

### Forest Groups Plan Permanent Agency

MADISON, Wis.—(AP)—A permanent organization to provide fuller interchange of research findings, was approved by representatives of state and federal forest products agencies at a three-day conference ending Wednesday.

Groundwork for a year-round organization to aid scientists, technicians and others in forest product industries was initiated by Bror Grondol of the University of Washington.

"There is a great demand," he said, "for a permanent force of this kind to act as bridge between different groups and to coordinate with other organizations, including those in the field now or contemplated in other professional societies."

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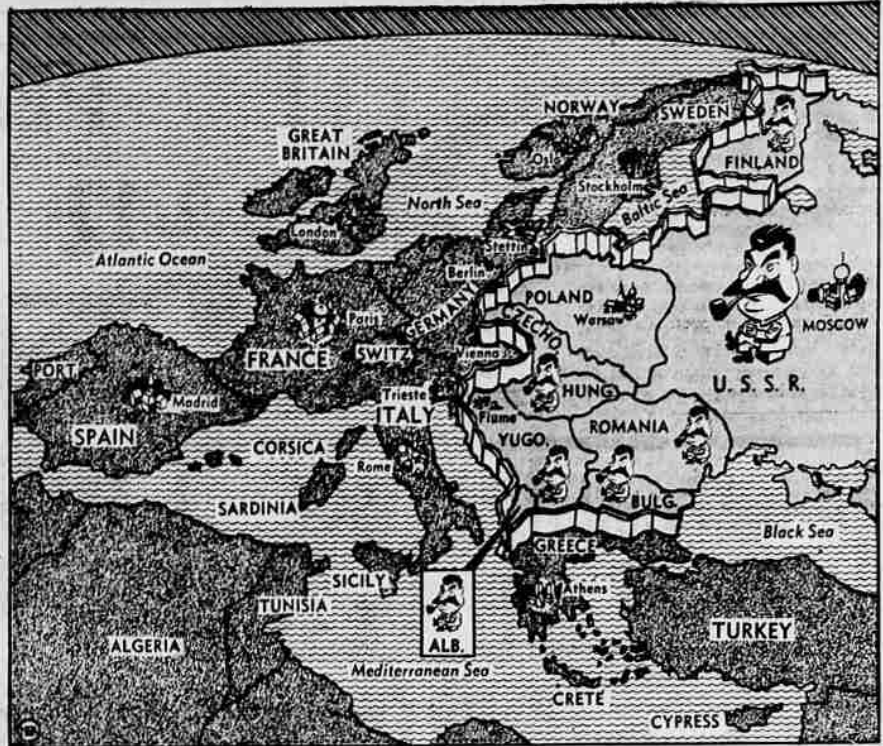
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**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**—From Stalin to Trieste said Winston Churchill at Fulton, Mo., Russia has drawn an iron curtain across Europe. Actually, the political barrier extends more or less effectively in an irregular line from the Arctic Ocean at the Norwegian-Finnish border to the Black Sea, where Bulgaria and Turkey adjoin. The NEA map, above, shows this curtain with Stalin and his satellite leaders behind it.

### Foreign Correspondent Tells of Soviet's Plan To Hold Its Satellites Behind 'Iron Curtain'

EDITOR'S NOTE—This is the first of a series of dispatches dealing with the men "Behind Russia's Iron Curtain," written for NEA Service by a veteran foreign correspondent.

By JOACHIM JOESTEN  
NEA Special Correspondent  
NEW YORK (NEA)—Russia today is an empire in the making. Not in the sense of the old Czarist empire, which reconquered nationalities other than the Russian, but rather in a multinational association of more or less independent states, reminiscent of the

British Commonwealth.

There is a palpable tendency in Moscow to imitate the British set-up. The most striking step yet taken by the Kremlin in this direction was the constitutional amendment of Feb. 1, 1944, which authorized the 16 constituent republics of the Soviet Union to "enter into direct relations with foreign states, to conclude agreements with them and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them." This privilege previously was reserved to the central government.

**Red "Dominions"**

Thus, the first Soviet "dominions" were born: White Russia and the Ukraine. Both are members in their own right of the United Nations Organization, where the latter, in particular, already has played a conspicuous role.

Neither of these two enjoys an independence comparable to that of Canada or any other British dominion. Empires like the British Commonwealth grow organically. They are not created by a stroke of the pen.

Hence the difference between the new Soviet setup and that of Great Britain is as wide as Russia's concept of democracy is apart from ours.

The political trend in the Soviet Union, however, is toward a more loosely organized federation than in the past. This is a development of outstanding importance from an international point of view. It has greatly enhanced the attraction of the Soviet for its neighbors.

**In Soviet Orbit**

Countries that for many years were obsessed with fear of being "gobbled up" by Russia now gravitate, with apparent unconcern, to the Soviet orbit.

Czechoslovakia, for example, feels more at ease dealing with the Ukraine—now its immediate neighbor—than with Moscow directly. Poland would rather settle a point at issue with the government of White Russia than with the Kremlin. The setup may be illusory, but it has proven effective.

