

U.S. Proposes Plebiscite In Trieste Zone

Loan Issue Is Still In The Balance

Paris Conference Will Discuss It To-day

From ROSCOE DRUMMOND

WASHINGTON, May 4.—It is touch and go whether the Senate will approve the loan to Britain. This Congressional uncertainty, born of Senate filibustering, election year irrepressibility, and the resurgent isolationism, is hampering and hobbling American efforts to develop a comprehensive foreign economic policy. Linked nearly to extinction by the serious minority, the loan has had a week-end reprieve only because the Administration announced its intention to omit the Congressional drive to extend the military draft—which expires on May 15—if necessary, and the Senate debate in 1919, and equally vital for world peace, is expected to continue until Tuesday.

Then, either a voluntary agreement or the seldom invoked closure rule to limit debate, a semi-filibuster, a defeat and a halting on amendments to the loan can be opened. In the present situation it is impossible to predict whether the Senate will thereafter quickly reach a straight-forward ballot on the loan, in which case the Administration claims enough votes to carry it, or whether some major amendment will be attached which, by requiring the re-negotiation of the whole loan, would be tantamount to defeat.

Beyond the Senate lies the hurdle of the House of Representatives. Here, although the Administration leaders have promised quick action, the Senate tempo does not augur well for a speedy approval.

Palestine Doubts
At this critical juncture the problem of American responsibility to Palestine posed by the surprisingly unanimous report of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry seems almost an extraneous issue. Here, although the Administration has agreed to the formulation of a full reply to Mr. Attlee's request as to whether the United States was prepared to alter its policy, the responsibility for the consequences of admitting 100,000 Jews into Palestine. Conversations thus far have proceeded exclusively at Foreign Ministers' level between Mr. Bevin and Mr. Byrnes. President Truman is known to be anxious to speed the migration of Jews from displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria. But the British and American Foreign Ministers have been so full at Paris that there is little time to consider ways and means of implementing the report. Pending Mr. Byrnes' return to Washington, policy is being decided over the long-distance telephone to Paris, and it is a slow business.

The Washington point of view is that in the present "Bring the Boys Home" mood it would be almost impossible to obtain Congressional acquiescence in a plan which required the despatch of American troops to guard the borders and the despatch of a battleship or flotilla might be another matter. But any such demerchism would require vigorous Governmental campaign of persuasion.

To be sure, members of Congress admit that they have talked about what the British should do in Palestine. They admit that when the United States has established a point of view, it is tantamount to the assumption of some responsibility. The trouble is that Congress has not yet decided whether it seems an easy way out: let the United Nations handle the problem of Palestine. The fact that they have found a congress feel that they involve the United States in the Middle East, that indeed, the entrusting to the United Nations of the placing of 100,000 Jews would consume material resources, humanitarianism requires the swift settlement has not yet been borne home to legislators.

There is a strong popular disbelief here, fostered by the Zionists, in the (Continued on page 5, column 6)

V-2s Explode In Dump
FLEHT, BAVARIA, May 5.—When the heaviest ammunition dump in Bavaria exploded last night, V-2 warheads of the type used in attacks on London, each weighing a ton, blew up in clouds of fire to ten feet.

The dump, which is situated at Regenbach, eight miles from Bamberg, held 20,000 tons of explosives, of which about half reported to be high explosive. The explosion, which began in the small arms dump this morning and spread during the day to the heavy ammunition dump, first big explosion was caused by a 15-inch concrete-piercing shell which exploded in the dump at 11 p.m.

The fire raged for hours, with flames reaching half a mile into the air. Two companies of military police and other U.S. troops worked for four hours moving dumps out of reach of the fire, which did not die down until after midnight.

Serious casualties have been reported so far—B.U.P.

Molotov Presses Yugoslav Claims

From OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, May 4

A proposal by Mr. Byrnes to-night to hold a plebiscite in the area between the suggested Russian and American border lines averted a deadlock on the Trieste question in the conference of Foreign Ministers.

The proposal will be discussed at an informal meeting to-morrow afternoon. Earlier in the day, the Council of Foreign Ministers had discussed the question of the Italian-Yugoslav frontier and Trieste for several hours.

