

French Oust 20 More Members of Russian Repatriation Group

By the Associated Press
PARIS, Dec. 13.—The Ministry of the Interior announced tonight that "about 20" Russians attached to the former Soviet repatriation mission were expelled from France yesterday. This action brought to approximately 56 the number of Russians ejected since November 25.

The Foreign Ministry said tonight in reply to a Soviet protest that the latest group should have left France last Tuesday when 12 of the 16 members of the mission were put aboard a train for Berlin and the Soviet zone.

The expulsions began November 25 when 19 Soviet citizens were taken to the frontier under armed guard for allegedly mixing in French affairs during the wave of internal upheaval and strikes.

Between then and last Tuesday, December 9, seven others were ordered to leave for the same reason. The Interior Ministry said two requested to go back to their homeland and were permitted to remain in France, however.

Four members of the repatriation mission could not be found when 12 of their comrades were expelled last Tuesday. The four were believed to have been in the group escorted out of France yesterday. Members of this group were attached to the mission as secretaries, chauffeurs and other minor capacities.

Arrest of 6 Protested.
Soviet Charge d'Affaires Alexandre Abramov protested the "arrest" in Marseille and Paris of five of the group of about 20 this morning. But the French Foreign Office flatly rejected the Soviet note.

The Soviet note demanded their immediate release and expressed "profound indignation." The French reply attacked the "inadmissible character, in the eyes of the French government, of certain of the terms" of the Soviet note.

"The French government has even more right to complain," the note added, "in that the Soviet nationals in question were not arrested but expelled. These expulsions were made necessary by the fact that these persons should have left French territory December 9 at the same time as Col. Filatov and the other members of the Soviet repatriation mission."

The note said the Soviet nationals "remained in France without paying the slightest heed" either to the French government's order for them to leave or the instructions to their one Russian government to come home.

Earlier this week, the French government refused to receive a Soviet protest over the expulsion of the 19 Russians November 25 and a French raid on Soviet repatriation camp. The French said they would not receive the Soviet note because of its language and because it was made public before it was given the French government.

Pact Talks Terminated.
A later French note charged the camp at Beauregard had been used to send French citizens to Russia. The Soviet note broke off negotiations for a trade pact with France by which France hoped to get 300,000 tons of wheat, and carried a hint that the Russians might disavow the 20-year mutual assistance

pact that was negotiated by Gen. Charles de Gaulle in 1944.

The De Gaulle newspaper, Paris-Presse tonight declared "the U. S. S. R. is trying to find a way of denouncing the Franco-Soviet pact."

Premier Robert Schuman said tonight in a communique that the Soviet protest this morning also was presented to the press before it was presented to the Foreign Ministry.

Moscow dispatches said Lt. Col. Raymond Marquie, a Communist of long standing who headed the French repatriation mission in Russia, was leaving by train for Berlin tonight. Ordered to leave Russia several days ago by the Soviet government, his departure was delayed reportedly by bad weather.

The French officials said, however, he was not anxious to come home because he faces disciplinary action for having taken the Soviet's side in the quarrel.

Stockpiles Reduced.
The recent strike wave reduced stockpiles much so that France will be forced to appeal for more American interim aid if Marshall plan help is delayed beyond March 1, a government source said.

The government source, who requested anonymity, said Rene Mayer, minister of economic affairs, estimated that interim aid now before Congress would carry the nation through January and possibly February, depending on the rate of production in coal mines and industry.

The Communist-led strikes cost France the equivalent of \$830,000 in salary losses to strikers, lack of output in industry, particularly capital production, and lower tax revenue.

Sources close to Mr. Mayer indicated that the balanced budget for 1948, promised by former Premier Paul Ramadier, was out the window, mainly because of the strikes. A deficit of about 250,000,000 francs was forecast.

Approximately 100,000,000 francs in salary raises, offered state employees to end the strikes, was expected to provide the largest single item in the deficit.

Mr. Mayer is scheduled to take the budget to the National Assembly for approval next Friday.

Foreign Aid

(Continued From First Page.)

because China needs its own bill. We recognize that China is completely eligible for consideration and the House having once opened the door, it would be unconscionable to slam the door lest the total elimination be totally misunderstood. The problem was to translate those mingled emotions into a bill."

Committee Stumped.
The Senator said that "we have a specific plan for the other three nations—an adjudicated criterion—but we don't have it for China and that's what stumped the committee."

Other major points of agreement by the conferees:
1. A provision was inserted to assure this Nation of an adequate carry-over of grain. The House amendment to this effect was modified to correct "obviously erroneous dates, as Senator Vandenberg put it. Effect of the rewritten key provision he described this way:

"The President must determine the wheat carry-over and must protect the carry-over of 150,000,000 bushels from this crop year (ending next June 30) to the next for domestic consumption unless his estimate next March 1, justifies the inclusion

of an amount for export which safely preserves the domestic requirement with a lower carry-over."

This compromise is a much more elastic provision than the one inserted during debate on the House floor. Last year's carry-over in wheat was only 84,000,000 bushels, although the normal figure is close to 150,000,000 bushels.

Strong Language Abandoned.
2. The President is directed to end aid to any nation "whenever he finds that because of changed conditions aid under this act is no longer consistent with the national interest."

