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Moscow Conference Will Set Pattern For '47 Peace Moves

Observers Detect Hopeful Sign
Negotiations Will Escape Bitterness of '46

This is the first dispatch of several from world capitals examining the outlook for the new year.

By EDWARD W. BEATTIE
United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The Moscow conference on Germany shaped up today as the blue ribbon event of 1947 in world affairs. The year will determine the ability of the great powers to work together for peace, and the Moscow meeting beginning in March will set the tone for the entire year.

That was the consensus of qualified diplomatic quarters in London. The forecast a continuation of the friction which strained relations among the big powers in 1946. But they detected some hopeful signs that 1947 negotiations would escape some of the bitterness and suspicion which permeated all the Big Four meetings last year.

Found Common Ground

Despite all the outbursts and all the delays and suspicions, the powers did show in 1946 that, with patience on both sides, they could find common ground for agreement.

They completed five peace treaties for satellite countries, and at the United Nations assembly in New York made definite progress toward

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a solution of the problem of arms control and restriction. But the year's work was no more than a bare beginning.

Four matters seemed most likely to produce clashes of interest and policy in 1947. They were Germany, the Balkans and eastern Mediterranean, the Far East, disarmament and atom control and with them the key problem of the big powers' right of veto.

Two-Part Problem

The German problem fell into two parts. Both of them must come before the council of foreign ministers at Moscow March 10. The first was agreement on collaboration among the four zones of occupation which would make it possible to create some central German agency which could sign a peace treaty.

The second was the drafting of a treaty which would satisfy the mountain of allied claims against Germany, establish the country as a working entity which would not continue to drain strength from the victors, and assure that the ability of Germany to start a new war is kept firmly under control.

That job was complicated not only by the east-west suspicion which threatened to wreck the Paris conference, but also by the fundamental clashes of Anglo-American policy with that of Russia on the one hand and France on the other.

The chief point of conflict with Soviet policy was on the Kremlin's demand for reparations from current German production—a principle which both the United States and Great Britain oppose.

Political Conflict

A second conflict seemed certain to develop on the political setup. Already the Anglo-American and Russian zones had developed big discrepancies. Another point was Germany's eastern border. Russia regards it as final. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes said at Stuttgart he considered it still open to settlement.

France was prepared to fight for her viewpoint on two basic points. She still insisted on separation of the Rhineland and Ruhr from the rest of Germany. The other three of the big four opposed that.

The chance of serious friction over eastern Europe and the Mediterranean looked slim as the year started. It probably was in the best interests of the great powers to play down the conflict of policies.

Must Handle Greek Charges

But the United Nations still must handle Greek charges that guerrilla insurgents were based in and supplied from the neighboring states to the north, all members of the Soviet bloc.

Observers saw little or no conflict of Soviet and British interests in the Near East at the moment. But some time this year the powers presumably must face Russian demands on Turkey for a share in the control of the Dardanelles.

The conflict over disarmament centered not on the ultimate goal but on the method—specifically, whether Russia would accept American demands for abandonment of the big power veto with respect to atomic control.

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