildings; (4) international peace situation; (5) increase in our sugar production; (6) short supplies of consumer items such as heavy industry; (7) proposals of the government to impose new taxes; (8) better prices for Philippine products; and (9) bigger investment of American capital in local industry, agriculture, and commerce.

The survey shows that among the factors which made 1947 a prosperous year were: (1) heavier exports which made strong recovery in industry; (2) sale of surplus property by the Philippines and the United States; (3) grants of loans for reconstruction by the RFC and other banks; (4) growing spirit of self-help among the Filipinos; and (5) putting of more money on lands and buildings.

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