

U.S. Expects Red Proposal For New EDC to Be Blocked

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
 WASHINGTON (AP) — The U. S. government is looking to Britain and France to knock the proposal from under a Russian proposal for talks later this year on a new European security system which would include the Red bloc.

An initial exchange of reactions among Washington, London and Paris officials, authorities said today, indicates they see eye to eye on this issue—despite evident Russian hopes that peace in Indochina might swing Western European opinion away from the United States position.

U. S. authorities still think it possible the Soviet proposition may get a little more popular support than it did before the Geneva conference produced a peace agree-

ment on Indochina. The Reds then gained an initiative in the cold war conflict, and their revival of the European proposal first advanced early this year was clearly an effort to use that initiative in the field of European affairs.

American, British and French representatives will meet in two or three weeks to draft replies to the Kremlin note which they received last Saturday. These probably will not be identical.

U. S. officials argue that the Russian proposal for all the European nations to get together in one big security system is a matter on which European governments can speak more properly and directly than this one. Then, too, the State Department wants to avoid the

suggestion of pressing the European governments to take an unfavorable stand on this issue. The official position is it is up to them to make up their minds and to say what they think.

However, the first three-way exchanges indicate agreement that what the Soviets are really aiming at is destruction of the projected European Defense Community, on which action is supposed to be taken in the French Assembly by mid-August. EDC calls for the armament of West Germany as part of a six-nation army.

The Soviets in effect have held out to the French an alternative security system which the Kremlin obviously hopes would enable opponents of EDC to express their opposition more effectively.

Beyond the West European defense system, the Russians have also indicated in the past they would like to destroy the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as presently constituted. They proposed that they themselves join NATO and that the United States become a member of the European system.

Since NATO was originally formed and EDC was designed to provide effective counter forces to Soviet power in the European area, the participation of Russia in those organizations would destroy the whole purpose of their existence.

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