



USSR

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REPORT FROM "PALM" ON UNRRA CONFERENCE AT LAPSTONE, AUSTRALIA.

From: CANBERRA.

To: MOSCOW

Nos.: 77-78

1 March 1945

[Two-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR.

At the meeting on 26 February 1945 "PALM" reported the following:

In accordance with the instructions of the French [D^e Government] he was appointed leader of the French delegation at the conference of the Far Eastern Committee of UNRRA, which took place between the 15th and 20th of February in the small town of LAPSTONE, 34 miles from SYDNEY. At the conference there were present delegates of America, Britain, China, Australia, France, India, New Zealand and Holland, and there were represented also the military circles of M^r CARTHUR and M^r (T) BATTEN. A Philippine delegation was not invited to the conference, although one was included in the list of participants. In PALM's opinion [2 groups unrecovered]

[42 groups unrecoverable]

thoroughgoing economic and political influence. After the opening of the conference EVATT made a long speech in which he criticised the civilian work of UNRRA. In particular he remarked that so far supplies and assistance with reconstruction for the liberated territories of the South-West Pacific had not got going. EVATT's speech apparently evoked manifest displeasure on the part of the American representatives, who in [3 groups unrecovered] that in his speech EVATT had set himself up as a teacher. [2 groups unrecovered] without

[8 groups unrecovered]

UNRRA he did not say a thing. Meanwhile UNRRA was hoping to obtain food and other goods from Australia to supply the liberated territories. A wide divergence at the conference

[11 groups unrecovered]

[Continued overleaf]

Distribution:

Americans and Chinese spoke in a radio discussion on the difficulties [2 groups unrecovered]. The head of the American delegation, MOFFATT [MUFFAT] (in charge of the Far East in the State Department) proposed extending UNRRA's activities to Siam; however all the other delegations, apart from the Chinese, spoke against this proposal. The Americans are exceptionally interested in capturing Siam as a market and so have recourse [2 groups unrecovered] methods [1 group unrecovered]. The situation was precisely the same over the American proposal [5 groups unrecovered] Australia [1 group unrecovered] and [2 groups unrecovered] at [3 groups unrecovered].

[Part II] At the conference EVATT apparently tried to pay "P" a great deal of attention and had more than one conversation with him. In a chat EVATT emphasised that Australia [2 groups unrecovered] had taken up a correct position towards DE GAULLE. He asked that DE GAULLE should make a declaration of friendship towards Australia, which, he thought, would make a big impression on the Australian people. Further EVATT indicated that France should now be closer than ever before to the countries of the British Empire, and indicated that

[8 groups unrecovered]

[O% head] of the Chinese delegation TSIANG Ting-Fu

[49 groups unrecoverable]

[1 group unrecovered]. Speaking of the situation in America he said that the political and economic position of China had appreciably improved [since] November 1944, [3 groups unrecovered] Chinese Government. The head of the British delegation, BUTLER (former Consul-General of Britain in SAN FRANCISCO) talked to P. on the Polish question. He considers that Russia's authority has risen to a colossal extent and has to be reckoned with. We were faced in the Polish question with a choice between principle and victory; we had chosen the latter, the more so as the Polish Government in LONDON is regarded

[6 groups unrecovered]

, which has no support from the Polish people. The Dutch representative, KERSTEN [S] developed the idea that after the war Russia will dictate to small countries and interfere in their affairs. In P.'s opinion, by his refusal to meet ROOSEVELT, DE GAULLE wanted to demonstrate thoroughly his [O% position] with the French Government. [5 groups unrecovered]. DE GAULLE's [D% resolution] is being criticised not only by America and Britain, but also

[54 groups unrecovered]

No. 18

EFIM

T.N.: [a] Inserted by the translator.

BUTLER Sir Paul DuBois BUTLER