

# Looking at WASHINGTON

## Truman Urges Nation To Defend Free Peoples

President Truman, in his recent message to Congress, took official notice that the end of World War II has not brought progress in the rehabilitation of devastated countries and that the world's hope of something like permanent peace has been thwarted by the failure of one country to cooperate.

The President minced no words in making clear his denunciation of the course pursued by Soviet Russia, both in its effort to prevent the world from recovering after a destructive war and from constructing peace machinery upon a basis of law and justice.

The President made it clear that one nation, and one alone, has persistently obstructed the work of the United Nations and that the Soviet Union, together with its agents, has persistently attempted to destroy democratic freedoms by pursuing a ruthless policy. Moreover, there is an apparent intention to extend this type of campaign against the remaining free countries of Europe. While methods vary, the "pattern is too clear."

Mr. Truman asked Congress to take several steps designed to put the United States in a position to give active support to the free nations. It is not enough, he pointed out, to render economic assistance but we must be strong enough to support the Western nations in their effort to stop the Russian effort to subjugate the free countries of Europe.

The President recommended that Congress rush the passage of European Relief Program legislation, that it enact a universal military training law and that it temporarily revive the Selective Service system. The first is to give economic aid to Europe, the second is to give long range power to this country and the third to guarantee adequate forces to the armed services in a period of temporary crisis.

Mr. Truman made it clear that Soviet Russia had not been excluded from the invitation to assist in the rehabilitation of a world torn by war or to participate in international machinery to prevent war upon the basis of law and justice.

### Immediate Background Of Present World Crisis

The Communist coup in Czechoslovakia has been followed by the formation of "action committees" in Austria and there is grave concern lest a Communist success in Austria will decisively influence the election in Italy in April.

In short, officials in Washington regard the present month as a very critical period in the world's history. It will probably decide whether Communism can be contained behind the "Iron Curtain", or whether it will spread to Austria, to Italy and to France.

Secretary of State George C. Marshall counts on the European aid plan to be the keystone in the new world structure that has its foundation on the "Western European Union" recently inaugurated at Versailles.

Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg have tentatively agreed upon a military defense pact which is undoubtedly "unprecedented in the history of Europe". Each nation gives up a substantial degree of sovereignty to seek military, economic, cultural and social unity.

If the Five-power Bloc is encouraged and assured of economic support, the Secretary of State believes that it will be the rock upon which the waves of Communism will beat in vain.

### Fighting In The Balkans Can Start A General War

The situation in the Balkans shows no improvement despite the fact that the Greek Army is being strengthened by the assistance of the United States.

Official reports to Washington tell of an intensified campaign in Communist-dominated Yugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria to raise funds for the Greek rebels and other reports indicate that improved arms are beginning to show up as nations across the frontier contribute equipment to the rebels to offset the assistance given the Greek Government by the United States.

Meanwhile, American military officers are advising the Greek Army on the offensive which is to have limited objectives in the near future. The idea is to cut up the guerrillas into small bands and to harry them that they cannot invade the villages and obtain recruits at the point of the bayonet.

If the Balkan States, now under Communist control, send arms and money to the rebels, the prospect looms that the warfare might continue for sometime. In fact, the struggle could be gradually enlarged into a major test of strength between the four Communist-dominated states of the Balkans and the United States. In the background, of course, would be the power of Soviet Russia.

### Explosive Possibilities Exist In Trieste Area

Something of an explosive situation exists in the free territory of Trieste, and up in accordance with the peace treaty with Italy and Poland by 15,000 troops, including

5,000 Yugoslavians and 10,000 British and American soldiers.

From what we understand, there are two zones, the Anglo-American zone and the Yugoslavian zone. In the first zone, the authorities have been forced to ban Communists from administrative posts to prevent Yugoslav penetration of key posts. In addition to the 5,000 troops inside the zone, the Yugoslavian Government has a considerable army scattered along the border of the territory, right down to the Italian frontier.

For the present, the situation seems to be quiet. There have been no riots within recent weeks, but the approaching general election in Italy on April 18th may be the occasion of action on the part of Yugoslavia to test the resolution and determination of the Anglo-British authorities.

If the general election in Italy results in the Communist bloc's gaining as much as forty per cent of the vote, it is highly doubtful if the Communists can be excluded from a coalition government. If they get in, they will infiltrate into key posts and attempt to take over the country from the inside. If they are excluded, many observers believe that the Communists will provoke fighting inside Italy itself.

