

The United Nations appears to be up against another duplication in the cases of Indonesia and Israel - the two ~~cases~~ curiously similar.

Today the Netherlands government announced that it would obey the U. N. cease-fire order -- obey, that is, on January first. This was immediately called -- unsatisfactory. The obvious fact is that the Dutch have obliterated the Indonesian Republic, and are now merely mopping up. That process should be fairly complete by the end of the week, new year. In other words, the Netherlands agrees to obey the cease-fire order -- after military operations have been successfully carried out.

In the case of Palestine, the Security Council today issued a stern order to Israel - to cease fire in the Negeb, and begin negotiations for an armistice at once. This followed a British charge -- the fact that forces of Israel have invaded Egypt, have crossed the border and pushed deeply into Egyptian territory.

The accusation is denied by Israel, a

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statement from Tel Aviv declaring that fighting is virtually over in the Negeb, the Jewish forces having achieved their objectives. All of which makes it seem likely enough that Israel will obey the order to cease fire -- just as the Dutch in Indonesia are doing. Cease fire - after military operations have been completed.

SOVIETS

From London we have what purports to be the inside story - behind the Truman statement of a few days ago. The President saying - that in the Moscow Politburo there is a faction that wants to come to an agreement with the United States. The London Daily Mail publishes a Stockholm dispatch which tells of what it calls - " a battle for power in the fourteen - man Politburo, which has been going on for months. "

The story relates that, among those fourteen top Soviet leaders, there are four who want to come to an agreemtn with the West - advocating a switch of Soviet policy. They are said to believe that the Soviet-Communist cause can be served best, right now, by the more quiet methods of diplomacy and persuasive propaganda - not by the present method of rough pushing and aggression.

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In the Daily Mail story, the four are named. One - Stalin himself. Another, Maley^{sk}kov, who occupies the all-important post of Secretary of the Central

Committee of the Communist Party, and who is often named as a possible successor to Stalin. Third - Mikoyan, Minister of Foreign Trade. Fourth - Kosygin, who has just been named Minister of Light Industry. The Moscow Radio announced his appointment today, and it is believed he is to be a sort of trouble - shooter, trying to do something about the poor quality of Soviet goods, especially ~~Textiles~~, about which there has been much complaint of late.

So those are the four who are named, and they are headed by Stalin. But there are ten other members of the Politburo, among whom must be the advocates of the present harsh, aggressive policy against the West. We may note that among those ten are Molotov, the Foreign Minister. and - Beria, Head of the N. K. V. D. the dreaded Secret Police, the Ogpu.

We don't know how much there may be in this London version, but it is given as the fact behind the striking statement made by President Truman - Peace Party in the Politburo.

ITALY

The news from Italy tells of Economic agreements reaching out both to the West and to the East.

East, meaning of course - behind the Iron Curtain.

In Rome, they ^{are} ~~are~~ working up a customs Union with France. And Italian Delegation has been ordered to meet tomorrow at the foreign office, for final discussions, then to proceed to Paris, for talks with a French Delegation. Object - the formation of a customs - union for the closest kind of economic tie between Italy and France.

But the most interesting is the Iron Curtain angle - Soviet Russia to open trade offices in Italy, the first since before the war. Under an agreement concluded recently in Moscow, the Italian Government today authorized Soviet trade offices in the four largest Italian cities, these to negotiate with Italian Industry for the purchase of Industrial products.

~~Still more to the point~~ ^{TP} Economic negotiations ~~are announced~~ with Jugoslavia ~~in Rome today.~~ ^Q government

spokesman declared ^{that} that talks are on which promise to develop the strongest tie thus far between a Western Power and an Iron Curtain country -- if Tito of Jugoslavia still is behind the Iron Curtain.

This follows a striking declaration by the Communist dictator - who on Monday told his parliament that Jugoslavia is turning to the West for goods it cannot get behind the Iron Curtain. Tito is, of course, at odds with the Soviet sponsored comminform, and ~~now~~ he claims that the comminform has clamped on a virtual boycott against him. Hence ^{he} has to turn to the West.

What to do about Tito, the Rebellious Red Satellite, is a problem. Shall we deal with him, when he remains a Communist Dictator - though in revolt against the Soviets? ^{seems} Italy ^{to} be not at all perplexed, the Rome government entering into prompt negotiations with Tito for a development of Commerce between Italy and Jugoslavia.

Yesterday, Tito's Under Secretary of Foreign Trade had a conference in Rome with Foreign Minister

Count Sforza, and today a report was awaited from an Italian Trade Mission in Jugoslavia.

~~There are all sorts of friendly signs. Tito is releasing thirty-eight Italian fishing boats and three hundred and forty fishermen - seized for trespassing into Jugoslav waters. Even the question of Trieste, which both Italy and Jugoslavia claim, is being negotiated in an amicable spirit.~~

It may be that Italy is giving the practical answer in the puzzle of Tito, the Rebel behind the Iron Curtain.

SUBSTITUTE BATAAN

Tonight General Jonathan Wainright says - that he has never had any criticism for General Edward P. King. This follows the disclosure today that General King ~~XXXX~~ surrendered to the Japanese, in spite of an order from General Wainright.