All the familiar arguments were repeated. Mr. Molotov advocated the claims of Yugoslavia with great insistence and eloquence. When, towards the end of the afternoon session, he exclaimed with some passion that "Trieste could not be torn from Yugoslavia for long," and that the Council should decide in favour of Yugoslavia's claims because this would be "a factor in promoting world peace," there was a long awkward silence, and deadlock was apparently reached.

Then, after an interval in which records of the London conference about the intended international status of the Port of Trieste were looked up, Mr. Molotov hinted that it might be possible to meet Italy's interests in the matter of reparations and colonies if the Council decided to meet the Yugoslav point of view regarding Trieste. He did not, however, elaborate this, and the point was not directly taken up.

Then Mr. Byrnes put forward his plebiscite proposal. He quoted the Atlantic Charter—"on which we all have agreed"—which laid down that there should be no territorial changes without the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned. It could, according to Mr. Byrnes, be taken for granted that people living to the east of the American line regarded themselves as Slavs, and those to the west of the Russian line regarded themselves as Italians.

It was the area between these two lines where national allegiance was in doubt. Therefore, Mr. Byrnes argued, a plebiscite should be conducted under the supervision of the four Powers (Britain, U.S., Russia and France). All Italian and Yugoslav troops should leave this area.

Mr. Molotov did not reject the plebiscite proposal outright, but suggested that, if a plebiscite were held, it should take place in all Venezia Giulia, not only in controversial areas.

Under Alien Rule
To this Mr. Byrnes objected that in such a case one more, as after the last war, large minorities would be put under alien rule. Mr. Molotov appeared to favour a plebiscite in the whole of Venezia Giulia. Mr. Bevin expressed reserve towards the whole idea of a plebiscite, which he said was contrary to the decisions taken in London to divide the area on ethnic lines, and would reopen the whole question.

After some discussion, and after a desire for a more detailed plan had been expressed, it was then decided to discuss the question of the plebiscite proposal in an informal session to-morrow afternoon.

Through this new turn the discussion has regained a fluidity and the danger of deadlock has for the time being been averted. At the same time, agreement on the plebiscite proposal in an informal session has been reached on Mr. Byrnes' proposal, and it is too early to make optimistic forecasts.

At best one can say that day-to-day discussions have shown some general reluctance—also on Mr. Byrnes' part—to allow the matter to reach a complete impasse at this stage.

Italy's Navy
The relative optimism which dominated the opening days of the conference slumped badly towards the middle of this week, and inspired statements by American correspondents to-day to the effect that "a is not lost yet," have done little to relieve the now general scepticism about the outcome of the conference.

During the week, no substantial progress has been made. The conference has agreed only on leaving the South Tyrol with Italy and on the disposal of two small islands in the Adriatic.

On the other hand, the initial broad agreement on the fate of the Italian Navy has given way to renewed discussions and deadlocks. The committee of experts which has to work out its application in detail.

For the rest, all the major controversial matters of the game, the Italian colonies, the Dodecanese, Trieste, and reparations have been discussed without a near approach to agreement.