If something like civil war develops inside Italy, the Yugoslavian army is in a position to "intervene", either by providing supplies or contingents of troops. This will be a serious crisis. In fact, some observers believe that it may precipitate war.

### Byrnes Warns U. S. Of Immediate Danger

The gravity of the international situation is clearly apparent in the suggestion of Mr. James F. Byrnes, former Secretary of State, that the United States revive its wartime draft. Mr. Byrnes makes it clear that it is wise to think of our military strength four or five years from now but that it is more important to think of the situation "that may exist four or five weeks from now as a result of our failure to adequately provide for the national defense."

The background of the Byrnes warning centers around the Italian elections on April 18th, which, he thinks the Communists cannot win. Nevertheless, he seems to fear that the Soviet intends to act in Italy as in Hungary and Czechoslovakia and voices the possibility that the Communists may not wait until the elections if they reach the conclusion that "Communists cannot win."

In view of the fact that Mr. Byrnes has served this nation in high capacity and, presumably, understands something of the actual situation in international affairs, his warning is somewhat ominous. The temper of Members of Congress, as expressed in private discussion, is enough to justify Secretary of State George C. Marshall's recent warning about the grave condition that confronts this country.

### Marshall Denounces "Reign of Terror"

Secretary of State George C. Marshall goes a long way when he declares:

"It is a reign of terror in Czechoslovakia and not an ordinary due process of government by the people."

This is the inescapable conclusion of those who look facts in the face. It may be doubted by the wishful thinkers who feel sure that events



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While we cannot approve any preventive war, on the part of the United States or other nations, against the Russians, we realize the disadvantage that the free countries will suffer if they permit the Russians to arm themselves and then select the time of conflict.

Because of this danger, it behooves the United States, and all other democratic nations, to put adequate preparedness for war ahead of every other governmental policy. There is slight chance that the democratic nations will precipitate an all-out struggle, even in the face of considerable aggression. The danger is that they will not recognize a possible peril until it is too late.

If anyone doubts this last assertion, all that is necessary is to read the record of Nazi Germany under Hitler to recall the attitude of the democratic peoples to the aggressors.

## N. C. Farmers Asked To Grow More Grain

With a heavy demand for food still existing both in this country and abroad, North Carolina farmers are being asked to grow more corn, oats, barley and other grain crops during 1948, according to G. T. Scott, State director of the Production and Marketing Administration.

In announcing 1948 farm production goals for the State as set by the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Scott said the critical feed supply situation has made necessary a reduction in the goals for livestock and poultry.

The 1948 goal for corn production is 2,358,000 acres, an increase of 9 per cent over 1947 acreage. The goal for wheat is 600,000 acres, an increase of 15 per cent, and for oats, 523,000 acres, an increase of 1 per cent.

Farmers are asked to produce 1,221,000 acres of tame hay, about the same as last year. The goal for cotton is 794,000 acres, an increase of 27 per cent, and for Irish potatoes, 73,800 acres, an increase of 2 per cent.

The greatest decrease is seen in the goal for flue-cured tobacco, which is 602,000 acres as compared with an acreage of 800,000 in 1947. The burley tobacco goal is up 21 per cent, from 9,600 to 11,577 acres.

The goal for sweet potatoes is 63,000 acres, a decrease of 2 per cent. No State goal for peanuts has been announced, but the recommended national goal is 16 per cent below the 1947, acreage, picked and threshed.

## Dahlia Growing Is Topic Of Bulletin

The gardener who chooses a suitable variety of dahlias and gives them a little extra care during the growing season can have success with them in any part of the state, says Robert Schmidt, associate professor of Horticulture at State College.

Mr. Schmidt is author of the bulletin, "Dahlias for the Garden", which has recently been revised and is now ready for distribution by the State College Extension Service.

A moderately cool season with sufficient rainfall is most desirable for dahlia culture, the bulletin states. The mountain section of North Carolina is well suited for the purpose, but dahlia growing in the piedmont and coastal sections is more difficult

because these areas often have hot, dry summers.

Answers to many questions of the dahlia fancier may be found in the new 12-page publication, which may be obtained free by addressing a request for Circular No. 230, "Dahlias for the Garden", to Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Monds of Tyner announce the birth of a daughter at the Chowan Hospital on Tuesday, March 23, weighing eight pounds. The newcomer will be known as Linda Cheryl. Mrs. Monds is the former Miss Doris Layden of Hobbsville.

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