This is a substitute for the stronger anti-Communist language adopted by the House which specifically banned aid to Communists or former Communists or to any nation falling under the domination of Communists or of the Soviet Union.

Senator Vandenberg, discussing the new clause, said "It's entirely obvious to us and to the world that the language means."

He explained that it would be embarrassing for such a nation as France, where the Communists are the largest single party in the legislature, to sign a bilateral agreement on the aid program if that agreement specifically mentioned the Communists or Russia.

3. Aid may be delivered any time after the bill becomes law and the funds may be allocated under it up to next March 31. The House had added an amendment permitting "retroactive authorization" of purchase made since December 1 in anticipation of the act but before it actually becomes law.

4. Incentive goods to encourage production—such as cigarettes for coal miners—may be included in aid shipments up to 5 per cent of the value of the aid sent to each nation.

Agreed to As Experiment.
On this point Senator Vandenberg said the Senate conferees felt strongly that the bill should be confined to relief and should not include measures to aid reconstruction. However, they agreed to a small amount of incentive goods "purely as an experiment" in stimulating production.

5. Foods and other commodities purchased by the Government under the price-support program may be used for relief abroad if they are "appropriate" and in excess of domestic needs. Similar provisions were adopted by both houses.

The intent here is to let the Commodity Credit Corp., the Government's buying agency, take a book-keeping loss and transfer food items to the State Department at a figure less than they cost the Government. Dried fruits, dried eggs, sweet and Irish potatoes and tobacco are the chief items which thus could be shipped, even though they yield less calories per dollar cost than wheat and other grains.

6. A Senate provision was accepted requiring that local currencies paid by citizens of the foreign nations for the aid they receive go into a special fund. This fund may be spent only as agreed on between the United States and the foreign government involved, once the relief under this bill is all expended.

Vital to Nations' Economy.
Senator Vandenberg explained that this clause "may well be a very important factor in the domestic economies of the recipient nations. He said the fund no doubt would be of "considerable size" but that "we don't want the sole responsibility

for deciding" how it can be spent to increase local production and curb inflation.

7. A general statement was accepted under which such committees "as may be authorized" by Congress can observe, advise and report on how the aid is being handled abroad. The new language generally follows the Senate proposal rather than enumerating the specific committees involved as had the House clause.

8. A provision to establish a National Food Conservation Committee, inserted by the House, was eliminated because it was felt that the size and complexion suggested by the House was too unwieldy and months would be necessary even to set it up.

Senator Vandenberg explained that, of course, the conferees were not opposed to food conservation but thought this particular plan would be useless. The Citizens Food Committee drive launched last month is currently being carried on chiefly by the Agriculture Department.

RFC Advance Agreed On.
Two other important amendments were agreed to on Friday. One permits the Reconstruction Finance Corp. to advance up to \$150,000,000 to get the aid flowing even before an appropriation bill is passed. The other permits purchases of food and other items outside the United States up to 10 per cent of the total amount of the bill regardless of the high cost per item.

This second provision would, for example, make possible purchase of Argentine wheat at the current Buenos Aires price of around \$5 a bushel compared to the domestic price of just over \$3.

Of the discussion during the 10 hours the conferees put in over a two-day period, the China question took up the most time.

Senator Vandenberg said that in addition to the \$30,000,000 now just beginning to be spent to aid China there is an unused authorization for an additional \$18,000,000 in last May's post-UNRRA relief act. No funds were voted to carry out this latter authorization, however.

Arrangement on China.
The presumption of the conferees, he explained, was that the administration would set aside \$60,000,000 from the \$597,000,000 for use in China. If the \$18,000,000 should be appropriated, it would be subtracted from the \$60,000,000 and that much more money could be used in France, Italy or Austria.

Also, if China's needs can be handled by the \$30,000,000 currently being spent until the State Department submits and Congress approves a new China program, then the full \$597,000,000 could be used in France, Italy and Austria alone. The \$30,000,000 is not chargeable against China's share of the \$597,000,000, however.

The State Department originally asked for \$328,000,000 for aid to France, \$227,000,000 for Italy and \$42,000,000 for Austria.

Senator Vandenberg told reporters the conferees first tried to work out a plan, known to have been suggested by the State Department, under which China would have been taken care of entirely under an amendment to the post-UNRRA relief bill. The House parliamentarian, however, said such an amendment to a previous bill could not be inserted in the present bill under House rules and this approach had to be abandoned.

Tomorrow President Truman will meet at the White House with a bipartisan group of congressional



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS.—Mrs. Alice L. Wolfe, 2525 Thirtieth street S.E., was elected Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and George M. Rowzee, 3514 Thirtieth street N.W., was chosen Worthy Grand Patron at a meeting in Masonic Temple last night. —Star Staff Photo.

members to discuss the whole problem of European relief. The discussion will include, the long-range Marshall plan but will not be a preview of it, according to Mr. Truman's press secretary, Charles Ross. The long-range plan is expected to go to Congress before the Christmas recess begins, probably Friday. The measure will not be considered until the January session, however.

The four-year program is expected to have a much harder time clearing the congressional hurdles than did the stopgap aid bill. The stopgap bill was designed to make sure that none of the 16 Marshall plan nations runs out of funds for food and fuel before next April 1. By that time, the administration hopes, funds for the first 15 months of the long-range plan will have been approved.

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