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C.M. (47)**46th Conclusions****CABINET 46 (47)***CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held at 10 Downing Street, S.W. 1,
on Tuesday, 13th May, 1947, at 11.30 a.m.*

Present :

The Right Hon. C. R. ATTLEE, M.P., Prime Minister (*in the Chair*)The Right Hon. HERBERT MORRISON,
M.P., Lord President of the Council.The Right Hon. ERNEST BEVIN, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Foreign
Affairs.The Right Hon. ARTHUR GREENWOOD,
M.P., Minister without Portfolio.The Right Hon. HUGH DALTON, M.P.,
Chancellor of the Exchequer.The Right Hon. Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS,
K.C., M.P., President of the Board of
Trade.The Right Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER,
M.P., Minister of Defence.The Right Hon. VISCOUNT JOWITT,
Lord Chancellor.The Right Hon. VISCOUNT ADDISON,
Secretary of State for Dominion
Affairs.The Right Hon. J. WESTWOOD, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Scotland.The Right Hon. A. CREECH JONES,
M.P., Secretary of State for the
Colonies.The Right Hon. THE EARL OF
LISTOWEL, Secretary of State for
India and Secretary of State for
Burma.The Right Hon. G. A. ISAACS, M.P.,
Minister of Labour and National
Service.The Right Hon. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P.,
Minister of Health.The Right Hon. T. WILLIAMS, M.P.,
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.The Right Hon. GEORGE TOMLINSON,
M.P., Minister of Education.The Right Hon. LORD INMAN, Lord
Privy Seal.

Also present :

The Right Hon. JOHN STRACHEY, M.P.,
Minister of Food.*Secretariat*

Sir NORMAN BROOK.

Mr. W. S. MURRIE.

CABINET 46 (47)

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Germany.
Fusion of
British and
United States
Zones.
(Previous
Reference:
C.M.(47)42nd
Conclusions,
Minute 8.)

1. *The Foreign Secretary* informed the Cabinet that the Military Governor of the British Zone of Germany was arriving in London that day, with his Chief of Staff and Political Adviser, to confer with him and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on the difficulties which had arisen in implementing the agreement for the economic fusion of the British and United States Zones. The immediate problem was to find means of increasing food supplies in the Zones; for without this no increase in industrial production could be expected.

In the course of a preliminary discussion, it was suggested that the devolution of administrative responsibility to the Germans might have involved some loss of efficiency in the collection of food from the country districts. It might be that in the United States Zone devolution had been pressed too fast and too much power delegated to the Länder Governments. This was one of the points to be examined.

As regards imported food, the Cabinet were informed that Germany had been given high priority in the allocation of wheat shipments from the United States in recent months; but her supply position would continue to be precarious during the months of June and July. *The Minister of Food* said that he must continue to keep a careful watch on these diversions, while United Kingdom stocks of wheat and flour remained at their present low level; and he would keep in touch with the Foreign Secretary on this aspect of the matter.

The Cabinet—

Took note of these statements.

Ukraine.
Establishment
of Diplomatic
Relations.
(Previous
Reference:
W.M.(44)72nd
Conclusions,
Minute 7.)

2. The Cabinet considered a memorandum by the Foreign Secretary (C.P. (47) 153) seeking authority to propose that diplomatic relations should now be established between the Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