Since the defeat of Germany, which made further westward expansion possible, Moscow has worked persistently, and with considerable success, at the establishment of a vast system of satellites, outside the Soviet Union, but influenced and closely controlled by it.

**Bids for Friendship**

It would be an oversimplification to say that Russia is out to "bulshelize" her neighbors. Stalin and his advisers know very well that to do so at this time would be a first-rate blunder.

Whatever their ultimate aims may be, their present policy is not to absorb or to proselytize, but to "win friends and influence people." Not, perhaps, in the Big Three councils, but certainly among Russia's direct neighbors.

A survey of eastern and cen-

tral Europe permits these certain conclusions:

(1) There has been no attempt to introduce the Bolshevik system of government into any country outside the territorial limits of the Soviet Union, as constituted in 1940. Nowhere is the Communist party in exclusive control, but everywhere it holds key positions in the administration. There has been widespread nationalization of industries, and seizure of land for parcelation, but the collective system of agriculture has not been introduced anywhere and there is still room for private enterprise in farming, trade, and light industries.

(2) The great majority of heads of state and prime ministers are neither Communist party members, nor fellow travelers, but are men of bourgeois origin and of moderate views, ranging from conservative to Socialist. All of them, however, are pro-Russian and willing to accept indirect control by Moscow-trained Communists.

(3) Only Poland and Czechoslovakia are independent in fact as well as in name and even these have accepted Russian supervision of their foreign and economic policies. Their privileged status in the Soviet orbit is due to the fact that they were Russia's allies in the war.

(4) All former enemies—Finland, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, as well as the former allies, Yugoslavia and Albania, today are to all practical purposes dependencies of the Soviet. This is, in the case of the former four, the result of the armistice treaties, but with the latter two it is voluntary, due to ideological affinity.

**Stalin Rules by Proxy**

In all these countries, Stalin rules as effectively as at home, though by proxy. The men who locally exercise supreme authority are, in effect, his viceroys. They have either been hand-picked by him, or they govern on sufferance.

All of them refer issues of fundamental importance to Moscow for decision. None would dare antagonize Stalin. There is comparatively little interference by Russia in the country's internal affairs.

Who are these men and where do they come from?

What were their lives and records before they became Stalin's viceroys, voluntarily or by force of circumstance?

What have they achieved and what are their plans for the future?

In dispatches to follow, NEA shall review them individually, each in his own national setting and against his social and political background. They are:

Juho Paasikivi, Finland.  
Petru Groza, Romania.  
Kimon Georgieff, Bulgaria.  
Zoltan Tildy, Hungary.  
Tito, Yugoslavia.  
Enver Hoxha, Albania.

### Wood Products Research Urged

A resolution urging expanded research by private and federal groups on utilization of wood waste was adopted at a meeting of the Western States Council at Butte, Mont., it was reported Thursday by Manager Fred Brenne of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce.

Brenne returned Wednesday from attending the session as a representative of Oregon chambers of commerce.

The action puts back of the research proposal representatives from 11 western states. Brenne and Arthur Farmer, manager of the Portland chamber, stressed the need, pointing to the Willamette Valley Wood Chemical Co. plant at Springfield as an example of wood waste utilization. Brenne was chairman of a committee to present the facts on the problem.

The resolution will go to several hundreds chambers in the western states for their approval, upon which they will contact their congressmen urging additional funds for research.

Brenne said that he feels progress was made by the council in launching cooperative effort to further projects of benefit to western states. He and Farmer were elected directors to represent Oregon.

Harold Wright, manager of the Los Angeles chamber, was named council president to succeed Christy Thomas of Seattle.

### Monuments to FDR Planned by Nations

LONDON—(AP)—The Pilgrims Society of Great Britain announced today appointment of a committee headed by the Earl of Derby to raise funds for erection of a statue of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt in London.

MEXICO CITY—(AP)—The permanent committee of Congress announced today plans for formal observance on April 12 of the first anniversary of President Roosevelt's death. The program will include placing of the cornerstone for a monument in Monterey, where President Roosevelt and President Avila Camacho met.

The committee issued a proclamation declaring that Roosevelt had "acquired spiritual Mexican citizenship" through his advocacy of the Good Neighbor policy.

NO DOUBT IT'S GOOD

GREENSBORO, N.C.—(AP)—The U.S. Collector of Internal Revenue here received an income tax return from a North Carolina woman showing, correctly, that she owed no tax.

Accompanying it was a check made out for "no dollars and no cents," with a notation "no tax due" in the lower left corner.

### Douglas Produces Mixmaster Successor

SANTA MONICA—(AP)—Douglas Aircraft Co. has announced production of a jet-powered version of the XB-42 Mixmaster bomber, which crashed after setting a transcontinental speed record of five hours 17 minutes.

The new model, the XB-43, has the same lines as the Mixmaster, and is powered with twin jet units. Counter-rotating tail propellers drove the earlier version.

### Messenger Accused Of Bank Theft

PORTLAND—(AP)—A federal complaint was on file today charging Ralph Waldo Rees, 23-year-

old messenger, with only \$136.75 from funds of the States National Bank. FBI officers, working case because a national case involved, accused Rees of the money from depositor.

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