The story is told by Dr. Lewis Morton, Chief of the Historical Division of the Army's Pacific Section - in an address to prominent fellow historians at Seattle. It all happened at the time when the American defense in the Philippines was coming to an end. General Wainright had his headquarters on the Island of Corrigidor, while the remaining of the American troops on the Bataan Peninsula was commanded by General King. Wainright ordered King not to surrender. But he did.

The Army historian puts it in these words: "When King saw the situation was hopeless, he ignored

the order. King " he goes on, "expected to be censured after the war, but never was" with this. General Wainright now agrees, saying tonight -- "that there was little choice for General King. To which Wainright adds -- "why can't we bury the past?"

The page in history revealed today includes a story of mutiny. When General Wainright, himself, was forced to surrender at Corrigidor, the Japanese insisted that this must include the American forces in other parts of the Philippines. So Wainright radioed a surrender order to General ~~Sharp~~ William F. Sharp, who commanded in Mindanao.

General Sharp, however, had already ordered his forces to spread out for guerrilla warfare. And, when he ~~obeyed~~ obeyed the Wainright order, and told his troops to surrender - there was mutiny on Negro Island. When the Japanese came to round up ~~the~~ prisoners.

More than ninety percent of the American forces had disappeared -- taking to the hills.

Tonight there is comment on that likewise -- comment from Colonel Roger Hilsman, who commanded on Negro Island. He says the story of the mutiny is true, but that only Philippino soldiers were involved. The Philippines militia refused to obey the surrender order and disappeared in the hills -- many to fight the Japanese as guerrillas.

JAPAN

Here's news from Tokyo which makes us paraphrase Brett Hart and ~~say~~ ^{say} -- "The heathen Japanese is peculiar." The dispatch tells of a new religion creating a stir in Nippon, the religion of - "The honorable water God." It's a cult for those who are ill, and has a ^{it} ~~sign~~ ^{slogan} which reads: "Mortgage your sickness."

The way it works is most ingenious. The ailing worshipper takes his malady to the shrine, and there makes out an I.O.U - for the amount he figures it would cost for treatment by a doctor. By virtue of the I.O.U. he owes money to the honorable water God, and makes out a mortgage for the amount, naming his illness as collateral for the mortgage. That is, he hocks the malady from which he suffers.

The way it works is illustrated by a copy of a mortgage which reads: "I hereby place my toothache as collateral for the above sum of one thousand yen, to be paid back by the beginning of next year. In the event that I am unable to pay back this sum, I agree that you may confiscate my toothache."

So you see the idea. The believer never does pay the money, and the water God confiscates the toothache. If you believe it, they say it works. The director of the shrine of the honorable water God declares "In this way, thousands of men and women have been miraculously cured."

~~Well, I've heard of many a kind of mortgage, and I never thought that foreclosure was anything to cheer about. But I sure would like to mortgage that cold and touch of laryngitis I get every once in awhile, and have the honorable water God take it away.~~

Winter?

POPULATION

The Census Bureau reports -- a-hundred-and-eighty-four million, that many people in the United States in Nineteen Forty-eight. At the same time, the figures for employment reached an all-time high - nearly sixty-four million people on the job, earning wages. Similarly, Nineteen Forty-eight showed a record number of industrial establishments in this country - two-hundred-and-eighty-five thousand. Which represents an increase of one-hundred-thousand over the census for Nineteen Forty - that many more plants and factories employing people.

At the same time an ominous note is sounded by a group called "The Population Reference Bureau", which ^{now} places the total number of inhabitants of this earth at two-billion, two-hundred-and-fifty-million. And states that only about seven-hundred-and-fifty million ^{can} ~~could~~ be supported at the high standard of living enjoyed by the people of the United States.

The global population ^{now} is increasing at the rate of two-hundred-million every ten years -- an example of how modern ways are eliminating the old processes

that used to cut down population increase. According to the figures - *- we have a fact* a growing problem of global over-population.

tonight the London newspapers are reminding the public that British Central Africa, now an area twice the size of the United States, where no cattle can be raised - because of the Tsetse fly, which causes sleeping sickness. Otherwise, that area would be ideal for ranching.

But now they have - streptocide, a chemical developed after five years of research by the Imperial Chemical Industries. It is a white powder, which is easily administered to cattle by hypodermic injection - and does no harm. It merely renders them immune to the Tsetse fly and sleeping sickness.

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DRUG FOLLOW SATELLITE

In Britain, they are having a scientific headline tonight -- the London newspapers putting out streamers in their morning editions. They are announcing a drug that promises to turn a vast area of central Africa into one huge cattle ranch.

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But now they have - antrycide, a chemical developed after five years of research by the imperial Chemical Industries. It is a white powder, which is easily administered to cattle by hypodermic injection -- and does them no harm. It merely renders them immune to the Tsetse fly and sleeping sickness.

