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Historical Security Council Edition 1948 Volume XXIII Issue 01

A COMMUNIST SETBACK

Thursday, 01 January 1948

ATHENS, Greece - The first effort of the self-styled Greek Communist "government" to capture a capital and carve out a "state" for itself, and thereby provide some substance behind its shadow, appears to have suffered a major setback on both the military and the diplomatic fronts. The military setback came when the most ambitious campaign undertaken by "General" Markos thus far was smashed by the Greek Army on the snow-covered heights surrounding the Greek mountain town of Konitsa. The obvious aim of that campaign was to capture Konitsa as a rebel headquarters, and from there extend rebel domination to the Grainmos Mountain mass and to the whole of Epirus. For that purpose the rebels concentrated the greatest force they have ever assembled on one spot, and with nearby Albania as their base fought their biggest battle to date. That battle is not yet over, but according to latest advices from Athens the siege of Konitsa is being lifted and the rebels are on the retreat.

The diplomatic setback came when the American Government issued a warning to Russia and her Balkan satellites that a formal recognition of the rebel Government would constitute open disregard of the decisions of the United Nations Assembly and have "serious implications." This is diplomatic language for saying that the United States would be forced to consider counter-measures in the event of such action.

In view of this double blow, it is possible that Russia and her satellites will delay their projected recognition of the Communist regime in the hope of finding a more propitious time. But it would be too much to expect that they will abandon their effort or that the Greek guerrillas will give up their fight. The Konitsa battle has again confirmed what all United Nations investigations have already revealed, that the guerrillas have their bases in countries to the north of Greece, from which they sally forth and to which they retreat after every lost battle. This fact imposes continued obligations on the United Nations to take effective steps to stop not only the Greek civil war but, above all, the open aggression against a member of the UN which is imperiling the peace of Europe.



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PAN-GERMAN COUP CALLED SOVIET AIM

Russia is Reported Planning De Facto National Regime With Popular Backing

BERLIN, Germany – The Russians are planning the creation of a de facto government for all Germany, according to outstanding German politicians in close touch with the Soviet military administration. In the hope of accomplishing this coup d'etat, they do not intend to form a separate government in their own zone, it is said.

According to these politicians, the Russians consider that they have an instrument made to order in the "All-German People's Congress for Unity and a Just Peace," which includes delegates from all zones except the French. Hastily assembled under Communist auspices early this month, the congress met on 6 and 7 December for the avowed purpose of influencing the Council of Foreign Ministers, then meeting in London.

Since its adjournment, its sponsors, leaders of the Socialist Unity party, have declared it will be a continuing organization and have created an official newspaper for it, known as Germany's Voice designed for inter-

zonal circulation on a large scale. **Would Lack Some Powers**

According to pro-Soviet German sources, a general assembly of the People's Congress will constitute a German parliament and its central committee will function as the executive branch. They are said to feel that they can gradually transform the People's Congress into a sort of national government, which would spread their influence throughout the country.

Obviously, such an institution would be without the powers ordinarily associated with government: it would have no power of taxation, no police power and no courts. But if successful as planned, it would have tremendous potential propaganda value in that it would extend Soviet-directed propaganda throughout Germany. Its instrumentalities would be not only Communist but also many Christian Democrats, Liberal Democrats and others whose desire for unification impelled them to join this new "popular front."

"Obviously," said one politician, "the plan cannot be realized abruptly or within a brief space of time. But it will always remain the fundamental aim. That is why the Russians really do not intend to set up a separate government in the eastern zone-they wish to go further."

The Russians' argument is said to be that the parties in the western zones have been unable to raise a unified voice for German unity and that the People's Congress was the first such expression on a national scale. They believe it can be so directed as to become the biggest single political influence in the country, since it will include members of several political parties and even those who have no party affiliation.

"The Russians are convinced," said this party leader, "that in the long run the position of the parties in the western zones will be more and more weakened by a revival of German national feeling, whereas the People's Congress, by the same token, will gain in strength. When that happens the German parties, and even the western zone military governments, will be forced to deal seriously with a fait accompli brought about by Russian policy and German opinion."

"Don't ask me for a timetable, however," he continued. "The Russians don't like to draft their bills of exchange on a short-term basis."

COMMUNISTS PRESS CLOSER ON MUKDEN

Regular Force is Reported Six Miles From City –Nanking Tells of Gain Elsewhere

PEIPING, China – Communist regulars in force have hammered to within six miles of Mukden, censored press dispatches reported today.

