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RUSSIAN ENDORSES THE GOLD STANDARD

Soviet Magazine Backs U. S. Stand at Bretton Woods as Best for World Trade

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MOSCOW, Sept. 12—In the latest copy of the Russian periodical Bolshevist, a Soviet writer, Prof. Z. B. Atlas, advocates a world return to the gold standard.

"For the maintenance of economic and trade connections among countries," he writes, "a world currency is essential. And the valuta of any country must have a fixed basis in gold so that it may be turned into world currency and be exchanged for a determined quantity of one or another national valuta."

This, he says, is the solution to the problem of international exchange of goods. It is also the basis, he contends, for any international organ for financial settlement, or for an international bank.

The article is principally about the settlement reached at the United Nations' Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, N. H., in July. Professor Atlas supports the principles proposed at Bretton Woods by Harry D. White, assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, and expresses satisfaction that they have been accepted, especially by the experts who drew up the United Nations plan for the world currency fund. He criticizes the plan of Great Britain's Lord Keynes, who proposed endless credits and no gold exchange.

Gold Seen as Only Currency

"Trade cannot be conducted without money," writes Professor Atlas, "neither within a country nor on a world scale. And no other world currency except gold has yet been invented."

Discussing the international settlement organs, Professor Atlas summarizes past attempts to establish such an organization. He says that before World War I London served as a settlement center for world finance. After the war, however, the situation changed. London lost its pre-eminence as a world clearing house, and the post-war crisis undermined world financial relationships and weakened the gold standard.

Professor Atlas further reviews the efforts at Geneva and Brussels and at other monetary conferences to solve the question. He criticizes "currency dumping," as practiced by countries with a falling valuta who sold their products on a world market at low gold prices so that countries whose currencies remained stable could not stand the competition. He says this turned the currency problem from a national internal problem to a serious and sharp world problem.

Professor Atlas also maintains that stabilization funds were no good either. "They often sharpened the currency chaos," he says, adding that an international currency stabilization fund and other economic organizations cannot of themselves eliminate the basic contradictions of the capitalistic production system. But these organs, he says, can facilitate an essential process and a re-establishment of the European economy after the present war.

He makes the important observation that such organs can avert, or at least lessen, any post-war crisis in connection with the transition from a war to a peace economy.

He thinks that "no one nation must enrich herself at the expense

imported by the Soviet Union and also will be accepted in exchange for currencies of other countries. He states this will not affect the present currency within the Soviet Union.

This is the basis for his whole outlook. On this basis rubles will have an international value, and goods that the Soviet buys can be paid for in rubles because they will have a gold and an international backing.

ner allies. Money expenditures after the war must be distributed according to the principle of proportionate burdens."

Professor Atlas concludes with a plea for long-term credits for the re-establishment of the economy of the countries that have suffered from the war.

The key to the whole article is at the conclusion, where the professor discusses Soviet currency. He says that the Soviet Union currency deposited in international funds will have a fixed gold content, which is now five rubles and thirty kopeks to one American dollar. This currency, in contrast to past practice, will be accepted by other lands as payment for goods