The belief is, that as a result of antrycide there will be more cattle in British Central Africa than there are now in the Argentine, which has thirty-three million head. So no wonder the British tonight are describing the new drug as -- "one of the greatest scientific achievements of our time."

SATELLITE

(These days are becoming fantastic, with all those new ideas of science. So fantastic that now we have Secretary Forrestal announcing - an "earth satellite vehicle program") This comes with the publication of Forrestal's first annual report as head of Unified National Defense. He states that all three branches, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, are engaged in research for the "earth satellite vehicle program."

But what does it mean? That is the fantastic part. ~~of it~~. We have heard about notions of shooting rockets to the moon; ~~but~~, the armed forces ~~are~~ ^{not} working on ~~that~~ -- we are not likely to be at war with the moon. These schemes ~~is~~ ^{is} still more remarkable - based on the theoretical possibility of shooting a rocket into outer space, until it is beyond the gravity pull of the ~~the~~ earth. (The rocket, according to theory, would ~~then~~ circle)

the earth as a satellite.)

But why should the Army, the Navy and the Air Force bother about anything to astronomical? Well, the idea is, that a rocket ^{revolving} ~~revolving~~ around the earth as a satellite, would be such as to obey radio signals. At a certain point, it could be made to plunge to earth, and hit an enemy target - a sort of astronomical guided missile.

We are told that toward the end of the Second World War the Germans were working on a weapon of that kind. Recently, publications of the armed services have been discussing the scientific aspects of the idea, and now we have the fantastic dream-like proposal put forward by the Secretary of Defense -- an "earth satellite vehicle program."

SUB WEATHER

Reno was shaken again today, more than twelve hours after that first sharp earthquake made things rattle in western Nevada and northern California. Tonight Reno residents are nervous, afraid that the ~~qu~~ quakes indicate a sharper jolt still to come. The earth was cracked in a couple of places, one a crevice ~~XXXXX~~ across U.S. highway Number Forty, another ~~XXXXX~~ near the Donner Trail.

ROOSEVELT

The Faye Emerson Roosevelt mystery came to an official end today, with a verdict by the District Attorney at Poughkeepsie, New York. He announces: "I found there has been no violation of the law. Investigation terminated, matter closed."

This decision was issued after District Attorney Vincent Grady had questioned Elliott Roosevelt about the razor blade cuts on the wrist and finger of his actress wife. Elliott Roosevelt repeated the story we had last night from Faye Emerson. That on Christmas she reached into a medicine chest for aspirin, and cut her wrist on a razor blade. Then, handling the razor blade, she cut her finger.

The Sheriff at Poughkeepsie had intimated that the cuts were self inflicted, after a family disagreement. Faye Emerson went to a hospital, taken by her husband Elliott and brother-in-law Franklin -- and no report was made. Which might have indicated a violation of the law. But all that is now rejected by the District Attorney - case closed.

This afternoon Elliott Roosevelt told the reporters that the affair had received a lot of publicity, and he hoped there would be, what he called "equally large headlines on the District Attorney's findings today." Well, radio has no headlines, not in a literal newspaper sense. So all I can use is an emphatic tone - case closed!!

THEATRE

Tonight we have a report from what might well be called - a barometer of prosperity. At New York's Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Center, New York, ~~th~~ they have the customary ^{lost} and found department. Rockefeller Center is a mecca for tourists from all over the country, and the lost and found department is nationwide in scope - people from everywhere leaving all sorts of things behind.

The report is that articles of clothing are not quite so new and expensive as they were. Handbags and purses contain a little less money. Jewelry - not quite so much, or so expensive. That's the barometer, which says that the big prosperity has slumped off a bit - though not a great deal. The boom has merely moderated a trifle.

~~But the oddities and twisters remain as peculiar as ever.~~ There's a decline in objects lost, because fewer sailors are around at the moment. Sailors are always losing things, because of the shortage of pockets.

Surprising how few people return and ask about

things they have lost. ~~Only about twenty per cent of watches and jewelry found in the theatre are ever claimed.~~ A couple of years ago, twenty-four thousand dollars in jewelry was found in a coin purse. ~~The loser never appeared and~~ Finally the police department turned the small fortune over to the usher who had discovered it. ~~in the first place.~~

One of the commonest of articles left behind is - women's shoes, a crop of these collected every day. You would hardly believe that a lady would walk out of a theatre leaving one shoe behind, and never miss it. But they do find - one feminine shoe. More often, its a case of a single child's shoe - suggesting the picture of a youngster dragged along by Mama, and leaving one shoe behind.

Finding a pair of women's shoes is a commonplace - but that doesn't necessarily indicate a lady walking out in her stocking feet. We are told that women sight-seers from out of town often arrive with two pairs of shoes, a dressy pair and a comfortable pair. They wear the smart high-heeled-variety to the theatre, and

then, inside, change over to comfort. Then, absorbed by the dramatic romance of a picture, they forget all about the shoe situation, and walk out - leaving the dressy pair under the seat.

Well, I have a suggestion to make. At the end of the show they could throw a big sign on the screen, reading, "Ladies -- don't forget your shoes."

Nelson -- anything else the ladies shouldn't forget?