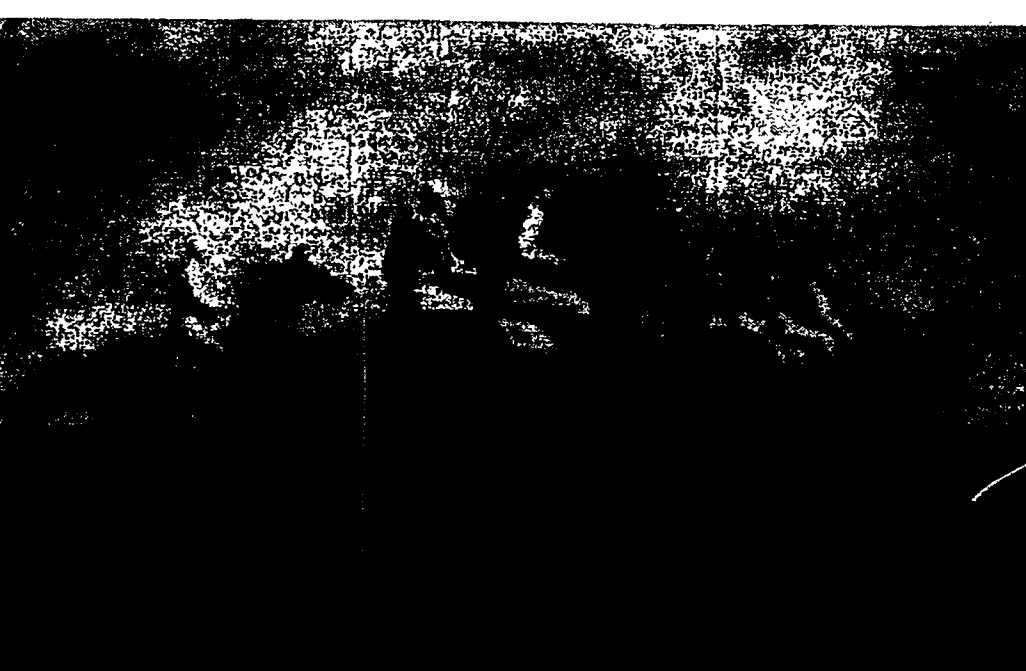
The uneasiness of the delegations has found expression in the change from full-dress meetings to smaller and less formal gatherings, and in such temporising moves as the renewed hearing of the Italian and Yugoslav cases regarding Trieste.

The surviving limited American optimism is mainly based on the fact that the Balkan treaties have not yet been touched upon, and that when they come under discussion a broader field of compromise may open up.

America's Aim
Apart from this, the impression prevails that the Americans have been looking for a good many bolts without result. The position of all four Powers has become fairly clear. The Americans, who throughout the draft Constitution which provided the driving power of the conference have manifestly one broad aim.

It is directed towards an early end to military occupation in Europe, replacement by political long-term four-Power control of the ex-enemy States "mild" settlements which allow of economic revival, and a breaking down of exclusive zones of influence.

Their draft of a 25-year treaty for the post-occupation period of German disarmament, they have left Austria their proposed peace terms for Italy all point in this direction.



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Early Vote on Greek Monarchy Urged

British Note To Washington

By A DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE British Government has addressed a memorandum to Washington proposing that the plebiscite in Greece on the return of King George of the Hellenes should be held at the earliest possible date, and not, as originally intended, in 1948.

British troops would remain in Greece until after the plebiscite to provide a safeguard against renewed violence and to give validity to the outcome of the ballot.

The views of the United States are being sought on this change of policy, and it is hoped that American observers will be sent to Greece for the period of the plebiscite.

The reasons given for this British suggestion are based on the political conditions in Greece produced by the recent elections. The present situation was not foreseen last November when Mr. H. H. McNeill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, visited Athens and Mr. Bevin outlined British policy towards Greece in the House of Commons.

Stability Destroyed
It is argued that the immediate withdrawal of all British troops would be followed by a plebiscite held under the sole auspices of the Communist Government, which is the declared Royalist sympathies. Such a plebiscite might, it is considered, precipitate further civil war.

The original intention to withdraw British troops immediately after the elections was abandoned when the Leftist E.A.M. boycotted the polls and the Communist Government resulted. Mr. Bevin, a few days before the Greek elections, forewarned the United States when he replied to a Parliamentary question that British troops would be withdrawn as soon as possible, but that, in the meantime, they would be kept in the country to maintain law and order.

It has never been the desire of the British Government to continue the heavy military commitments, with the odium entailed, of garrisoning Greece, a task which would be the delay of two years was introduced only to allow the country time to gain political and economic stability.

The Only Course
The recent election results, and the subsequent secession from an otherwise Monarchist Government of the moderate Conservative Regrouping, M.M. Canelopoulos, Papandreou, and Venizelos, have destroyed the hope of stability until the question of the monarchy is settled.

In the document presented for the consideration of the United States Foreign Ministers, it is stated that peace-making is not a matter to be handled behind closed doors by a few big Powers. It concerns all the belligerent countries who fought for victory, and these countries should have a voice in the proceedings before hard and fast settlements are reached.

