

# Foreign Ministers To Draw Pacts

By LOUIS NEVIN  
 PARIS, April 25 (AP)—Foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Great Britain and France met today in Luxembourg palace for the purpose of preparing European treaties to end the greatest war in history.

Secretary of State James F. Byrnes was the first of the visiting ministers to enter the palace where the four leading powers will attempt to iron out differences which had blocked efforts to draft peace treaties for Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Finland.

It was Byrnes who suggested the conference be convened to solve problems which have deadlocked a council of deputy foreign ministers in London for months and caused a postponement of the scheduled May 1 European peace conference.

Georges Bidault, French foreign minister and host, was there to meet his American colleague. Bidault had driven through streets lined with crowds to the palace where gaily-uniformed republican guardsmen snapped to attention, presenting arms.

Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov of Russia arrived almost immediately after Byrnes.

Foreign Secretary Ernest

Bevin of Great Britain waved to the crowd and entered the palace last.

The crowd which jammed the streets, nearby balconies and rooftops gave no demonstration.

The conference began shortly after the scheduled 4 p. m. (8 a. m., PST) time, exactly on the first anniversary of President Truman's speech to the San Francisco conference which drafted the United Nations charter.

Luxembourg palace was decorated with the flags of the four nations and surrounded by hundreds of policemen who kept the square before the buildings cleared.

The ministers, accompanied by their assistants, left the automobiles in the palace courtyard and went immediately up the red-carpeted stairway to the conference room in the Salon Victor Hugo. They made no statement prior to settling down to their task of dealing with vanquished European nations.

The greatest difficulty facing the foreign ministers was expected in reaching an agreement on the treaty to end Italy's nearly three years of "hand-to-mouth" existence.

The four powers are divided over Russian reparations demands on Italy, on Russia's desire for control of Tripolitania, and on Soviet demands for bases in the Dodecanese.

One of the thorniest problems, however, apparently had been settled with announcement of a virtual accord on the touchy problem of the Italian-Yugoslav border in Venezia-Giulia.

It was believed that a four-

power boundary commission which made an on-the-spot study of the latter problem would have its report, with or without recommendations, ready for submission to the ministers Saturday or Monday.

### Real Estate Tax Ceiling Proposed

PORTLAND, April 25 (AP)—A real estate tax ceiling of 40 to 45 mills on 50 per cent of property valuation was proposed today by Oregon real estate men.

"Property is loaded with 70 to 80 per cent of total cost of government, while it represents about 50 per cent of wealth of the state," the taxation committee of the State Association of Real Estate Boards declared. They said prewar home building in other Pacific coast states exceeded Oregon's because of tax burdens here.

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## Jap Refused Right To Buy

PORTLAND, Ore., April 25 (AP)—An American Legion post formally protested today a national real estate board code of ethics which the Legionnaires reported has barred a disabled American born Japanese ex-serviceman from buying a home here.

The post did not name the serviceman.

In a resolution to the Portland Realty board, the Frederick and John Ravin post, 134 Portland, asked the realtors here to "renounce" what it called racial discrimination and called upon the national association of real estate boards to modify its code.

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