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CONFERENCING WEEK

As the momentous Big Four conference opened in London, there was a glimmer of hope. At least, they had agreed on the agenda. Germany's future was to be discussed first. As Mr. Bevin greeted the Kremlin's Mr. Molotov, formalities were out, for speed was to be the Ministers' watchword. But the large scale fighting on Greece's northern borders was not down for discussion by the Big Four. In Germany, America and Russia were still fencing for their final positions and a unified policy might yet be achieved. In Greece, matters were clearer: the East was openly backing the rebels, and the West stood behind the Royalist Army. An exclusive Pathe report shows Greek armoured fighting vehicles and regular troops moving up against Communist-led rebels in Thessaly.

The Greek coalition Government's two-month amnesty for the guerillas did not have the desired effect. A national crusade has now been called to destroy the irregular forces. Their backing is alleged to come from neighbouring countries, behind whose frontiers they retreat when harassed.

From the frontier districts, guerilla attacks have spread to within 12 miles of Athens. Government troops claim several thousand prisoners, but new men are conscripted into the rebels' ranks. A joint American-Greek army staff has been set-up for an all out attack on the mountain strongholds. No longer a matter of internal politics, Greece sees the first open clash between East and West. Yet it was domestic politics in Britain that took first place in public interest. From the electors of Gravesend, bespectacled, Sir Richard Acland got his most welcome forty-first birthday present. They made him their member of Parliament. In the first bye-election since the Conservative triumph in the Municipal polls, both sides claimed that the Thameside port would indicate the nation's political trend. Conservative candidate Frank Taylor reduced a 7,000 Labour majority to 16 hundred. 77% of the electorate voted in a record poll. In a week that brought three bye-elections, Acland's win was not the best of birthday presents for Winston Churchill, 73 this week. As a relief from world politics, the nation turned to Wembley's Empire Pool, where Britain's amateur boxers met Denmark. Welter-weight Wally Thom (who took the place of champion Johnny Ryan) started off well against black-belted Christiansen of Denmark. But round two saw Thom on the ropes.

Thom came back in slaming mood and the Dane went down.

The fast pace was beginning to wear down both boxers. From a test of boxing skill, the bout turned into a slugging match.

The Dane had the better of the encounter and earned his points win. Biggest excitement was kept for the heavies. First blow saw