

Pathfinder

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Eggs In Two Baskets

At the opening of the current meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, Secretary of State Acheson proposed the establishment of a permanent U.N. "peace patrol."

This is designed as the nucleus of an international army, envisaged five years ago by the U.N. Charter but never made a reality because of Russian obstruction. The Acheson plan now seeks to get around this difficulty by transferring power to raise the proposed army from the Security Council, where Russia can block with the veto, to the Assembly, where no single government can obstruct so easily.

There is a great deal of confusion because simultaneously our Department of State is pressing vigorously for the establishment of a Western European army, to contain both German and American divisions. But the reason for the two parallel, though wholly separate, plans is clear.



Korea has shown how ill prepared the United Nations is to stop aggression. The defense of Korea is nominally a U.N. responsibility. But 98% of the effort, and an equally high percentage of "United Nations" casualties, come from the United States.

The State Department seeks to prevent any such one-sided arrangement in the future. Therefore, Secretary Acheson proposes *first* an international peace patrol, and *second* a United Nations army which would be prepared to put down aggressive action before, rather than after, it takes place.



The peace patrol would be little more than an impartial group of observers, ready at any moment to fly from the New York headquarters of

“UN Peace Patrol”

U.N. to any trouble zone, in planes that would be constantly in readiness.

The U.N. army, empowered to make the findings of this patrol effective, would not be centered in any one country. But governments that are members of the U.N. would designate certain of their military units for service whenever the need should arise. Thus Belgium—as an illustration—might have one regiment, and transportation sufficient to move it anywhere from Belgium, constantly earmarked for possible U.N. service.

The plan is ingenious, but has the obvious and fatal deficiency of being subject to Russian sabotage.

As a key member of the United Nations, Russia can scarcely be excluded from the proposed peace patrol. If that patrol flies off to Timbuktu or anywhere else, the Russian observer can readily follow Malik's formula—insisting that the aggressor is the victim and the victim the aggressor.

Then the whole Acheson plan would bog down, as the Security Council was bogged down by Malik during August.

The fear of just such an outcome has been strengthened by the fact that Russia is raising no objections to the Acheson plan. The Kremlin apparently does not take it seriously.

