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CONFERENCE 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 guerrillas 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, guerrilla 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

Denmark's Hansen on the floor - knocked down by Birkenhead's Frank Bell.

The Dane - conceding two stones - came back for more, and it was Bell who went down next.

Superior weight, height and reach told. The expectant crowd waited for the knock-out blow. A Bell right-hook put the Dane out for keeps.

Final result of the match - a 5:3 win for Britain.

Also in the week's news was the answer for Britain's petrol hungry motorists. On show in Hastings is an electric car that needs no juice. Two batteries connect with the motor to give a 20 mile an hour top speed. Meanwhile, in London, Pathe News inspected the biggest car in the world.

A 5½ litre Daimler, this £6,000 car can seat three people in front and four in the back. It was used by the Royal Family during their South African tour. Since then, orders for the same model have come in from all parts of the world. A British-made product, the Straight Eight is the motorists' dream car.

And the chief social event in conference week was the Royal Command Film Performance. At this year's event 3,500 guests paid more than £30,000 to help the Cinema Trade Benevolent Fund. An American film (banned from public screening by the import tax) was the picture chosen. After the performance the King and Queen talked to its visiting stars. Hollywood's Loretta Young stole the show. Her taffeta Edwardian dress with broad satin bands caused much admiration.

The Queen (here talking to Patricia Roc and Anne Todd) wore a crinoline gown of ivory satin. It was the Royal Family's first public appearance since the wedding of the Princess.

Compere of the stage show was Bob Hope. Seen with him is his wife. Later, Hollywood's No. 1 humourist presented the King with the film town's wedding present to the Princess - an album containing signed photos of the stars. Ex-naval officer Robert Montgomery was another in the American party.

It was nearly midnight before the Royal family left the cinema.

Command Performance ends with a picture of everyone relaxing. Among the celebrities talking it over are Rex Harrison, John Mills, Kieron Moore, Michael Wilding, Anna Neagle.

It was a parade of who's who in filmland.

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