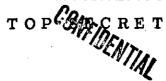
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3. Spaak's views on European rearmament—US Ambassador Murphy in Brussels considers it unfortunate that Socialist leader Spaak, in a recent speech before the Belgian chamber, endorsed the Pleven Plan as the solution to the problem of German rearmament. Reporting that Spaak described the plan as constructive and declared that technical military considerations must not be allowed to obscure US understanding of its merits as the true "European solution" to the problem, Murphy expresses the view that Spaak was undoubtedly subjected to French Socialist influence at the Strasbourg meeting of the Council of Europe. Murphy adds that the attitude of the Belgian Socialists toward European defense, already unsatisfactory, will probably become worse as a result of Spaak's speech.

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EUROPE

4. GERMANY: Analysis of views on rearmament—The US High Commission in Germany, in making an analysis of current German opinion regarding rearmament and Germany's future role in Europe, reports that "substantial sections" of the West German population remain undecided on the question of rearmament while some elements are "definitely hostile." The Commission points to the results of recent elections, in which the Socialists stressed the anti-rearmament issue and made definite gains, as partial evidence of this attitude. Further evidence is found in the West German interpretation that US military commitments in the Far East reduce possibilities for gaining real security through Western defense. From these doubts springs a defeatist tendency which is often voiced in the expression, "we've had enough."

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TOP SECRET

The Commission considers that, given this climate of opinion, it is especially timely to look for ways to induce the Germans to take a more positive stand and declares that the most promising opportunity for this lies in European political integration. Substantial enthusiasm for integration already exists in Germany and early progress in the direction of European union, particularly if strongly supported by the US, would result in a boost to German morale, a much more favorable attitude toward defense efforts, and an increased willingness to endure interim burdens. Such progress at an early date would have favorable political effects within Germany and would be a "realistic" means of tying Germany to the West at a time when German receptiveness to this concept is at a peak. The Commission concludes that West German integration into a continental political union could serve as a rallying point, provided that this union were understood to be the nucleus organization which would be open to future membership by a united Germany.

C.M.

FAR EAST

5. CHINA: Military preparations reported in Canton--US Legation Saigon transmits a report of extensive military preparations in Canton, including large-scale evacuation of women and children, construction of air raid shelters and slit trenches, and the presence in unprecedented numbers of Soviet pilots and ground personnel at airfields on the city's outskirts. According to the Legation's informant, the Cantonese populace is extremely depressed at the prospect of early general warfare and privately critical of the Chinese Government's increasingly bellicose policies.

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TO SOMEDENTIAL

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THE AMERICAS

6. COLOMBIA: Dispute with Peru over custody of Haya-US Ambassador Beaulac in Bogota expresses his agreement with the Colombian Foreign Minister's estimate concerning future developments in the Peruvian-Colombian dispute over the custody of Haya de la Torre. The Foreign Minister reportedly fears that the Peruvian Government, upon receipt of a Colombian note rejecting the Peruvian demand, will: (a) immediately break relations with Colombia; (b) require the immediate departure of Colombian representatives; and (c) take physical custody of Haya.

Meanwhile, the Department of State has expressed to Ambassador Tittmann in Lima the serious concern of the US over Peru's intransigence in this matter. The Department believes that the parties concerned have not exhausted all possible means of peaceful solution and has requested Ambassador Tittmann to transmit to President Odria the suggestion that every effort be made by both sides to reach a peaceful solution through any means available.