

UN ASSEMBLY CHALLENGED TO HALT TITO IN YUGOSLAVIA, REDS IN POLAND AND RUSSIA

By THE REV. E. A. CONWAY, S. J.

Representatives of 51 United Nations have opened the second part of the United Nations Assembly at the old World's Fair site in Flushing Meadow, L. I. Despite the use of every propaganda device to win over interest in the meeting, it must be admitted that no one seems to be very excited about the event. Thus far the United Nations have been long on talk and short on action. There are few indications that things will be different at Flushing.

Not that the Assembly does not have an imposing agenda — there are no less than 53 separate items to be considered. Most important are the following:

- 1) The Cuban and American proposals to call a general conference under Article 103 of the Charter with a view of revising that instrument with special reference to the veto power of the big Five.
- 2) The formation of a Trusteeship Council.
- 3) Action on the report of the Economic and Social Council on the economic reconstruction of devastated areas.

4) Consideration of the report of the same Council on refugees and the formation of the International Refugee Organization.

5) Consideration of the United States' proposal regarding development of International Law and its codification.

6) Last, but probably most explosive, the Soviet request for information on the presence of the United Nations forces in non-Soviet territories.

Veto Power Debate Faces United Nations

By CATHERINE SCHAFER

New York — (NC) — Use of the veto in the United Nations Security Council is already causing no little debate in the "town meeting of the world" now beginning its seven-week session in New York.

Other items of top interest on the Assembly's docket include those which arise at the heart of the differences among the United Nations and the so-called eastern and western blocs are concerned with fundamental human rights and relief and reconstruction problems.

Truman indicated the position of the United States in his address on the opening day of the Assembly, when he reaffirmed this country's faith in and support of the United Nations as a means to the establishment and maintenance of a just and lasting peace, while not minimizing the extent to which the success of the United Nations depends on the ability of the Allies to draw up just peace settlements. Four Freedoms Again.

Just as to all through the promotion of the Four Freedoms was the basic aim of the U. N. charter, Mr. Truman emphasized His speech indicated that it will be the mainspring of United States policy in relation to the assembly's deliberations. "The blessings of a forgiving God."

The veto powers in the continually meeting eleven-member Security Council, whereby any one of the five great powers, which are permanent members, may paralyze action to keep the peace, has been the thorniest issue since it was written into Charter at the suggestion of the United States, in order to satisfy former isolationists here.

Australia and Cuba are leading the fight, begun by the small nations at San Francisco, against this voting procedure in the Security Council. Cuba's strategy to eliminate the veto is to try for a general conference of United Nations members to revise the charter.

Russia has made the veto the cornerstone of its policy. United States policy has been publicly foreshadowed in many recent important statements by such persons as President Truman, Herschel Johnson, Senator Tom Connally, and Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. These contemplate an abandonment of the veto — although we have admittedly abandoned isolationism — only elimination of its irreconcilable use to obstruct justice and action.

Human Rights Question

A request for the consideration of the draft declaration of fundamental human rights submitted by Panama raises a question which will be broached in the report of the Economic and Social Council whose Commission on Human Rights has been gathered.

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There will be heated discussion unquestionably of the veto right of the five great powers, but I do not doubt that it will emerge unchanged. The Soviets at times or potentially have insisted that the very basis of the United Nations is the so-called sovereignty rule. There are no indications that they will yield on this matter.

It is perhaps significant that just last Thursday Dr. Ho, the Chinese delegate to the Security Council, expressed his belief that the General Assembly would not make any real progress toward abolishing the veto.

This, I believe, is significant because Chiang has often expressed her willingness to give up the privilege accorded her by the Charter provisions. Several other countries have recognized the importance of the veto power. Dr. Ho concluded that even though the veto did not exist in the Charter it would still be legal.

It is obvious that there will be plenty of fireworks at Flushing. In the world does not want fireworks. It wants peace. And when we ask, "Will the United Nations succeed?" we are really asking whether the United Nations, on the basis of its performances, is likely to fulfill the objectives expressed in the Charter; namely, "to serve succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind."

If the United Nations hopes to retain the respect of the peoples of the world, it must not hesitate to take action on aggression wherever it is practiced.

I suspect that it considers three examples of aggression which, in the words of Justice Jackson are "matters of international concern." These matters could be brought before the Security Council as threats to the peace, but their very consideration could be resisted by the Soviets.

Comment on the alternative theories for the veto power is as follows:

1. The relative importance of the veto power in the Charter is not clear. The veto power is not mentioned in the Charter.

2. The Soviet objection to the veto power is based on the theory that the veto power is not mentioned in the Charter.

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