

Looking at WASHINGTON

Our Diplomats Report Soviet Policies Stand

A few weeks ago, the theory was advanced that the Soviet Union, in launching a violent tirade against the United States and Great Britain, was preparing a smoke-screen behind which to relax its foreign policy.

Officials in Washington, however, seem highly skeptical of this theory, having discovered no substantial evidence of a weakening of the determined stand of the Kremlin in its relations with the democratic nations.

The background of the supposition involves the radio report made by secretary of State George C. Marshall, upon his return from the London Conference, in which he expressed the determination of this country to put across its plan to help Europe and the apparent determination of Russia to block the Marshall Plan's operation. No softening of the Russian position is evident and most officials believe that until Western Europe recovers more from the economic effects of the war, there will be no prospects for concluding a peace treaty about Germany.

United Nations To Need Troops For Palestine
Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, is expected to

urge the Security Council to organize an international force to keep the peace in Palestine.

This brings up some rather delicate questions for the United States to decide. The British are getting out and this leaves the United States and Russia to provide the troops.

There is general suspicion that if the Russians go it alone, they will stay in. At the same time, the United States does not want the job alone. The division of the area into zones, one handled by Americans and one handled by Russians, is not considered satisfactory in view of the bitter experience in Europe. Just how the peace will be kept in Palestine, when the British leave, is a problem. Perhaps it might be possible to form an international command, including soldiers from a number of small countries.

Scarcity Of Food May Threaten Civilization

The increase in the world's population and the decrease in fertile land constitute "as great a threat to human society as the atomic bomb," declares Sir John Boyd Orr, chairman of the United Nations Food Council.

In opening the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Near East regional conference in Cairo, the chairman warned that

"our civilization will become extinct unless nations can learn wisdom and begin to apply the great powers of modern science to develop the earth's resources to provide food and full life for the peoples of all countries."

One of the projects to be considered by the conference in Cairo is plans for irrigation and development that will make possible a bountiful agricultural production in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and other areas of the Middle East. It is pointed out that the region has sun and fertile soil, together with a good labor supply. What is now needed is adequate irrigation, pumps, fertilizer, tractors and other equipment.

This means, in essence, that what the regions lack is the money to promote the development of existing resources. This poses something of a problem, especially to nations like the United States, which have the money, but also look to foreign markets for the disposal of some of their agricultural surplus.

Let us suppose that the United States participates in an international fund, designed to provide the irrigation and machinery needed to develop the food-producing capacity of the Middle East, with an eye to what happens to the welfare of American farmers when the production of other areas enters into competition with American farm products.

Certainly, it seems somewhat peculiar to expect the United States, as a government, to invest funds in the development of other regions when the United States does not invest funds in the development of its own resources. Why should the United States, for example, assist agricultural producers of the Middle East to better themselves, when the United States, as a nation, has hardly scratched the surface in assisting the people of the United States to improve their own condition?

Says Truman Policies Will Split Democrats

Commenting on President Truman's message to Congress, proposing a ten-point civil rights charter for the nation, Senator Kenneth S. Wherry of Nebraska declares that "Mr. Truman has dumped into the laps of the Democratic party legislation that will split the party wide open and make it most difficult to pass."

There is not much doubt about the correctness of the Nebraska Senator's observation. Violent repercussions in the Southern States may be discounted by the professional politicians in Washington, but, just the same, the year 1948 may witness something of a political revolution in the United States.

The President, it is perfectly plain, is throwing his bait to attract the radical elements of various minority groups in key political states. He takes the lead in recommending legislation to a Republican Congress, with the knowledge that if the Congress passes the legislation, he will receive much of the credit from the minority groups which now constitute the balance of political power in this country.

Conflicting Estimates Confuse Public Mind

One of the reasons that the average American has difficulty in making up his mind upon public questions is the discrepancy that exists among sincere office holders as to the facts involved.

This is illustrated in connection with arguments for and against tax reduction. The President, generally opposing tax reduction, says that the government will have, in the fiscal year beginning July 1st, a safety margin of \$4,800,000,000. Advocates of tax reduction, on the other hand, assert that the surplus will be \$10,600,000,000.

While we are unable to see any justification for tax reduction under present conditions of prosperity, especially in view of the \$250,000,000,000 national debt, we are quite sure that 1948, being a political year, will see taxes substantially reduced.

Like every other American, we would be glad to pay less taxes but, despite this personal viewpoint, we think it vitally necessary for the United States to put its financial house in order just as soon as possible. With the people of the nation enjoying unusual prosperity and the nation enjoying an unusual income, the time seems to be propitious to reduce the indebtedness of the government. This is wise, especially in view of the uncertainties of the international situation some years hence.

U. S. At The Crossroads, Says Secretary Marshall

In a recent speech, delivered at Des Moines, Iowa, Secretary of State George C. Marshall declared that the nation, in his opinion, is "quite literally at the crossroads," and must make a decision that "will set the course of history for a long time to come."

The secretary pointed out that the nation can decide to avoid the difficulties and the risks of the plan to assist Europe, but that, if we make such a decision, we must expect to see Western Europe, with its industrial potential skills and energy, pass under the control that the Soviet Union now exercises over the satellite nations of Eastern Europe. Under these conditions, "free institutions would not long survive on the European continent."

The Secretary of State pointed out that after the failure of the Moscow Conference, the United States, in view of its commanding position, could take some action to avert the situation and thus avoid the negative

procedure of the past "which has led us into two terrible wars." Therefore, Mr. Marshall proposed to assist "every nation in Europe" which would cooperate in a co-ordinated, outstanding effort to rebuild the economic situation. He also pointed out that "a certain group held aloof" and that the Communist leaders "declared an intent to wreck the proposed recovery program."

The Secretary of State says that "the United States and the Western democracies have been seeking to bring the post-war crisis to an end as quickly as possible," but that "the Soviet Union and their Communist allies have been seeking to exploit the crisis so as to gain a controlling influence over all of Europe." Once "a stable and healthy Western Europe" is realized, Mr. Marshall believes that the Soviet will be inclined to reach a satisfactory settlement of vexacious problems in Europe.

WHO KNOWS

1. What country has the most foreign trade per capita?
2. How many phone calls did Americans make last year?
3. What horse has been voted the "Horse of the Year?"
4. What state has the most students in colleges?

5. Who originated and developed the idea of the "Freedom Train?"
6. Residents of what three cities speak the "best English?"
7. What is allyl sucrose?
8. Is crime increasing or decreasing in rural U. S.?
9. How much does it cost on the average, to fight a forest fire?
10. Who painted the "Sistine Madonna?"

THE ANSWERS

1. Iceland—\$850 per capita.
2. 42 billion, or 301 calls per person.
3. Armed.
4. New York, with 280,874.
5. Attorney General Tom Clark.
6. Washington, D. C., Nashville and Boston.
7. A varnish-like coating, developed from sugar, that protects furniture from scratches, etc.
8. 7.5 increase in first six months of 1947.
9. About \$385.
10. Raphael.

Sunday School Lesson

(Continued from Page Seven) every one should want, and a perfect assurance of the life to come. A constant study of and love for God's Word is also a necessary part of the preparation of the Christian's witness. This knowledge, coupled with a close

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