When the Communists struck across Manchuria's snow fields at the start of a winter offensive it was thought they meant only to isolate Mukden, but these accounts hint that the city itself is an objective.

Censors allowed Chinese correspondents in Mukden to write of unrest within the city, where the disturbing sound of gunfire could be heard clearly.

One dispatch said that three Red divisions were assaulting Government positions six miles northwest of Mukden while another column of more than 20,000 Communists was attacking eight miles to the southwest.

The Communists also were reported to be increasing the pressure on the cities making up the outer defenses of Mukden–Ihsien, 120 miles west; Sinlitun, seventy miles west and Changwu, sixty miles northwest.

In North China, severe fighting was reported along the Peiping-Hankow railroad from Chohsien to Paoting, capital of Hopeh Province. Chohsien is thirty-five miles southwest of Peiping and Paoting is fifty-five miles farther south.

The Soviet Consul General here, Sergei Tichvinsky, denied today Chinese Gen. Hsu Chiming's accusation that Russia was supplying arms, communications equipment and advice to Chinese Communist troops.

"My Government recognizes only one Government in China—the National Government—and is not supplying the Communists with anything," Mr. Tichvinsky told newsmen. "This is a 100 percent denial."

General Hsu's statement to interviewers yesterday was the first open accusation of Russia by any responsible Chinese official.

RUSSIANS IN KOREA GET STIFFER DRILLS

'Toughening Up' Program Laid to Low Morale–Equipment is Called Obsolescent

SEOUL, Korea – Soviet Army troops stationed in North Korea are undergoing an intensified training and "toughening up" program; according to evidence accumulated by highly qualified observers here.

It is said by these observers that both the extreme youth of the average Russian soldier now assigned to occupation duties and the low morale of enlisted men and Soviet junior officers have necessitated the vigorous measures Soviet troops no longer are permitted to rove at will among the Korean populace. The troops are closely confined to restricted areas. Political indoctrination has been stepped up and a regimen of strenuous physical hardening has been adopted.

It is estimated that fewer than 100,000 men in the Soviet Twentyfifth Army remain in North Korea. Faced by growing discontent with duty among openly hostile Koreans and with a virtual absence of diversion, the Soviet Army authorities, it is reliably reported here, have instituted a six-hour day and a sixday week of military drill including long marches, practices with small arms, and heavy labor. The greater part of the day of rest is taken up with political indoctrination. The informants say that the numbers of political commissars among the troops has been increased. **Equipment Called Obsolescent**

It is reported that the obsolescence of equipment brought in by the occupying forces in the summer of 1945 has reduced the North Korea garrison to a third-rate force. Much of the lend-lease motorized material has been reduced to junk

by the lack of replacement parts.

The Soviet air force in North

Korea, consisting of an estimated

two (Soviet) air divisions, has likewise suffered, particularly through a lack of skilled mechanics. Such men, it is believed, have been called back to the Soviet Union where skills are vitally needed in industry.

Morale among Soviet pilots is low, the observers declare, because of the undependability of the planes.

The air force in North Korea consists entirely of scouting, observation and fighter craft of short range and it is estimated that at present this air force could not put more than sixty planes into the air.

As was the case in Germany in the waning months of the European war when the Germans placed air force personnel in the ground forces because of a lack of planes, Soviet airmen resent transfer to the ground force, it is said, as bitterly as did the German aces.

Information indicates that the political commissars are charged with heavy responsibilities in keeping up troop morale. The indoctrination of new troops stresses the menace of United States "imperialism," not only against Soviet-occupied North Korea but against the Soviet Union as well. Having Morale Troubles

It would be a mistake to assume that the Soviet Army in North Korea was "cracking up," I was told by a qualified observer recently, but he added:

"The Soviet commanders are having serious morale troubles."

Desertion to the Americans across the Thirty-eighth Parallel is not unheard of. But rigid adherence to international military custom by the United States Army commanders here rules that all

Soviet soldiers picked up in this area must be returned to North Korea. It is presumed that these are quickly punished with such severity as to dissuade others from making the attempt to get away.

According to witnesses, the Soviet troops are now isolated from the Koreans within the occupation zone. Except for the garrison troops stationed at Pyongyang, capital of the Soviet zone, and other cities, the bulk of the troops are quartered in rural areas where guards assiduously prevent egress as well as ingress.

Policing is left to the Korean armed forces which have been trained and equipped by the Rus-

Recreation provided for these troops is virtually nonexistent the informants declare. Heavy emphasis is placed on political training with stress on the danger of the "coming war with the capitalist states."

