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Security Council:
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9 June 53 (?)

Notes for the personal information of the Sec.-Gen.

(Papers prepared by Secco Dept. on review of political questions)

Confidential

9 June 53 (?)

Notes for the personal information of the Secretary-General

During your absence, I made the following brief notes which may be of a certain interest:

Thailand - Laos

During lunch on 26 May, the Ambassador of Thailand in Washington and the Deputy Representative of Thailand to the United Nations confirmed the intention of their Government to bring the Laos case before the Security Council. They showed me a draft of the letter which they intend to present to the President of the Council as soon as the text has been approved by their Government. In this letter, attention is drawn to the situation in Laos and to the consequent possibility of endangering the peace and security of Thailand. Regarding Council action, it would be in the direction of instructing the Peace Observation Commission to appoint a Sub-Commission which, while remaining at Headquarters, would watch further developments in Laos and that region and would be at the disposal of the Thailand Government in case of emergency. No condemnation, and no further action, would be required of the Council. The possible submission of this letter would be on or after 3 June.

Both the Thai Ambassador and the Deputy Representative have been active in contacting delegations of Security Council Members, explaining their intentions and seeking support. They are aware of the attitude of France. They also believe that the USSR will oppose the inclusion of this item on the Council's agenda and, possibly, that the USSR may request that a representative of the Vietminh authorities be invited. Both promised to keep me informed of further developments relating to this question.

New Assistant Secretary-General

In addition to many inquiries regarding the new ASG, on 26 and 27 May, from press people and from certain delegations, I was faced with the "peculiar situation" of receiving expressions of "sympathy"! I made a "happy face" and gave

appropriate explanations regarding the new appointment. Whenever necessary, I especially stressed your efforts to ensure that everything in this connection be based on well-established principles.

During a conversation initiated by Mr. Vyshinsky at the Security Council dinner given by Sir Gladwyn Jebb on 28 May, Mr. Vyshinsky expressed his satisfaction regarding the appointment. With exaggerated friendliness, he also asked me to help the new Chief, adding that I should know how much he always appreciates my work and that he was sure I would give "so precious" advice, guidance and support to my new boss, as I had done in the past! Of course, I didn't fail to reassure him of my willingness to fulfil my duties as an international servant and disciplined member of the Secretariat. All this was accompanied by broad smiles "et des tattes sur les épaules."

He also invited me to attend a film showing and party at his home in Glen Cove on June 1st. Unfortunately, I couldn't accept his kind invitation. He understood, and promised to invite me very soon for a "good dinner with vodka".

I also promised him that I would go to meet my new Chief, upon his arrival, and that Mr. Tsarapkin would keep me informed in this respect. All this took place in the presence of the charming interpreter, Mrs. Tsarapkin.

Senator Taft

Several delegates present at the Council dinner of Sir Gladwyn Jebb confidentially voiced their deep concern, in private conversations, regarding the unfortunate speech of Senator Taft on 26 May. Although admitting that the subsequent statement made by President Eisenhower at a press conference had been very helpful and reassuring, they feared that Senator Taft's statement had done no good either to the United Nations or to the United States. They considered the timing of the Senator's speech particularly inappropriate.

Bermuda meeting

In private conversations both before and during the same dinner, all the delegates to the United Nations and to the Security Council declared themselves

very well pleased at the idea of having the three friendly Powers meet for a frank exchange of views on different problems. Many of them felt that these conversations might be of real importance, if certain decisions or opinions were not later denied by different Senators or legislative bodies of the United States Government!

There is great concern among the delegations regarding the lack of definite policies in Washington on so many important questions facing the United States and its friends.

United Nations

Another subject of conversation at the same dinner was the recent decision of the Senate Appropriations Committee that the United States appropriation should be eliminated if the Chinese People's Republic were admitted to the United Nations.

Thailand - Laos

Again at the same dinner, Sir Gladwyn and Ambassador Hoppenot indicated that they had not changed their feelings about this question. They expressed the hope, very confidentially, that a last attempt, upon the return of Mr. Dulles, might succeed in postponing the whole question indefinitely.

Mr. Vyshinsky

At the same dinner, Mr. Vyshinsky mentioned to me that I might have to wait for my "promised dinner", as he intended to go to Moscow very soon for a stay of several weeks. He also indicated that it would be sufficient for Mr. Tsarapkin to be here, should the Laos case be brought to the attention of the Security Council by Thailand. This intended trip may signify that he does not anticipate any meeting of the General Assembly on Korea in the near future.

Military Observers for Palestine

During the same dinner, officials of the United Kingdom delegation spoke to me on the question of Palestine which was especially on their minds. In view of the increased number of incidents in Palestine, they particularly felt that the

number of military observers under the Chief of Staff should be increased. They felt that the present number was so limited as to prevent them from dealing quickly enough with all the incidents.

