Meeting twenty-one sponsors held this morning to discuss developments and particularly Indian draft res.

Secy recalled that he and others had welcomed any suggestions consistent with fundamental principle non-forcible repatriation of FWs. Referring to various developments and suggestions, Secy stressed three essential points any proposal must meet:

1. Clear and categorical affirmation principle non-forcible repatriation;
2. Any commission or other machinery must be workable and designed to determine expeditiously attitudes of FWs;
3. FW problem must be disposed of in brief period following armistice with FWs having real choice of either going home or otherwise being released.

Stressing last point in particular, Secy pointed out that in true sense there would not be forcible repatriation if only choice given to FWs were to go home or remain in indefinite captivity. If this were only choice given to FWs be noted, it would require use of force to transfer FWs to commission, which we could not agree to do. Secy also explained that disposition non-repatriates is not serious problem. Koreans, who constituted larger portion of FWs, could be assimilated in Korea; Chinese would be free to go anywhere, with UN offering them care as refugees until they were in fact resettled. Secy cited as example Palestine refugees in which UN was caring for much larger group.

If large numbers these Chinese wanted to go to Formosa he saw no reason why they should not. Armistice agreement provides that they would not again participate in Korean conflict. If there is risk they might be enrolled in Chinese Nationalist Armies, there is far greater risk that Commies will enroll in their armies the many more thousands FWs returning to them.

Referring
SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

2- DELGA 202, November 17, 10:30 p.m., from New York

Referring to tactics, Secy said that in general we have two
alternatives—either to amend our own res, drawing it
useful suggestions from Indian or other proposals, or to
amend Menon res to make it acceptable. He indicated preference
for first course, since it would be easier to maintain and hold
majority for our draft than for process of amending someone else’s

With exception of Canada, sponsors did not at this meeting dissent
from Secy’s analysis on essential substantive points. Canada,
however, thought that it might be desirable to go along with
Menon’s final paragraph which would obscure disposition of
non-repatriates and let time dispose of that problem. While no
one else publicly supported Canada, staff believes, on basis
private comments made previously, that this suggestion will
probably find some support, at least from France and UK.

Several other dels, notably French, following Selwyn Lloyd’s
lead, took line that except for final para Menon draft Indian
res generally acceptable.

Denmark, however, also stressed importance of composition and
workability of commission, and Norway reminded group that Sweden
and Switzerland said they would not serve unless functions of
commission clear and workable. Towards close of meeting Secy
spoke again in reply to Canada, emphasizing that final para is
heart of Menon proposal and India vld probably agree to change it.
He stressed that this para entailed greatest possible danger and
problem of disposition of PWs is not one which time will cure.
Secy reiterated that if PWs have no future other than indefinite
captivity, they will forcibly resist being sent to commission.
He pointed out also that concept of indefinite retention is
monstrously creating impossible practical problems which commission
of kind Menon contemplates could not possibly resolve or handle.
Result will be that armistice will be worthless. For with continuing
explosive PW situation UNR will have to keep all its troops in battle
position with ever present danger resumption hostilities over this
qust. He stressed in strongest terms that prob is not to find words
that obscure issue but to solve PW prob definitively on humanitarian
basis.

On tactics majority of sponsors who referred to problem thought
it would be better to make necessary amendments in Indian res
than to amend and push through twenty-one power proposal. In
addition to UK, France, and Canada, countries like Turkey took
view that Indian res might have better chance of being acceptable
to Communists and that it would be better to have Russians vote
against an Indian res than against ours.

It was decided establish working group consisting of US, UK,
France, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, and Turkey to
consider resolution as finally introduced by India today, and
explore possibility of amendments which might make it acceptable.
(India was added at France’s suggestion.)
SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

-3- DELGA 209, November 17, 10:30 p.m., from New York

In general meeting disclosed strong desires most other deals to go to great lengths to meet Indian initiative, in hope that this might lead to armistice or at least to unanimous non-Communist support for GA action.

We intend in working group meeting tomorrow, Nov 18, to present as working paper revised Menon res set forth in GAEL 57 as revised at meeting with Johnson and Secy over weekend, with view to having working group report to sponsors on Nov 19.

ACHESON

MAM: RNG