Last autumn Dr. H. V. Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs, made a chief speech in support of this view, in which he had the full support of the other Dominions and the sympathy of the British Government. The main point seemed to be won when at the Moscow meeting of the Big Three Foreign Ministers, in December, it was agreed that peace treaties should be submitted in draft to a full Peace Conference of all belligerents, to be held in Paris this month.

Hope In Public Opinion
The Dominion Ministers now fear that this arrangement may go by the board. It is feared that the Foreign Ministers to agree, the Peace Conference is indefinitely postponed, and the matter will be left to the discretion of the victors.

Dr. Evatt's view is that a break-down of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, but as a reason for summoning it at once. He believes there would be a much better prospect of overcoming obstacles if the

Chancellor's Hint of Tax Reductions

Higher Level Of Exemptions

MR. HUGH DALTON, Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at Durham yesterday, said that he hoped to be able to make a further reduction in income tax, particularly for the wage earners and small-income people, by increasing the personal allowance, by reducing the rate paid on taxable incomes, and by increasing the allowance for earned income.

"If I remain in my present office a little longer," he said, "I hope to proceed further along the same road. I would like to see a state of affairs in which no income tax was paid by those who are living without any substantial margin for a reasonable standard of existence."

Mr. Dalton said that he had no sympathy with those who pay 10s. 6d. in a pound, but have great sympathy with those who are having to pay a substantial sum from week to week out of their wages. He said that he hoped to be able to reduce it considerably more.

Purchase Tax Reliefs
The Chancellor added that he hoped before long to remove Purchase Tax from a further large range of articles.

"We have travelled a very long way towards balance of payments while at the same time making large reductions in taxation and finding the money for our great social programme," he said.

In a reference to the Government's nationalisation programme, Mr. Dalton said that it was the life-blood of our economic system, and he could not appeal to the miners to let them have it in abundance.

Coal output will be the acid test of the practical success of nationalisation. If we don't get the coal the whole of industry will suffer, and full employment and a high standard of living will be empty slogans and idle dreams.

More Goods For Housewives
Mr. J. W. Belcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, speaking at Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire, last night, said that there would be better supplies of clothing and textile goods for domestic use.

"I want to tell you that our position in relation to clothing and textiles is particularly interesting, in very much better than we ever hoped it would be," he said.

"From now on, the women are going to find in the shops all those things which they have been waiting for, and in quantities and varieties than one could have anticipated three or four months ago. You will learn during the forthcoming days and weeks that I shall be announcing in the House of Commons further reliefs."

200,000 Tons Freed
Britain has released 200,000 tons of wheat from her stocks and has agreed to forgo another 300,000 tons of Canadian wheat, which would have been sent to America gives us this back in July.

America, at the moment, is exporting 600,000 tons of grain a month, but no one can say whether she will be able to maintain this rate in the autumn and winter, when there are 500,000 tons to export in July, the Combined Food Board may consider that needs elsewhere are so great that all of it cannot be sent to Britain.

July will be critical for another reason. The Canadian wheat which is at their lowest, and it would be prudent not to expect any help from the Dominion.

Alcatraz Siege Ends
SAN FRANCISCO, May 4.—The siege of Alcatraz prison has ended with the official announcement that the last of the conspirators have been taken into custody.

Guards broke into the cells and attacked the six or eight prison inmates who were holed up in the towers. The bodies of the three ring-leaders were found—B.U.P. and Reuter.

South Seas Plans
On the economic and social welfare side, considerable importance is attached to the work of setting up a South Seas Regional Commission. Officials in Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom are now working on these plans, which will later be submitted to the three Governments for approval.

The Dominion Ministers were particularly keen to appreciate that in taking measures for increased co-operation within the Commonwealth they are not thinking solely of defence, but equally of promoting prosperity and raising standards of living for the backward peoples in colonial territories.

In time the South Seas Regional Commission is expected to be enlarged to bring in other countries, notably America and France, which have interests in this island-studded area. The need for a transport arrangement among the subjects which will come before the Commission for advisory treatment.