They also inquired how far we had advanced with the question of the replacement of General Riley. To all these questions I gave appropriate answers, of which I have informed Mr. Cordier.

Racial problem in the Union of South Africa

On 29 May, the Deputy Representative of South Africa informed me that he still had no reply from his Government on my informal intervention on behalf of the Secretary-General. He said that he was going to send a cable urging a reply, but added that he believed the delay was due to the fact that the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs were in London attending the Coronation.

Korea

At the Church service commemorating the Coronation, on Sunday the 31st, I had the opportunity to speak with several United Nations representatives regarding the recent postponement of the Panmunjom negotiations at the request of the North Korean and P.R. Chinese authorities. This request for postponement was hopefully regarded as a sign that they would not entirely reject the latest United Nations plan, but would give it consideration and would possibly submit proposals for certain modifications of that plan.

The Security Council

In a meeting on 2 June with Ambassador Lodge, President of the Security Council for the month of June, I had an opportunity to discuss the eventual business of the Council for this month. The Laos case was the only matter which could be before the Council in the near future, although there was no new indication as to the exact date for Thailand's submission of the question.

The Council still has, at some time, to deal with the latest Report of Dr. Graham, United Nations Representative for India and Pakistan. However, the

feeling of most delegations appears to be that the question should not be taken up now, in view of the possible further developments on that issue which might arise from the meeting which might take place between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan. This question will no doubt be discussed during the meetings of Commonwealth officials in London for the Coronation.

Ambassador Lodge was puzzled by the forthcoming departure of Mr. Vyshinsky for Moscow.

General Assembly on Korea

At a reception given by Commonwealth representatives on the occasion of the Coronation, on June 2nd, I had conversations with representatives of Brazil, Turkey, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Australia, United Kingdom, etc. Many of these expressed optimistic feelings regarding the negotiations in Panmunjom. Speculations were made that the General Assembly might have to meet on the Korean question in the second part of July.

The Representative of Argentina indicated that there was a feeling among certain delegations, especially those closely supporting the Indian resolution, for holding the third part of the Assembly session on the Korean question in Paris. This idea seems to have been advanced with the intention to avoid the atmosphere of New York and the pressure which may be exercised in connection with this question by American public opinion.

Many representatives were concerned regarding the consequences following a possible agreement on an Armistice, especially with relation to actions to be taken by the General Assembly on the political conference. They also expressed concern as to the manner in which to deal with the question of invitations to representatives of North Korea and P.R. of China to participate in the discussions.

Mr. Vyshinsky

At the same reception, there was great speculation by different representatives on the intended departure of Mr. Vyshinsky for Moscow. Representatives of Turkey, Yugoslavia and Greece felt strongly that the reason given by Mr. Vyshinsky for his departure (the illness of his wife) was only a pretext and that there were

political reasons for his going to Moscow. Those reasons might be of an internal character or connected with possible discussions on Korea in the General Assembly. They thought that Mr. Vyshinsky appeared too care-free to have serious "family problems" awaiting him in Moscow; indeed, he gave the impression of being happy to distribute smiles around him.

Thailand - Laos

At the same reception, the Deputy Representative of Thailand told me that he was still waiting for last instructions from his Government regarding the date for submission of the letter on the Laos case to the Security Council President.

Sir Gladwyn told me confidentially that they were trying to persuade the Government of Thailand to wait, at least until the Panmunjom negotiations were over, before presenting the Laos case to the Council.

United Nations

Some representatives at the same reception expressed a certain degree of satisfaction at the news that President Eisenhower had persuaded Republican leaders to put aside the decision of the Senate Appropriations Committee to withhold their United Nations contribution if the Chinese People's Republic were admitted to the Organization. The new text substituted for the one opposed by the President would simply record the fact that the American Congress was opposed to membership of the P.R. of China in the United Nations.

Principal Military Observer in Greece

I have had conversations with members of the United Kingdom delegation on the question of a replacement for the Principal Military Observer in Greece, Colonel James G.E. Reid, who resigned. According to the resolution of the Balkan Sub-Commission of the Peace Observation Commission, he is to be replaced by another British Officer. I asked the British to submit two or three names so that the Secretary-General could make his choice and appoint a replacement for Colonel Reid.

Balkan Sub-Commission of the Peace Observation Commission

During the long visit of Minister Thorsing, Chairman of the Balkan Sub-Commission for this month, on 3 June, we again discussed fully his tentative suggestion for an appeal through the Secretary-General to Bulgaria to settle its frontier problems with Greece through a Mixed Border Commission. He has now decided to put this idea aside indefinitely, in view of the fact that certain members of the Sub-Commission feel that it does not entirely fall within the framework of the Sub-Commission's terms of reference.

