

Military Training Plan Finds Little Favor in Congress

By PETER EDSON
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WASHINGTON, D. C.—The report of the President's Advisory Commission, which recommends adoption of a Universal Military Training program for the United States, will be received critically by Congress, if the disposition shown to date means anything.

The 95-page report is a large capsule of concentrated gloom. It spells out all the horrors of war—the next one—in a manner fit to scare anyone to death. Long range aircraft dropping atomic bombs and germs in sneak attacks on defenseless cities previously rendered helpless by fifth column activities and therefore unable to organize for counter attack.

The report says the United States can be involved in another war in four different ways. By direct attack. By becoming involved in foreign wars like the last two. By trying to stop some aggressor from gaining a foothold against the U. S. in Latin America. Or by trying to police up some United Nations scrap.

Then the Commission says: "Experience thus far gives very little evidence about the ability of the United States to deliver atomic bombs in decisive numbers against targets in enemy territory at great distance."

Congress will ask if the United States can't launch such an attack, how is anybody else going to do it? Also who's going to do it? Soviet Russia isn't mentioned by name in the report proper, but you can read it between any pair of lines, any place you open the book.

The report says three-fourths of the world still lives in poverty and in the shadows. That would leave no one eligible for the job of aggressor, the present Congress will argue.

Universal military training is recommended as the sixth line of national defense. In the five lines ahead of it are put: A strong healthy, educated population. A co-ordinated Intelligence Service, Scientific Research and Development, Industrial mobilization and stockpiling, Regular Army, Navy and Air Force operating under unified command. Speed is imperative.

The President's Commission says: "If the introduction of universal military service should have such an indirect effect of weakening rather than strengthening the other elements of our

national security, then the Commission is of the firm opinion that the adoption of universal military training would be a mistake and would diminish rather than increase our national security."

Taken together, this phase of the President's Commission, comes from the fact that it will take five years to get this universal military training plan in operation. It will take a year from the time legislation is passed to train the instructors and get ready for the first class. Then four years more before there will be enough graduates to fill out the reserve.

In this interval the country has its reserve of nearly ten million veterans of the last war. But five years from now most of them will be too old for active service.

The report is frank to say that there are some dangers to universal military training and some objections in addition to the cost, which is put at \$1,750,000. If this expenditure would mean cutting down on any of the other five lines of national defense, the Commission recommends foregoing it.

The idea that universal military training could be accepted solely for its contribution to the health and education of the nation was rejected by the Commission. There were said to be better ways to improve physical and educational standards for less money. The justification for universal service is said to be its value to national defense.

A community on the Adriatic Sea called Zadar in 1920 was given to Italy and the name was changed to Zara, but in 1946 it was awarded to Yugoslavia and the name has been changed to Titograd.

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