A relatively minor but important subject which the Dominion Ministers are discussing is that of double taxation—the burden which falls on British firms who open factories in the Dominions and are taxed first out there and then at home. We have lately reached an agreement on the subject with the United States, and there is now good hope of coming to early similar arrangements with Canada and Australia.

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GO TO THE ANT

Of Ants and Men. By Caryl P. Haskins. (Allen and Unwin. 10s. 6d.)

By GEORGE ORWELL

PHYSICALLY, ants are about as unlike men as they could be, but in their behaviour they present a sort of parody of human activities, and their social organisation is so much more efficient than our own that it can be used not merely for purposes of analogy but as an object-lesson by means of which we can criticise our own institutions. Dr. Haskins's book does in passing supply a great deal of information about the habits of ants, but his main aim is to decide whether any real parallel exists between ants and human beings. Can we, perhaps, "go to the ant," as Solomon advised? Does the physical and social evolution of the ant cast any light on the probable direction of our own development?

His book is full of strange and—ordinary, insect-hating person—rather horrible things. Some of the facts which he usually mentions are stranger than anything in human society—stranger in the sense that the institutions of ants are so much more various and more fully developed. For example, whereas man has domesticated perhaps fifty species of birds and animals, ants have domesticated some three thousand species of insects. Then, again, there is the extraordinary differentiation of function in ants, showing itself not only in the division into sexes and sexless types, but most sensationally of all in the variation in size. Sometimes, in the same nest, the queen or soldier may be several hundred times the bulk of the ordinary worker. These creatures, having the same size-relation to one another as a dog and a mouse, co-operate in apparently the same way, each being perfectly specialised for its own job. Thus, the famous "parasol" ants live by cultivating a species of fungus which they grow in a compost of chewed leaves. The cutting and carrying of the leaves is done by relatively large ants, but the gardens are attended to by tiny "minims."

There are grain-storing ants, whose hoards have sometimes been so large as to become the subject of human litigation. Carnivorous ants, slave-making ants—these have perhaps the most astonishing habits of all—and there are also exceptionally adaptable ants which appear to have changed their way of life in quite short space of time and replaced more conservative species over large areas of the earth. But there are strange gaps in the horrible efficiency of the ants, and one of these is their

toleration of parasites. Apart from the many kinds of aphid which the ants keep as "cows," there are other insects which manage to live a robber existence inside their nests, and others which are apparently kept as pets, possibly because they give off a pleasant smell. Sometimes these become so numerous that the whole economy of the nest is upset and the ants die off together with their guests.

Dr. Haskins comes to no definite conclusions as to whether we can or cannot anticipate our own development by observing that of the ants, but he is inclined to consider that so far as ants go, totalitarianism represents an advance on democracy. The more primitive, less successful ants are comparatively democratic in their social structure, whereas the wonderfully organised communities of the more highly-developed species have much in common with both Fascism and Communism. But it remains true, as he admits throughout, that ants are individually so different from ourselves as to make any comparison on a doubtful basis. Ants live in a different world from ourselves, and it is questionable whether they are conscious, as we understand consciousness. Each ant comes out of its cocoon knowing what it needs to know, and then, without any attempt at independent activity, repeats a pattern which in some cases has been repeated for millions of years. Sometimes the stupidity revealed is almost unbelievable. Take the habits of the parasitic ant, *Bothriomyrmex decipiens*. Shortly after hatching, it gained entry into populous formicaries of the host colony, the queens of this species seek out the brood of ants, and the communities are considerably larger than themselves. Mounting the backs of the rightful owners, the *Bothriomyrmex* females spend the next several days in sawing off, from the top, the heads of these brood ants. As ants, the heads drop, the impostors are adopted by their foster-workers.

Similar manoeuvres are attempted in human politics, but they are not tolerated so easily, and it is difficult not to feel that we have more control over our own destiny than even the most gifted kinds of ant. Still, when one considers their coldness, their fecundity, their ability to change their way of life in any climate and on almost any kind of food, and above all their unquestioning loyalty to their king, one is left thinking that it is a good job that ants are not larger.

By Dale And Fell

By WILSON MIDDLEY

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