

of May—which suggests a further critical period from June to October.

It has been known since last autumn that the new Constitution has provoked considerable discussion in the Far Eastern Commission, some of whose members were doubtful whether it could be considered to represent the considered views of the Japanese people. On the 27th March the Commission publicly announced that it had adopted a policy decision calling for a

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The United States Government has now formally placed on record its views on the relationship between President Truman's Greek and Turkish policy and the broader aims and principles of the United Nations Charter. In a statement to the Security Council on the 28th March, Mr. Warren Austin said that every member of the United Nations was under an obligation under the Charter "to do its utmost to bring about a peaceful adjustment of any international situation before it becomes a threat to peace." The programme of assistance to Greece and Turkey contemplated by the United States was of an "emergency and temporary character," and the United States Government believed that the United Nations and its related agencies should assume the principal responsibility within their capabilities for the tasks of longer range. The United States was "giving momentum to the United Nations by its present policy." It also had "a special pressing interest" in obtaining "effective action" in the Greek case which the Security Council was still considering. In this connexion Mr. Austin suggested that representatives of the United Nations Balkan commission should remain in Greece until the deliberations of the Council have been concluded and that a system of border control should be instituted to safeguard the northern frontier of that country.

It remains to be seen how far Mr. Austin's statement will salve the consciences of those liberal-internationalists at home who have been upbraiding the President for trying to "by-pass" the United Nations. *Prima facie* it seems to meet those milder critics who, like Mr. Walter Lippmann, have continued to insist that the fact that the United Nations "is not capable of acting swiftly, effectively, or even of acting at all" does not relieve the United States of the obligation to consult the United Nations, and that, if Mr. Truman's policy "can be

review of the Constitution by the Diet and the Commission "not sooner than one year and not later than two years after it goes into effect [the 3rd May, 1947]." The review is designed to give the Japanese people an opportunity to reconsider their new Constitution in the light of experience of its working and to allow the Commission to satisfy itself that the Constitution fulfils the terms of the Potsdam Declaration and other controlling documents.

explained to Congress, and therefore to the world, it can also be explained to the United Nations." It was undoubtedly the persistence of such criticism that caused Mr. Dean Acheson to dwell at greater length upon the possible interrelation between the present United States policy and the functions of the United Nations in his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the 24th March than he had done in the otherwise almost identical statement which he had made to the House Committee on the 20th. Yet among Conservatives there has been growing impatience with the liberal-left-wing charges that the United States has "disavowed" the United Nations—charges which Mr. Sumner Welles has roundly denounced as outright "Soviet propaganda"—and M. Gromyko himself has caused opinion to harden in these quarters by his use of the veto on the Corfu channel case on the 25th March. As the *Philadelphia Inquirer* observes, "if the Albanian veto has proved nothing else, it demonstrated why it was necessary for the United States to go to it alone in the Greco-Turkish proposal without incurring time-wasting and morale-killing vetoes in the United Nations."

Although the hope that the President's programme would be approved by Congress by the 31st March has not been fulfilled, an effort is now being made to bring the preliminary Committee hearings to a close, and the 7th April has been set as the date for the opening of the full debate on the floor of the Senate. The Russophiles and the motley element on the Left which Theodore Roosevelt once characterized as the "lunatic fringe" are at the moment doing all in their power to confuse the issue and to delay a decision. They have sent Mr. La Guardia, as well as Mr. Allen D. Fields of *The Nation* and representatives of the American Socialist and Labour parties, to the Senate Committee hearings

to insist that the question of Greece be turned over to the exclusive jurisdiction of the United Nations and that nothing whatsoever be done to assist the Turks. In the Senate itself, Senators Claude Pepper (Democrat, Florida) and Glen Taylor (Democrat, Idaho) have introduced a resolution calling for a contribution of 250 million dollars to the United Nations for the rehabilitation of the domestic economy of Greece and making this the limit of United States assistance and intervention.

Feeling in favour of the Truman policy is said to have been strengthened among members of Congress by the testimony which Mr. Lincoln MacVeagh, the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, presented to the House Foreign Affairs Committee at a session behind closed doors on the 25th March and by the evidence which Mr. Edwin C. Wilson, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, gave on the following day. At other meetings of the House and Senate Committees Mr. William Clayton, the Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, has provided details of how the proposed 400 million dollars would be spent. Of the total of 300 million dollars requested for aid to Greece one-half would go towards rehabilitating civilian life and the other would be devoted to "making available to the Greek armed forces the arms, ammunition, clothing, rations and equipment necessary to deal effectively with the guerillas." The 100 million dollars requested for Turkey would be spent entirely on the Turkish armed forces and on projects which would contribute most directly to the Turkish defence programme. In Mr. Clayton's opinion, the military assistance granted to both countries, being essential to American security, and not creating in itself the wherewithal to repay, should be made as a "clear grant."

On the Moscow Conference comment has continued to follow the pattern set last week. In the extensive discussion on the future of Germany Mr. Hoover's report has received wide commendation among Conservatives, although the *New York Herald-Tribune* accuses the Republican ex-President of "going as far in one direction as Mr. Morgenthau went in another" and of completely overlooking the fear of an expanding German industry which pervades most of Continental Europe. There is considerable support for General

Marshall in his firm refusal to "follow M. Molotov in a retreat from Potsdam to Yalta." Yet the publication of the complete texts of the Yalta and Potsdam agreements has evoked little of the interest which accompanied the revelation last year of the secret Yalta decision to hand over the Kuriles and Southern Sakhalin to the Soviet Union (see *Summary* No. 330).

Mr. Truman's Executive Order of the 22nd March for a purge of disloyal and subversive elements from the civil service (see last week's *Summary*) has produced the stormy reaction which might have been expected in advanced liberal quarters. Here it is felt that the President's measure will inevitably result in a large-scale exodus of progressive elements from public office and in the creation of an "inquisitorial atmosphere" which will have a deleterious effect upon the morale and efficiency of Government employees. The public in general, however, appears to be in complete sympathy with the Order, and it has accepted with equanimity the suggestion of Mr. Harry B. Mitchell, the President of the Civil Service Commission, that the new drive against disloyalty will cost the taxpayer another 12 to 13 million dollars and that the Commission alone will require an additional staff of between 2,500 and 3,000 to carry it out.

The absence of effective team-work among Republican leaders in Congress was once more demonstrated on the 27th March when Representative Harold Knutson (Republican, Minnesota), the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, succeeded in forcing through the House his bill to reduce income taxes this year by nearly 4,000 million dollars. The bill is retroactive to the 1st January and imposes a tax cut of up to 30 per cent. It is being strongly opposed by Senator Taft, the Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee in the Senate, who, although himself an inveterate advocate of lower taxation, believes that the reduction should not become effective until the 1st July and that it should not exceed 15 per cent. in the present circumstances. In the country at large the more thoughtful Republicans joined by the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers and by the majority of Democratic and independent observers, continue to urge that the whole question of tax revision be deferred until it becomes clear what additional expenditure will be involved in the new foreign policy.