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WAR DAMAGE, FAR EAST (BRITISH CLAIMS)

17. **Mr. Walter Fletcher** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will ensure that in reference to claims for war damage in the Far East the claims of other Allied Governments are not given preference; that British claimants have equal access to all sources of Government information that may assist them in making their claims; and that where goods formerly the property of British nationals are found to be in Japanese possession, the claimants will not be prevented from recovering them, or from recovering their equivalent value if they have been taken over and disposed of by His Majesty's Government or Allied Governments.

Mr. Bevin: The question of claims against the Japanese Government for compensation for war damage in the Far East is at present under consideration, and it is hoped that some inter-Allied machinery will shortly be set up for the purpose. The Member may rest assured that His Majesty's Government will press for a settlement of all claims on an equitable basis. We will give every assistance to British claimants in prosecuting their inquiries and making their claims.

Mr. Fletcher: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this is really more a case of goods found in Japan being removed to the Allies, particularly the United States, and will he impress on the United States Government that they should keep some record of tally so that claims can be anticipated later?

Mr. Bevin: I will follow that up.

UNITED STATES MISSION TO EUROPE (REPORT)

and 34. **Major Guy Lloyd** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1) whether he will ask for a copy of the report of the deputation from the House of Representatives in the U.S.A., on their visit to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria, and place it in the Library of the House of Commons, in order that Members may acquaint themselves with its contents;

(2) whether he is aware that a deputation from the House of Representatives in the U.S.A. has recently returned from a visit to Poland, Czechoslovakia and

Austria, and is presenting a full report to the American Congress; and if he will make arrangements for the dispatch of a similar Parliamentary Commission at an early date.

Mr. Bevin: I understand that the Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the United States House of Representatives which visited Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria two months ago is to make its official report to the Foreign Affairs Committee shortly in closed session. It will be for the Committee to decide if the report or any part of it should be made public. If it is, I shall gladly arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House. As regards a similar visit by Members of Parliament, if the House has any proposals to make and desires my help in arranging such a visit, I shall, of course, be glad to consider in what way I can be of assistance.

RUMANIA (BRITISH-OWNED OILFIELDS)

29. **Squadron-Leader Donner** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will publish the report, or reports, of the British Missions on the condition of, and situation in, the British-owned oilfields in Rumania.

Mr. Bevin: I have not received a complete report but a number of despatches. I do not think any useful purpose would be served by publication.

Squadron-Leader Donner: Is the House to understand from that answer that reports will not be published?

Mr. Bevin: No, Sir. One is not to understand that, but it would be most unfortunate if I began publishing despatches without waiting for a complete report.

DANZIG (STATUS)

27. **Mr. Pickthorn** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is now the international status of Danzig; whether it is still a State under Articles 100-108 of the Treaty of Versailles; or when and by what juridical process it ceased to be a State.

Mr. Bevin: The juridical position of the free city of Danzig is, in the view of

[Mr. Bevin.]

His Majesty's Government, unchanged, and will remain so until it is re-determined at the Peace Settlement. The position of Danzig *de facto* is, as the House is aware, that it was placed under the administration of the Polish State by agreement between His Majesty's Government, the United States Government and the Soviet Government at the Potsdam Conference.

Mr. Pickthorn: In that case, can the right hon. Gentleman tell us what is the nationality of the inhabitants of Danzig; and whether, for purposes of deportation and so on, they are treated as Germans, or what?

Mr. Bevin: I would like notice of that Question.

BRITISH NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS (EUROPEAN COUNTRIES)

30. Squadron-Leader Donner asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Russian assurance of the freedom of newspaper correspondents in Rumania applies to other countries; and whether the effective freedom of British correspondents in all European countries is now assured.

Mr. Bevin: The assurance given by M. Molotov to the Council of Foreign Ministers that the despatches of newspaper correspondents would not be subjected to censorship applied only to Rumania. The principle which it embodies, however—that of freedom of reporting—is honoured in most European countries now. I cannot say that the effective freedom of British correspondents is assured in all European countries. I have not, however, received any recent complaints from British journalists about restrictions on their activities. I am trying to obtain confirmation of a recent report that censorship of messages dealing with foreign affairs is to be introduced in Bulgaria.

Sir T. Moore: The right hon. Gentleman said "most countries." Will he kindly indicate which countries do not subscribe to these restrictions?

Mr. Bevin: I am afraid that in Europe it is liable to vary, sometimes from day to day.

Mr. Austin: Is it not a fact that the censorship is most severe in countries like Spain and Portugal?

WORLD PEACE (PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S STATEMENT)

35. **Mr. Peter Freeman** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government accept the 12 points recently made by Mr. Truman for the maintenance of world peace.

Mr. Bevin: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Eden: Would the right hon. Gentleman agree that American participation in world affairs on the lines set out in those 12 points, will be a most valuable contribution to the maintenance of peace?

Mr. Bevin: Yes, Sir, the more it becomes effective.

AUSTRIA

States (Representation)

31. **Mr. Anthony Nutting** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what States have at the present time fully accredited diplomatic representatives in Vienna; and what States have non-diplomatic representatives.

Mr. Bevin: At the present time no country has diplomatic representatives in Vienna. In regard to the second part of the question, I understand that there are unofficial bodies in Vienna claiming to represent certain national interests, but none of these enjoys any form of recognition by His Majesty's Government or, so far as I am aware, by any of the other three Controlling Powers.

British Press Representatives

47. **Mr. J. Langford-Holt** asked the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, how many British Press representatives there are at present in Austria.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. John Hynd): I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State on 17th October, in which he stated that, according to the latest information, there were then six British correspondents in Austria. So far as I am aware, the position has not changed appreciably in the meantime.

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