

INDO CHINA L.T. - Delco. Fri. Apr. 29 - '55.

The Government of Premier Diem seems to have won -- the battle of Saigon. At last reports, the rebels had been driven out of the city -- onto an island in the river.

The second day of the battle was featured by a sweeping offensive of loyalist forces. -- soldiers advancing behind a heavy barrage of mortar shells. Rebel headquarters -- destroyed, by shell fire. Strong points, one after another, shattered.

The fighting, today, went on from six in the morning until two P.M. Casualties -- heavy. ~~One~~ ^a whole square mile of the "Paris of the Orient" swept by flames.

The Government victory was won in spite of orders from the Emperor Bao Dai. That absentee sovereign remains on the on the French Riviera -- a playboy monarch who doesn't go near his imperiled kingdom of ^{Southern} Viet Nam. But, from the Riviera, he cables his imperial commands, in one of which he →

instructed Premier Diem to make an armistice with the religious - political sect which ~~is~~ is in revolt. The ~~PREMIER~~ Premier refused, and ordered an all-out attack to crush the rebellion.

Later, Bao Dai sent an order - telling Premier Diem to give up control of his government and g join Emperor on the Riviera, for consultations. But that command also was defied by Premier Diem, who cabled back - that his presence was needed in Saigon. Adding that nobody, including the playboy Emperor had the authority to replace him.

Word in Washington is, that our government will continue to back Premier Diem. In Paris, French Premier Edgar Faure said: "The government at Saigon is no longer equal to its task." But the American State Department refuses to go along with that.

FORMOSA

The Nationalists on Formosa announce - their warships bombarded Red positions on the Mainland, just across from Matsu Island. A Naval squadron steamed in, and hurled a hundred shells. "Several artillery positions were destroyed," says the communique.

Meanwhile, a Nationalist official ~~restated~~ ^{says} that the Chiang Kai Shek regime will not, in any way, try to block cease-fire talks ~~between~~ between the United States and Red China. The Nationalists oppose any such negotiations. . Saying -- the Americans will soon learn that the Communists are "insincere." But the Chiang Kai Shek people won't obstruct.

In Washington, the word is -- that the United States is considering the possibility of moving U.S. ground troops into Formosa. Not in any great number -- just a token force. We, already, have a jet squadron based on Formosa. Which, according to the report, might be joined by a contingent of Army G I's.

The purpose -- to bolster Chinese Nationalist morale -- and offset opposition to a cease-fire in the Formosa Straits. American ground troops on Formosa ~~is~~ would be -- a further U.S. commitment. *Which would please* ~~to assist~~ ^{the} Nationalists -- ^{and} ~~making~~ them more agreeable to an armistice.

(We hear ~~that~~ the project was discussed in the talks, just concluded, between ^{the} Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, and American representatives. ~~These latter, Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Assistant Secretary of State Walter Robertson.~~)

CHOU EN LAI

A dispatch from Formosa gives us a biographical sketch - of the Premier of Red China, Chou En Lai.

One feature - as old as the hills, and always a popular element in a story - Chou En Lai - a fanatical Communist, because of an unhappy love affair.

This comes from a sister-in-law of the Red Premier. Madame Chou En Chou - who in nineteen-thirty-one married a half-brother of Chou-En Lai. The younger brother's name Chou En Chou - in other words - Joe - Joe, I hope I'm not Joeing this into a joke!

Then in nineteen-forty-nine, the sister-in-law fled Communism, after the Reds had executed her father. She's now on Formosa - an anti Communist, working with the Nationalists.

You'd suppose the Premier of Red China might have come from a family - poor and oppressed. But not at all. The sister-in-law says that Chou En Lai's father was immensely wealthy and the Red Premier reared in the lap of luxury.

But he fell in love with a girl he met at school, and wanted to marry her. Romance, however, didn't work that way in old China. Marriages were arranged by families, and the girl's parents had contracted for her to make another marriage. Into which - she was forced.

The young Chou En Lai -- bitterly disappointed. So, as a reaction, he ~~xxxx~~ threw himself into Communist activity. Rising -- until he is now, a figure to be reckoned with in this troubled world.

AUSTRIA

Soviet Russia sprang a diplomatic surprise in Vienna today - at a meeting of the Four Power Control Conference. The Soviet High Commissioner got up, and proposed -- that Austria be permitted to form an air rescue force. Something badly needed in a country - where mountain villages are constantly threatened by great snows and avalanches.

Hitherto, the Soviets had opposed any such thing. Austria -- forbidden to have aerial equipment of any kind. But now the Red High Commissioner suggested that the Austrians be allowed to purchase and operate five light planes and five helicopters.

British High Commissioner Sir Geoffrey Wallinger spoke up and proposed -- that Austria be granted "full air sovereignty." Including the right to operate commercial air liners.

Previously that would have drawn a propaganda blast from the Russians. Today -- not at all. The Soviet High Commissioner smiled, and said: "The

question of Austrian air sovereignty should be placed, at once, on the agenda for 'consideration and study'."

Another example -- of how the Communist powers, at the moment, are talking softly.

The left is a member of the Christian Democratic Party -- the following of that party. There is a report on favoring the inclusion of leftists in the new cabinet. Nothing -- the left wing Socialists to be taken in. They are allied with the Communists at present. Gromov's warning -- that, if they were in the Government, it would break their way from the Communist alliance.

