

If it is reasonable for the United States to desire strategic bases in Newfoundland and the British West Indies, it is equally reasonable for the Russians to desire strategic bases at the Straits and unreasonable to expect them to depend on the good graces of the Turks, however good those graces may be. Britain, holding strategic bases all over the world, cannot grudge the Russians the right to protect the seaway to their greatest industrial and agricultural area, the Ukraine. Fifty years ago the Russians would have been content, and secure, with Russian garrisons at the mouth of the Bosphorus; now the zone extends, as the result of the advent of the aeroplane and the submarine, from Constanza, in Rumania, to the Dodecanese Islands, at the outer edge of the Aegean.

In the event of the Straits coming under the exclusive control of Russia, then no doubt Britain will retain exclusive control of the Straits of Gibraltar and the Suez Canal. If the Straits are internationalised, then the exits from the Mediterranean must be internationalised, too, for co-operation in joint undertakings inevitably lessens strategic barriers. The Montreux Convention of 1936 which left to Turkey the sole responsibility for the custody and defence of the Straits had the strong approval of Russia at the time. Now that Russia has made out a case for the revision of the Montreux system, the correct remedy would appear to be joint custody on behalf of

the United Nations rather than a bilateral arrangement as between Russia and Turkey.

The recent outburst by Field-Marshal Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson, chief of the Joint British Staff Mission in Washington, that "I cannot see why there is talk of security by Russia and all the demands for bases unless she is bent on territorial gain", was unfortunate and has been frowned upon by official circles in London. There have been sharp words from the Russian side, too, such as the allegation by the semi-official newspaper, "Pravda" that the Powers of the West were endeavouring to form an anti-Russian bloc. The published text of the letters from Mr Churchill to General Franco fortunately gave that assertion the lie direct.

There has been ample evidence since the war ended of differences of outlook between Russia on the one hand and Britain and the United States on the other, with France sensitively pushing her own case to the fore, but there can be no room for suspicion on either side when the security of the entire world depends on fruitful co-operation. And in the Mediterranean as much as in any other zone to which the outcome of the present international deliberations will apply the task of making peace must be pursued with the same united purpose as brought victory in the war.

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## PACIFIC AIR SERVICE

Landplanes will replace flying boats on Pan American Airways' San Francisco New Zealand service which will be resumed in the near future. The route will be much the same as that followed before the interruption of the service. Flying time will be 36 hours

and the fare £37 sterling plus any Government Travel Tax. Douglas D.C. 7s or Lockheed Constellations will be used, the former carrying 100 passengers and the Constellations 60 in addition to mail and baggage.