The Foreign Secretary said that the War Cabinet had decided in 1944 that the question of according diplomatic recognition to the constituent Republics of the Soviet Union should be postponed until the peace settlement. The Governments of the Dominions and of the United States had concurred in that view at the time; and we should be obliged to consult them before we adopted a different policy. He was, however, satisfied that from our point of view the balance of advantage now lay on the side of establishing diplomatic relations with the Ukraine. Neither the United Kingdom nor the Dominions had any representatives in the Soviet Union outside Moscow; but the Soviet Government had diplomatic or consular representatives in seven centres throughout the Commonwealth. Thus, taking the Commonwealth as a whole, the balance was heavily in favour of the Soviet Union. The establishment of diplomatic relations with the Ukraine would provide us with a source of information about an area of the Soviet Union which was of great economic and military importance; it would give us another centre in the Soviet Union for diplomatic contacts and the spread of cultural influence; and it would enable us to see how the Soviet machinery of government worked outside Moscow. If a proposal for the exchange of diplomatic representatives was made and refused, this would help to expose the unreality of the Ukraine's pretensions to independence and would strengthen our arguments for opposing the separate representation of other constituent Republics of the Soviet Union on international bodies.

In discussion the following points were made:—

(a) We should try to check any attempt to use the diplomatic recognition of the Ukraine as a pretext for excessive additions to the staff of the Soviet Embassy in London.

(b) If a British diplomatic post were established in the Ukraine, it should include an efficient agricultural attaché.

(c) Was it reasonable that the Russians should maintain their refusal to allow British consular representatives in the Soviet Union? When British trade with Russia was resumed, we should press for the appointment of British consular representatives at Leningrad, and possibly other Russian ports, to look after the interests of British seamen.

The Cabinet—

- (1) Approved in principle the proposal that diplomatic relations should now be established between the Ukraine and the United Kingdom.
- (2) Invited the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs to inform Dominion Governments, and the Foreign Secretary to inform the United States Government, of our intention to make this proposal and give them an opportunity for comment before the approach was made to the Government of the Ukraine.
- (3) Authorised the Foreign Secretary, in the light of the consultations mentioned in Conclusion (2) above, to put the proposal to the Ukrainian Government through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union.

**International
Labour
Conference.**
Social Policy
in Dependent
Territories.

3. The Cabinet had before them a memorandum by the Minister of Labour (C.P. (47) 149) on the action to be taken by His Majesty's Government on the Recommendation (No. 74) on social policy in dependent territories adopted at the 27th Session of the International Labour Conference.

The Minister of Labour said that the text of the Recommendation had already been presented to Parliament in Cmd. 6828. Though the Recommendation was generally acceptable, there were certain details (including in particular the references to "equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value") which it would not be easy for His Majesty's Government to apply at the present time. Moreover, the International Labour Conference would be considering at their Geneva meeting in June-July 1947 a number of the subjects covered in this Recommendation with a view to adopting International Labour Conventions which would supersede it in certain respects. He therefore proposed that a White Paper should be presented to Parliament, in terms of the draft annexed to C.P. (47) 149, intimating general agreement with the Recommendation, but stating that His Majesty's Government proposed to defer a final decision on it until the results of the next Session of the International Labour Conference were known. This course would avoid committing His Majesty's Government to applying the Recommendation if it were not adopted by other Governments.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies said that he was in agreement with the course proposed.

The Cabinet—

Authorised the Minister of Labour to present to Parliament a White Paper in the terms of the draft annexed to C.P. (47) 149.

**Radioactive
Substances
Bill.**

4. The Cabinet were informed that the Second Reading of the Radioactive Substances Bill in the House of Lords had been postponed because there appeared to be considerable opposition to those of its provisions which made the possession of radioactive substances subject to licence and conferred wide powers to make regulations for preventing injury to the health of industrial workers who might be affected by radioactive substances. In view of the congestion of business in the House of Lords, it had been thought desirable to postpone the Second Reading in order to ascertain whether the objections raised could be met. The Minister of Health had since arranged to meet Lord Cherwell, who was leading the opposition to the Bill, and it was his intention to propose the addition of a new Clause providing for the appointment of a scientific advisory committee, the members of which would be nominated after consultation with representative scientific bodies. This Committee would advise Ministers on the exercise of their powers under the Bill. It was hoped that a concession on these lines would enable the Bill to proceed as a non-contentious measure both in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons.

*Cabinet Office, S.W. 1,
13th May, 1947.*