Ernst Grosse, himself a Christian Democrat, was against the election of Grosse as Minister. He had his party disorganized his office. He was... strength... by an... minister. Six... hundred and thirty-eight -- out of eight hundred and thirty-three votes.

ITALY

Italy has a new President -- Giovanni Gronchi (Gron-kee). Chosen, today, at a joint session of the two Houses of the Italian Parliament. The decision -- on the fourth ballot, after two days of wrangling.

Gronchi is a member of the Christian Democratic Party - the Left Wing of that group. He's on record as favoring the inclusion of Leftists in the Rome Cabinet. Wanting - the Left Wing Socialists to be taken in. They are allied with the Communists at present. Gronchi arguing - that, if they were in the Government, it ~~might~~^{may} break them away from the Communist alliance.

Premier Scelba, himself a Christian Democrat, was against the election of Gronchi as President. But ~~his~~ his party disregarded his advice. Result -- Gronchi elected by an overwhelming majority. Six-hundred-and-fifty-eight -- out of eight-hundred-and-thirty-three votes cast.

ATOMIC

The big atomic show postponed again.

But the weather prediction indicates - that unfavourable winds will continue.

The newsmen are giving the jinxed explosion an ironical name. Officially it's named "Operation Cue". They are calling it "Operation Mis-Cue".

DOCTORS

J The Administration told Congress today that an extension of the Doctor Draft is -- needed to give members of the Armed Forces proper medical care. The law, under which physicians are conscripted, is opposed by the American Medical Association which calls the law "repugnant". Claiming -- doctors are being drafted to do too many non-military things, like delivering babies.

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Today, Assistant Army Secretary Hugh Milton told the House Armed Services Committee: "It is my belief that this extension is absolutely necessary at this time." *J*

VACCINE

The report on the polio situation is -- that the total number of children attacked, after being inoculated with the Salk vaccine, is now nineteen. Which figure is to be compared with the total of those vaccinated.

Today, The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis announced a figure of -- three million two hundred and seventy thousand. That many children -- inoculated in twenty seven states, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. Obviously, the percentage of polio cases is -- minute. Nineteen -- to more than three and a quarter million.

In Washington, the Department of Justice issued a warning against any "collusion or price fixing" in the sale of the Salk vaccine. Attorney General Brownell said -- that the Department is keeping a close watch on the distribution of shots. If necessary, federal controls may be imposed -- by act of congress.

"I am in favor of such legislation, and will

go along with it," says Attorney General Brownell.

Meanwhile, **The investigation of the vaccine produced by the Cutter Laboratories is going on.**

DESERT

At Albuquerque, New Mexico, there's a scientific meeting -- most appropriate to that part of the country. Six hundred specialists -- attending the International Arid Lands Conference.

Today, they were discussing questions of desert plants, which can help or harm. The general agreement was that the best chance ~~to~~ ~~change~~ ~~better~~ is to improve desert plants. Instead -- of trying to introduce new types, and adapt them to arid conditions.

An illustration was provided by Dr. O.S. Amodt, ^{of} the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He told of a sheep-herder in ~~in~~ Tunisia, on the edge of the Sahara Desert. Who -- developed a kind of cactus without any thorns. And -- grazed his sheep on these. During a year of extreme drought, he kept his flocks in good condition without additional food or water. Nothing more -- ~~is~~ than the thornless cactus.

SHERIFF

Here's a situation for a Hollywood western -- unless the movie people have already used it in some thriller, or other.

At Lincoln, Nebraska, Deputy Sheriff E. E. Clark is retiring, at seventy one. ~~After forty-eight years of chasing law breakers.~~ (He dates back to the old West, and says: "I can't remember when I didn't carry a gun."

Today, he was reminiscing, and ^{told} ~~tells~~ of a tight spot, years ago. That situation - which would be a thriller in a western.

There was a desperado, who had killed two men and wounded another in a shooting affray. Sheriff Clark arrested him, and took his guns away -- a character so dangerous the arrest in itself was an exploit. But, the spine-tingling thriller came when a mob appeared -- a lynch mob. They ~~had~~ demanded the prisoner, intending to string him up.

Sheriff Clark refused, ^Tthe mob threatened him.
So what did he do? He ran a bluff.

He told them - he'd give the desperado his
guns back. And added: "Then you'll have to come
and get both of us."

That was too much -- the Sheriff, plus the
dangerous killer shooting it out.

Attention -- Roy Rogers.

PROFESSOR

There's a brave professor, named Herbert Ratner -- who teaches preventive medicine at Loyola University. In Chicago, he gave a lecture on mental health -- attended by married couples. ^{gn} The hall -- ~~full of couples,~~ with a formidable array of wives.

The Professor looked the ladies in the eye and said: "No wife should require a husband to ~~wash~~ wash the dishes." Unless he volunteered ^s ~~it~~ he should ~~not~~ ^{not} be asked to touch the dish pan or the dish towel.

The Professor went on to explain that some women try to turn their husbands into "assistant wives." And added: "Why should a woman try to make a second-rate woman out of her husband?"

Some of the ladies glared at the Professor. And one ~~of them~~ asked: "Why should I have to wash the dishes?"

"Because, it is your job" the Professor replied sternly.

Well, that's a brave man -- but today, my secretary made the remark: The professor's behind the times. A husband should buy ^{for} his wife a dishwasher. ~~the last word - n. i. order.~~