DUTCH RESTATE CASE ON SECURITY IN JAVA

BATAVIA, Java – The Dutch announced today they would transfer the responsibility for the security of those now under Dutch protection only to a Federal Government of Indonesia "that can guarantee that same security and liberty."

"The Netherlands Government with all the means at their disposal will remain in the last resort responsible for the security and liberty of those now under their protection," said a communiqué restating Dutch demands concerning the transitional period before Indonesia achieves independence within the Dutch Commonwealth. On 11 August the Netherlands declared to the United Nations Security Council that the Dutch planned

to create an interim government.
"Nothing would be more grati-

"Nothing would be more gratifying to the Netherlands Government," today's communiqué said, "than the cessation of violence on the part of the Government of the Republic and the guarantee of order and security which make it possible to begin peaceful reconstruction of the whole of Indonesia as a federal state."

The Netherlands Indies Army announced that its casualties in the Indonesian conflict from the time of the United Nations ceasefire order of 5 August through 13 December totaled 332 killed, 999 wounded and 25 missing.

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India Will Bring Charges on Kashmir Before UN

NEW DEHLI, India – India has decided to refer the Kashmir issue to the Security Council of the United Nations, after giving Clement Attlee, British Prime Minister, forty-eight hours notice of India's intentions.

The document that the Indian Government will forward to the Security Council runs less than ten pages and is understood to refer particularly to Pakistan's participation in what are regarded by New Delhi as "undeclared hostilities against a friendly neighboring country."

Today's decision was communicated to the Pakistan and other Dominion representatives in New Delhi after a meeting of the Indian Cabinet this afternoon.

India was understood here to be submitting the Kashmir issue to the Security Council "without prejudice" to Indian action in Kashmir to clear out the raiders.

No immediate relaxation of Indian Army operations now going on in Kashmir and Jammu was expected.

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ARAB CHIEF WARNS OF WORSE FIGHTING

Ghory Says Palestine Strife Will Mount Unless British Block Partition Plan

JERUSALEM – Killing in Palestine will mount to unpredictable pitch unless the British balk the United Nations partition decision, Emile Ghory, the most active leader of Arab nationalism inside Palestine said today during comparative lull in the Arab-Jewish clashes.

The casualties reported by the police up to a late hour tonight included two Jews killed in Jerusalem, one in Haifa and one in Tel-Aviv; one Arab killed in Tel-Aviv and one British policeman shot outside a Jerusalem restaurant in the Jewish quarter by unidentified persons.

Mr. Ghory, American-educated and an outstanding member of the Arab Higher Committee here, asserted that the Arabs were acting entirely defensively, but must retaliate whenever attacked. He said that in the present circumstances his only criticism of attacks by the Arabs was that "there are not enough." "Too late" to Stop Violence

Mr. Ghory, who officially is just another member of the Arab Higher Committee but is widely reputed to be the real mainspring in organizing the practical side of the resistance to the partition of Palestine, said the Arab leaders did not wish violence to break out at this time, but that matters had gone too far for them to check it now.

"Only a change of policy can stop it," he said. He explained that the Arabs here believed the British really approved partition while using the United Nations as a front and believed also that the British could block partition by repudiating the partition plan and handing over the mandate

"to the people of the country." Asked what would become of the Jews in that case, Mr. Ghory said those who were here or whose families were here before 1918 would be treated the same as the Arabs, while others would be considered aliens.

"But you have many aliens in America and England who are not citizens but are permitted to live there," he added with a smile. Mr. Ghory revealed that the mind behind the Palestine Arab army, if it actually takes to the field, will be Gen. Taha Pasha el-Hashimi, former Defense Minister of Iraq. He said the field commanders would be Palestinians, but did not reveal any names.

Taha Pasha, who is now in Damascus, was Defense Minister of Iraq until just before the disastrous, revolt led by Rashid Ali el-Gailani on behalf of the Axis powers in 1941.

Other sources say that Fawzi el Kawukji, generally cited as the probable field commander, will have command only of a mixed force of Arabs from outside Palestine because he disagrees on policy with Grand Mufti Haj Amin el-Husseini. The chief field commander, they say, will be relatively unknown Abdul Qadr Husseini, who distinguished himself in the 1936 revolt, was three times wounded and eventually escaped into Iraq. **Ex-German Aide a Figure**

While Mr. Ghory did not acknowledge knowing anything of decisions about senior field commanders, he conceded that the most active man in the field at the moment in Palestine probably was Sheikh Hassan Salameh. Sheikh Salameh, who during the war was dropped by parachute in Palestine as a German major to combat the British and never was caught, is in charge of the Arab forces in the whole Lydda-Jaffa district and probably was responsible for the numerous recent train robberies, Mr. Ghory said:

"We do not consider them robberies" he remarked. "They are stopping supplies from reaching the enemy, just as the Allies kept them from the Germans during the war."