We also discussed the possibility of a meeting of the Sub-Commission at a later stage to take action on the last communication from the Principal Observer regarding the River Maritza incident.

I informed Minister Thorsing of the resignation of Colonel Reid and that the British would soon submit candidates for that post so that the Secretary-General could make an appointment.

United Nations - Korea

In a conversation on 4 June, the Representative of India confidentially expressed concern over the vote taken in the Senate on the question of the admission of the P.R. of China to the United Nations. (The vote was 76 to none.) In his view, this vote was not encouraging for the prospect of future negotiations for peace in Korea. On the other hand, he expressed satisfaction with the encouraging news concerning the truce negotiations.

During a meeting of the Special Committee on Membership, on the afternoon of the same day, I had conversations with several representatives. A feeling of satisfaction and optimism prevailed regarding the Panmunjom meetings. They also expressed the opinion that if the armistice in Korea were concluded in a week's time, which appeared likely, the third part of the Assembly session on Korea might convene at the very end of June or beginning of July. As places for holding the political conference, the Far East was mentioned - especially New Delhi and Calcutta.

Korea

In conversations during the afternoon meeting of the Special Committee on Membership, on 5 June, several representatives expressed their hope that the agreement on prisoners of war would soon be signed. They felt that this would indeed be the case. Its signature would leave only certain administrative matters to be settled before the signature of the Armistice Agreement itself.

There was a certain change in feeling regarding the date for the meeting of the General Assembly, viz., that it would meet only after the middle of July, following the meeting of the Big Three in Bermuda. Those representatives felt, surely, that certain questions would have to be cleared up between the United States, France and the United Kingdom before the General Assembly reconvened and before the discussions on the question of the political conference.

It was also felt that the General Assembly should take the decisions regarding the place of meeting for the political conference and its participants, but that it would probably be wise to avoid any attempt to fix its agenda. Some believed that it would be difficult to avoid such discussions. They felt that the USSR might raise certain questions, especially the admission of the People's Republic of China and the question of Formosa. In a way, that would be proper in view of the "etc." in the phrasing of the draft Armistice Agreement. (Paragraph 60 of Article IV states that the political conference shall be held "to settle.... the questions of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc.")

Tunisia - Morocco

In conversations on ^{the same} ~~day~~, some representatives felt that the Arab and Asian countries would not press for inclusion of the Tunisian-Moroccan question on the agenda of the Security Council. However, conversations with representatives of the Arab and Asian countries showed that they did not wish to admit that they had abandoned their position, probably for tactical reasons.

Security Council

On 8 June, by authorization of the President of the Security Council, I telephoned members of the Council to inform them that the President would waive Rule 1 of the Council's rules of procedure, which would have called for a meeting during the fortnightly period ending on 9 June. No objections were raised.

In making these different calls, I heard from each representative expressions of satisfaction over the developments in the Panmunjom negotiations. The general feeling was that as soon as the Security Council were notified of the signature of the Armistice Agreement, it should take note of that report from the Unified Command.

No further information has been received on the question of Laos.

Korea

Ambassador Thors of Iceland, Rapporteur of the First Committee, phoned me from Washington on 8 June to inform me that he had returned from his official trip to Argentina. He inquired regarding the situation concerning resumption of General Assembly meetings on Korea. He then mentioned the prevailing feeling in Washington that there was very little doubt that the Armistice Agreement would be signed and that some means of giving satisfaction to President Rhee would be found, so as to eliminate that obstacle as well.

Also on 8 June, Ambassador Kyrou expressed his views concerning the reconvening of the Assembly. He thought that it would be best to have the meetings start between 15 and 20 July in order to give sufficient time for the meeting of the Big Three in Bermuda.

At a dinner given by Miss Witteveen of the Netherlands Delegation on the same day, I had conversations with representatives of the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and others. A number of ideas were expressed regarding the reconvening of the General Assembly on Korea and regarding the problem of participants in the political conference. Some were of the opinion that the participants should be

limited to those countries directly involved in the conflict. Others were of the opinion that all United Nations Members having troops in Korea should be included. Still others thought that only those countries with direct interest in the Far Eastern problems should participate in the political conference. It seems that there is also an idea advanced by Ambassador Muniz to the effect that all States Members of the Security Council should participate in addition to the belligerents. This latter view is interpreted by some as involving the United Nations too much in the political conference.

One may draw the conclusion that there are many ideas on this subject, but no clear position. It seems essential to have the three friendly Powers have their own minds clear on this and other problems before the General Assembly reconvenes.

Racial problem in the Union of South Africa

The Deputy Representative of the Union of South Africa, Mr. Jordaan, informed me last night that his Government refuses to have anything to do with the Commission, on any of the four alternatives mentioned by me in my informal conversation with him and with Ambassador Jooste last month.

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