

APR 25 1945



Your Dollars And the War

*They May 'Yowl a Little,'
But It's a Meeting of Minds*

By Sylvia F. Porter

San Francisco, Apr. 25—The old, time-honored reporting trick of playing up a fight and playing down an agreement is being carried on to such extraordinary lengths at this United Nations Conference that you well might wonder how any workable world organization could come out of this mire of distrust, jealousy, basic antagonisms, etc.—but in the name of realism and common sense, don't be fooled.

A charter for a world security organization will be written during this parley of 46 nations. And every delegate with whom I've spoken in the last few days agrees that it must be and will be written.

Compromises will be reached on the knotty problems which confront these representatives of "big" and "middle" and "small" nations, even if the compromise on some of the issues takes the form of postponing a decision until a later conference or until the world organization itself meets and can go into specific details. And the big as well as the lesser powers recognize that, as Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee said yesterday, "none of us will get exactly what we want."

The Polish question is a nasty one, true, for it hits at the heart of power politics. But it has been blown up out of all proportion to what is supposed to be at stake here.

This is not a conference to rule on Poland's future or to discuss Russia's strength on the continent or Britain's fear of a great, industrialized Soviet Union or our apprehension over our prestige in

world affairs. It's a parley to write a framework for an organization which will be able to help in solving those and equally difficult problems over the coming years.

This conference doesn't have to define the prestige of each nation to the last "T" and shouldn't, under any circumstances, try to. Once it has set up a world organization and made it sufficiently flexible and fundamental to work, it can hand over the details to other conferences.

The danger—and it's an immense one—is that we're getting the impression that a small rock may halt the passage of a giant ship. And we're ignoring the fact that the rock can be removed or at the least, ground down.

IT'S NEWS WHEN MEXICO'S foreign minister, Ezequiel Padilla, says Mexico will suggest 28 amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and the Latins indicate they'll battle for permanent representation in the World Security Council and ask for more recognition as a continent.

So, the emphasis is on the substantial disagreement of the Latin American Republics with the Dumbarton Oaks plans.

It's news when the Netherlands' foreign minister, Dr. Eelco Van Kleffens says the Netherlands will offer seven amendments to the proposals and the so-called middle countries make it clear they want a special classification.

So, the emphasis is on the unpleasant distinctions and delicate prestige problems involved in distinguishing between top, middle and lower states.

But this is preliminary stuff.

This is the sort of "ask for a lot and you'll get a little" bargaining that characterized the Bretton Woods Conference at the start too.

And it's a way of bargaining that is as familiar in every American home as in a United Nations Conference.

Actually, the area of agreement on the Dumbarton Oaks plans and the principles involved is amazingly broad—much broader than existed when the delegates of 44 nations sat down at Bretton Woods agreement last July to work out a highly technical financial agreement.

THE INTENT AND GOOD will of the delegates at this parley form the crux of the whole structure. No organization will be worth the paper it's written on unless the peoples belonging to it respect it, are devoted to its aims and are determined to make it function properly.

No organization could come out of this conference unless the representatives here really want one. And that's where the statements being made by the delegations are significant and make sense. For instance: In addition to saying he would offer amendments, Van Kleffens added that the Netherlands would "bow to the inevitable" on the problem of the Big Five's veto power in the security Council.

And Padilla answered a question on the place of regional agreements with the sentence, "we will leave world problems to the United Nations and will fit our system into the global organization."

Compromise and postponement of many specific problems are to be expected out of this parley. Once that is realized, the extent of agreement and disagreement assumes appropriate proportion.

IT WOULD BE NAIVE even to think of a new world order arising out of this. But today's meetings can be a starting point.

Perhaps one guide both the peoples of the world and the delegates here might use would be our own U. S. Constitution. The simplicity and flexibility of that basic document make it great.