

"23 May 1945.

"The Conference atmosphere is thick with alarm and despondency about Russia. Wherever two or three are gathered together in the hotel bedrooms and sitting-rooms, where more unbuttoned conversation is permissible, there you can bet that the subject is the U.S.S.R.—speculation about their intentions, argument as to the best way of dealing with them—whether to be tough and, if so, when—gloomy realization that by unscrupulous conference tactics they may be courting and perhaps winning the favour of the 'working masses.' This fear of Russia casts its long shadow over the Conference....

"The Great Power representatives have no eloquent, authoritative or persuasive spokesman in the more important committees. They repeat, parrot fashion, 'Trust the Security Council. Do nothing to injure unanimity.' There are no outstanding speakers: Evatt of Australia has ability, Berendson of New Zealand has eloquence of a homespun sort....

"American policy or, perhaps I should say more narrowly, American tactics in this conference are similar to British. Like the British they hew closely to the party line of support for the Great Power veto while allowing the impression to be disseminated among the smaller countries that they do so reluctantly, that their hearts are in the right place but that they dare not say so for fear of the-Russians bolting the organization. One incidental result of this line which the British and Americans may not contemplate is to increase the prestige of Russia. The United States delegation as a whole is no more impressive than the British.

"There does not seem to be much attempt to understand the viewpoint of the smaller nations or to produce reasoned arguments to meet their objections.

".... In our own delegation Norman Robertson and Hume Wrong are the two most influential senior officials. There could hardly be a greater contrast than that between them. Hume [is] pale and fine featured, stroking the back of his head with a rapid gesture which suggests mounting impatience. He inspires alarm on first encounter, an alarm which could be justified as he is totally intolerant of muddle, inanity or sheer brute stupidity. He has style in everything from the way he wears his coat to the prose of his memoranda. He is a realist who understands political forces better, unfortunately, than he does politicians themselves.

"Norman understands them very well and has influence with the Prime Minister, but what does not Norman understand? His mind is as capacious as his great sloping frame. He has displacement, as they say of ocean liners, displacement physical and intellectual and he is wonderful company with his ironic asides, his shafts of wisdom and his sighs of resignation.

"6 June 1945.

"We had nearly seven hours on end in our Committee on Purposes and Principles. The Chairman, Manuilsky [a Ukrainian], gave us a touch of the knout when the Latin Americans were just spreading their wings for flights of oratory. He rapped on the table with his chairman's gavel and said, 'Gentlemen, we must speed up the work of the Committee. I propose that no one shall leave this hall until the preamble and the first chapter of the Charter are