

and other "free movements"
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'Free' Regimes Puzzle to U. S. Policy Makers

**Opposing Groups Set Up by
Some Small Nations Here
Pose Post-War Problems**

By James G. Simonds

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25. The State Department is facing one of the most difficult and complicated problems in American diplomatic history in trying to develop a policy for dealing with the "free" government movements which are being organized in the United States, without committing the United States to support any of them at a post-war peace conference.

The task is one that appears almost impossible. The small nations these groups represent are mutually antagonistic, and in some cases there are two "free" groups set up in the United States by opposing factions from the same nation.

The diplomatic relations with those nations that have "free" governments in London is comparatively easy. The United States has continued to recognize the governments in exile of Yugoslavia, Poland and Greece, and has given partial recognition to the Czechoslovak group in London. The Free French movement has territory in its possession, so diplomatic relations, though complicated by the existence of the Vichy regime, still can be maintained.

On the other hand, the problems caused by the "free" movements of Hungarians, Austrians and Rumanians in the United States have caused diplomatic headaches.

For example, the Hungarians in the United States have set up a

group opposing the present policy of the regular Hungarian government of co-operating with the Axis. This group is headed by Tibor Eckhardt, a deputy of the Hungarian Parliament, and John Pelenyi, former Minister to Washington.

No matter how much this Hungarian group opposes the policies of the Budapest government, it cannot come out for a smaller Hungary, or the return of territories now under Hungarian rule to Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia. If the American government gives this group whole-hearted support, it not only complicates its diplomatic relations with the present Hungarian government, but also with the governments of Hungary's three neighbors.

The Austrians also have organized in the United States. However, they are divided into three groups. One of these is the "Austrian Action," headed by Count Ferdinand Czernin, and another the "Government" group, led by Professor Willibold Ploechi and Hans Rott, a former minister. Both groups are seeking American government support here and eventually in Austria.

Archduke a Peacemaker

In addition to these two groups, there are the Austrian Legitimists, headed by Archduke Otto. Otto has been working to bring about harmony between all three factions and organize a general Austrian council but has had little success.

The Rumanians in the United States are being organized quietly by the former Rumanian envoy to Washington, Charles A. Davila, who expects to announce his group's plans and members soon. Like the Hungarian group in the United States, this free Rumanian group would be based on opposition to the policy of co-operation with the Axis which is being undertaken by the regular government in Bucharest.

In addition to these complications

in the American diplomatic picture, there are four special cases which are causing the State Department considerable worry.

The first is the question of American relations toward Albania, now under Italian domination.

The American government did not withdraw its recognition from the regime of King Zog, though the name of the Albanian minister was quietly dropped from the Washington diplomatic list. In any peace settlement the American government will have to formulate some policy toward the question of an independent Albania.

Another unpleasant diplomatic headache is the future of American relations with the three little Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Had Denounced Russia

When the Red Army moved into the three countries, first demanding military bases and later annexing them to the Soviet Union, the United States denounced the action. Diplomatic representatives of the little countries still remain in Washington.

When the German government moved against the Soviet Union and German troops advanced to occupy the Baltic states, the American government was in a dilemma. It sided with the Russians against Germany, but its policy regarding the Baltic states already had been made public. At any future peace table a victorious Russia might make demands which would be unacceptable to the United States, in view of its refusal to recognize Soviet sovereignty over the Baltic states.

In the face of these diplomatic difficulties the American government is trying to work out a policy which will allow it to give the fullest possible aid to groups opposing the Nazis or governments co-operating with them, and still avoid becoming too deeply involved in the quarrels of the small European nations.

