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June 15-10-53

MINISTERS ARRIVING TO-DAY

TRIESTE NOT HIGH ON AGENDA

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Dulles and M. Bidault will be arriving in London to-day for the three-Power talks which begin at the Foreign Office to-morrow. Mr. Eden will be at London Airport to meet Mr. Dulles in the afternoon, and M. Bidault is arriving in the evening.

There were apparently no further developments in London yesterday in connexion with the Trieste situation, but resentment was felt at the continued attacks upon British reading rooms in Yugoslavia. Trieste is understood not to rank high on the agenda which will confront the Ministers to-morrow, but Mr. Eden and Mr. Dulles will presumably decide what reply to make to the Yugoslav proposal for a four-Power conference.

Such a conference could presumably be useful only if it turned into a conference to solve the whole future of Trieste. But it is thought that the Yugoslavs are now prepared for bilateral talks with the Italians. If these could be brought about in a calm atmosphere it would no doubt suit the British Government. Direct negotiation between Italy and Yugoslavia has long been favoured in London, and it may be that the proposal made by Marshal Tito in two speeches last weekend that the Free Territory should be divided into two zones, the city of Trieste going to Italy and the rest of zone A and the whole of zone B to Yugoslavia, with a plebiscite to follow after 10 years if regarded as a Yugoslav starting-point for negotiation, would not be too unpromising, though some Italian townships in zone B would have to be returned to Italy in addition to the city of Trieste if the Yugoslav proposals were to have any chance of success.

Meanwhile the Soviet proposal that the Security Council should proceed to appoint a governor of Trieste and set up an international régime in the Free Territory as envisaged under the Italian peace treaty was also being considered. The Trieste question has never been removed from the Security Council's agenda, and there would seem to be little point in opposing the Russian request for a debate, though there seems no prospect of its leading to a solution.

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