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FORTY-FOURTH YEAR

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'More Realistic' . . .

Russia threatens to withdraw from the mock peace conference," so runs the lead story on the front page of today's Nebraskan. The campus group which is representing Russia in the conference has issued this warning, in an attempt to win recognition of the USSR's right to the Baltic states, Bessarabia, northern Bukovina, and parts of Finland, territories over which the hammer-and-sickle already flies. The question of the disposition of these territories has already been settled by Russian occupation, say the Soviet's spokesmen, and if the conference insists on reopening the question, the USSR will withdraw.

The merits of Russia's move will not be discussed here. Whether the Soviet is justified in taking this stand, making this threat of withdrawal, is a matter for the peace conference itself to decide.

But the Russian threat definitely does add new life, new vitality to the whole conference. It serves as yet another indication that students are looking at the conference seriously and realistically, for some one of the major powers is very likely to make some such move, some such threat, when the actual peace conference meets in the not too distant future. It will be remembered that Italy threatened such a move at Versailles in 1919 when her wishes were not followed in regard to the settlement of her north-eastern frontier at the head of the Adriatic.

Thus the University of Nebraska mock peace conference daily becomes more life-like, more interesting. Students steadily grow more and more interested, take a more active part in the various discussions and meetings, discharge their responsibilities seriously and intelligently.

If students continue to display this enthusiastic, realistic attitude, the success of the conference is assured.

Peace Conference Previews

Balkan Boundaries OSCAR J. HAMMEN.

Ideally, certain principles, such as those in the Atlantic Charter, applied with full impartiality between all states, would guide the peacemakers in their decisions. History has no record of such a peace conference. Anyway, no universal principles could be evolved which would reconcile the conflicting ethnographic, historic, religious, economic and strategic claims which bedevil every effort at deciding frontier problems in the Balkans. A peace conference attuned to the loftiest ideals would fail to liquidate, tho it might minimize, all frontier difficulties as long as man persists in putting the interests of his national group above those of humanity in general.

Frontiers Shift.

History provides no certain guide for determining just frontiers. All too often in the past frontiers have shifted so that both contesting nations can justify their particular claims by citing history. It is all a matter of dates. It is certain, however, that the aggrieved nation in any decision will use history to nourish its

grievance. Plebiscites and population statistics offer no certain guide in regions of mixed nationalities. Treaties protecting the rights of minorities were tried and found wanting after the last war. The mass transference of populations seems to offer a solution, but the drastic surgery of this method proclaims all too clearly the absence of milder cures. A Balkan confederation might be desirable, but national animosities among the states and the conflicting interests of the Great Powers in the Balkans make such a development unlikely.

At the coming peace conference, as in the past, the application of professedly just principles will be modified or completely nullified by considerations based on expediency, prior commitments, the

Union Weekend City Churches Features Show, Plan Activities For Weekend Coffee Hour

Two juke box dances, free variety show and a coffee hour will be featured as entertainment at the Union this week end.

An afternoon juke box dance will be held Friday from 4 to 6 p. m., and another in the evening from 9 to 11:30. There will be no dance in the ballroom Saturday because of the scheduled Faculty Dancing club.

Sunday the Union will feature a coffee hour from 5 to 6 p. m. with Peg Shelley at the piano. Sunday evening at 8 there will be a free variety show starring Fred Astaire and Joan Leslie in "The Skies the Limit" or "A Flying Tiger on Leave." Lorraine Woita at the accordion and Cecil Smith at the piano will furnish entertainment before the show.

interests of the great powers and other factors. It seems apparent that the big powers have already made rough dispositions regarding the fate of the Balkans.

Makes Assertion.

Sulzberger of the New York Times has made an assertion, not denied to date, that at Casablanca, Roosevelt recognized Britain's paramount military and political interests in the Balkans and the Near East in return for Churchill's adherence to the unconditional surrender formula. Subsequently, Churchill and Stalin seem to have divided the Balkans into Russian and British "spheres of influence." The latter designation has been rejected by Churchill, but Dumbarton Oaks, British action in Greece, and the infinitely less publicized and expounded armistice terms imposed by the Russians on the defeated Balkan states certainly indicate, to date, the emergence of a strong reliance on "regionism."

Thus it appears that Rumania and Bulgaria will have their frontiers drawn in Moscow. But will Moscow-orientated Marshall Tito's claims to Italian Trieste be granted? Will Greek demands for Albanian soil be fulfilled? Or will the frontiers of the latter state, which has developed a recent friendship for Russia, remain intact? What will be the solution for Greco-Bulgarian disputes over Thrace and Macedonia?

Weekend plans of the various churches include observance of World Day of Prayer, forum discussions, fellowship luncheons and addresses.

The YWCA members will meet at 9:30 a. m. Sunday in the faculty lounge at the Union. They will observe the World Day of Prayer, which is held "in behalf of students all over the world suffering in war-torn areas," according to Mildred Taylor, Y. W. secretary. The chairman will be Helen Laird and speaker will be Anne Wellensiek.

The Wesleyan Foundation Student Fellowship luncheon will be held at 6:00 p. m. on Sunday evening. At 7:30 the Forum series will continue with the topic "The next steps in racial understanding." Mr. Clyde Malone, executive of the Lincoln Urban League will lead the forum.

Baptists Hear Dr. Buxton.

The Baptist youth will hear Dr. Howard P. Buxton, pastor of the Trinity Methodist church, discuss the topic, "Shall we have compulsory military training after the war," at 7 p. m. Sunday. Dr. Buxton has just returned from a conference held in Cleveland, Ohio sponsored by the Federated Council of Churches where the topic of the evening was discussed. The University Episcopal church

will hold Holy Communion today at 7:00 and 10:00 a. m., Saturday at 10:00 a. m. and the regular Holy Communion service at 8:30 and 11:00 a. m. on Sunday.

Soviets . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Dardanelles was also postponed at this committee meeting. As yet, no indication has been made by committee five as to steps which will be taken on the demands of the Soviet Union.

The United States government in Washington, D. C., has not as yet recognized Russia's absorption of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, according to War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes' statement to reporters in the nation's capital. In a first-hand account of the recent Crimean conference of the Big Three, Byrnes stated, when asked whether the Baltic states were discussed at the conference, that all sorts of questions were taken up but that those specific states were not talked about in any meeting at which he was present.

Discussion of this statement and the Soviet Union's ultimatum will be continued Saturday afternoon at the meeting of conference committee five.

"Insofar as those who purvey the news make of their own beliefs a higher law than truth, they are attacking the foundations of our constitutional system. There can be no higher law in journalism than to tell the truth and shame the devil." Walter Lippmann.

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8:00 P. M., SUNDAY, FEB. 18

UNION BALLROOM

Coffee and Donut Hour 5 to 6 in Lounge