Though the casualty list was low today tension was high. The Arab population expected some sort of violent counter-reprisal for the heavy toll taken by the Arabs in the consolidated petroleum refineries in Haifa after a bomb was thrown among them. All Arab shops in Mamillah Road, Jerusalem, adjoining the Jewish section, were closed in fear of attack and the city's atmosphere was

heavy with hate and expectation. Arabs Attack in Night

A spokesman for the Jewish Agency for Palestine, at the daily press conference, took occasion to disclaim agency responsibility for the Haganah's acts and said that, although some foreign correspondents refused to believe there was no agreement between the agency and the Irgun Zvai Leumi, he considered that yesterday's attack should show them that the Irgun did not heed the agency.

Fighting here last night in the Mekor Haim quarter was followed by a fresh outbreak at 2 A.M. today, but apparently without casualties. Reported at first as a brush between Arab and Jewish patrols, it was learned today to have been a carefully planned Arab attack on the Jewish quarter of Mekor Haim, which was broken up by six police armored cars rushed there when the fighting began to seem serious.

The day's casualty that caused the most feeling in Jerusalem was the murder of a Jewish news dealer, Nuriel Alima, who for ten years delivered papers over a large part of the city. Arabs, British and Jews spontaneously told this correspondent that it was a brutal murder of a harmless and well-known character. He was shot through the temple at close range, apparently while bundling up his papers on a doorstep in the center of town near the United States Consulate. The body was found by a military patrol, who heard the shot, but did not see the killer.

The British authorities tonight issued a communiqué praising the conduct of the Arab auxiliary police and the Arab Legion troops present when forty-one Jews were beaten to death with clubs and scrap iron in the refineries in Haifa after the Jewish bombing yesterday.

The communiqué said the Arabs kept rioters away from the buildings they were guarding, thereby protecting the Jews inside, and escorted thirty to forty Jews out to safety.

GERMANS EXPECTED TO DOUBLE EXPORT

US Economics Official Also Predicts Currency Reform Sometime During Year

BERLIN, Germany – This year will be the turning point in the German economic recovery with certain currency reform and bizonal exports twice as great as in 1947, according to Don R. Humphrey deputy director of the economics division of the United States Military Government. Dr. Humphrey spoke to the Germans over a radio network tonight on the "Economic Outlook for 1948."

Exports of about \$225,000,000 during 1947 were only 62 per cent of the goal fixed at the year's beginning, said Dr. Humphrey. He laid the principal blame for this lag on the severe winter and extreme summer drought. In the last quarter, however, industry speeded up, he said, with exports since October averaging \$1,000,000 daily.

The foregoing figures are exclusive of coal and timber exports, which were not sold through the Joint Export-Import Agency, even though the income from the sales accrues to this agency. These exports were about equal in value to all others. Discussing the prospects for doubling the exports this year, Dr. Humphrey said:

"This would represent a further increase of 25 per cent in industrial production."

"The United States and Great Britain have been paying for the food imports into Germany and the proceeds of exports are being spent to pay for imports of industrial materials," he added. "Thus far only about \$30,000,000 (exclusive of United States cotton valued at \$13,000,000) of such imports have actually arrived, which is only a fraction of the orders placed. This means that in 1948 there will be a resumption of imports of industrial materials on a scale not known since the end of the war."

On the question of currency reform, Dr. Humphrey only said "it must be assumed that there will be a currency reform in a necessary step toward sustained recovery."

This brief statement adds weight at the operational level to the indications of Gen. Lucius D. Clay and Lieut. Gen. Sir Brian Robertson, United States and British Military Governors, that such reform must come even if failure to achieve a four-power agreement restricts it to the bizonal area.

In a similar connection Dr. Humphrey reiterated that "the powers and responsibilities of the Bizonal Economic Council will be strengthened in the not too distant future."

The only shadows in the bright picture painted for the Germans had to do with thee food problem, which Dr. Humphrey said "unfortunately will continue to present serious difficulties."

While stocks of imported foods are better than a year ago, he noted, last summer's drought and "substantial" diversions of homegrown food to the black market held back an improvement in this field. Any substantial increase in the bizonal ration levels depends on greater indigenous production and more effective collection and distribution, he said.

