

# Looking at WASHINGTON

## SITUATION IN GREECE SEEMS PECULIAR

The visit of Secretary of State Marshall to Greece emphasizes the fact that, even with the help of American munitions, the Greek government has not yet managed to take care of its guerrilla enemies.

The open borders around Greece, together with the fact that neighboring countries are lending assistance to the guerrillas, make the campaign somewhat difficult and Lieut.-Gen. James A. Van Fleet, representing the United States Army, says that the Communist-led groups are capable of maintaining a force of about 25,000 men.

Ambassador Henry F. Grady, in Athens, admits that the situation is "not completely satisfactory," but does not believe that the fighting has developed into an international battle between Communists and anti-Communist forces. Mr. Grady reports that the United States has "abundantly equipped and supplied the Greek armed forces" but suggests that more and more effective cooperation is needed.

The Ambassador made no comment when asked if the Greeks, believing that the United States cannot pull out, are not making a full military effort in the belief that they can secure more aid from the United States.

The conditions now existing in Greece illustrate the well-known truth that it is easier for a country to get into involved operations than to get out of them. At the same time, when the United States made its decision to extend assistance to Greece, there was practically no other course.

## FORCED VOTES WORTHLESS

There are people in the United States who seem to have some intellectual convulsions over the fact that of 95,000,000 men and women of voting age, only about 56,000,000 will take the trouble to go to the polls and vote.

We have never understood the reasoning behind the various drives to get the voters out. If a man or woman is not interested in the selection of public officials there is no gain to democracy in herding him, or her, to the polls.

After all, if a voter chooses to stay at home, rather than go to the polls and vote, one may assume that the individual is fairly well satisfied with what is taking place in the country. If the individual is uninterested, there is some reason to doubt the value of the vote that would be cast.

Of course, the argument for participation in public affairs by all citizens is sound. Certainly, it would be

well if every individual in a democracy would take enough interest in public affairs to be vitally concerned with the outcome of an election. Nevertheless, the physical act of casting a ballot is not the desired goal and it may not indicate that the individual has any interest whatever in public affairs.

## DOUBLING OUR AID TO EUROPE

When Congress provided \$5,000,000,000 for European recovery, it specified that one billion dollars must be in loans, to be repaid, and that the other four billion dollars could be used as relief in the various countries.

It is important, however, to remember that Congress also provided that for each of the dollars spent on European recovery, the nation receiving the benefit should put up an equal amount in its funds to offset the free aid extended.

This means that Paul Hoffman, who heads the ECA, has not only the job of spending the \$5,000,000,000 of American money but the additional task of spending the four billion dollars worth of pounds, francs, liras, guilders, drachmas, etc.

In a word, the four billion dollars is doubled by the contribution that the receiving nation must provide. Mr. Hoffman has the job of seeing that this foreign currency is spent on worthwhile reconstruction projects in the various countries.

Congress specifically provided that the local currency should be used (1) to stimulate production, (2) to explore and develop new sources of wealth, and (3) for such other expenditures as may be consistent with the policies of the ECA Act.

Up to the present time, the ECA has been operating for six months. It has managed to spend about \$2,000,000,000 in grant-in-aid. Actually, however, the foreign countries have received aid only to the extent of about \$1,000,000,000, because only half of the allocated sum has so far reached its destination. Therefore, the foreign nations have put up only about \$1,000,000,000 in their currencies in compliance with the Act of Congress.

It is interesting to note that of the \$1,000,000,000 available for loans, the ECA has been able to place only \$2,300,000 to Iceland for developing its fisheries. A number of other loans are pending, most imminent being a \$300,000,000 loan to Great Britain for specific reconstruction projects. Other countries dickering for some of the money include France, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Ireland.

It should be understood that the

proper disposition of the foreign currencies accumulated under the Act is very important. In Austria, for example, the counterpart funds will be larger than the country's note issue and in Italy, the lire deposits equal one-third of the government's budget.

These sums can make or break the economic structure of the area affected and, consequently, the United States is expected to permit some of them to be used for debt retirement, rather than for inflationary expenditures.

Getting down to the actual job of spending some of the local currencies, the ECA has authorized France to use \$150,000,000 in French francs from this special fund for equipping basic industries and rebuilding its merchant and fishing fleets. It has released some \$205,000,000 in British pounds for use in retiring some of the British debt.

These steps are taken to stabilize the monetary and economic situation in the countries affected but, so far, the work of spending the local currencies is just getting under way. The volume of such funds is growing each week and, eventually, officials of the United States will have to approve the disposal of the \$4,000,000,000 in European currencies as well as \$5,000,000,000 American dollars voted by Congress for relief.

## WHO CARES ABOUT THESE REFUGEES?

The "humanitarians" in this country who have been greatly concerned with the plight of refugees in Europe, do not seem to be concerned with the fate of 400,000 Arab refugees who have been driven out of their homes in Palestine by the fighting between the Jews and the Arabs.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, acting mediator in Palestine, following the death of Count Folke Bernadotte, says that the plight of these refugees is very critical because of cold weather and rain that is due to come soon. He reports that the world response to the problem has not been adequate and that supplies have not met the need for food, clothing, tents and 100,000 blankets.

So far, nobody has suggested that the United States open its immigration doors to receive the displaced Arabs as citizens of this country. There has been no campaign in the United States, so far as we know, to raise funds to rehabilitate them.

If the globe is one world, as many suggest, it is difficult to understand the great concern expressed for the displaced persons in Europe and the little concern exhibited for the displaced Arabs of Palestine.

**PROMISE OF ATOMIC POWER**  
"It is folly for any company to ignore atomic energy," declares Robert M. Hutchins, chancellor of the University of Chicago.

The educator does not believe that every individual company should keep up with the actual production of atomic energy and its by-products, but he says that "any large industrial concern that hopes to be in business twenty-five years from now should know what this new physical phenomenon can do to it and for it."

Close students of the development of human affairs know what the internal combustion engine has done to civilization. It is very likely that the development of atomic power will do much more. Consequently, there is no man wise enough to set the limits to what may be accomplished for mankind.

The development of power, as used in the modern world, gives to the average citizen a standard of living not possible to the monarchs of ancient times. If atomic energy gives to men a source of unlimited and cheap power, the standard of living can be greatly advanced throughout the world.

While there are some moralists who condemn the material age, apparently believing that ideals and goodness live

apart from the world, the truth of the matter is that the greater the material advance of a people, as a rule, the greater their moral and spiritual development.

## JAPS NEED POLICE FORCE

Lieut.-Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, who led our first occupation troops into Japan in 1945, says that Japan does not have an adequate army or police force to cope with Communist-inspired internal trouble.

The General thinks that it may take ten years to build up such agencies and that "until they do, we ought to keep some troops over there."

The Japanese, according to the General, are absorbing democratic ideas and "becoming individuals." He finds little resentment among the people over the atomic bomb and reports that, "in a sense," the Japanese admire the United States for its ability to develop such a powerful weapon.

The American troops did a thorough job of disarming Japan, according to the General, who reports three million small arms, 90,000 field pieces and thousands of planes destroyed. He says that the Japanese now have nothing with which to meet a Communist-directed rebellion and that, until they do, it will be wise to keep American troops in the islands.

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