

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

San Francisco last night, Washington, D.C. tonight. And only last Friday broadcasting from Guam, nine thousand miles away. It's a world in motion. At any rate, I've been in motion. And tonight here in Washington everybody is talking about the announcement the President has just made.

President Truman today accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Stettinius. He accepted it in a way to increase the prestige of the retiring Secretary of State. Stettinius becomes the American delegate to the Council of the United Nations of the World. This the President calls the highest post in the gift of the government.

President Truman in a letter, just released, points out that when he assumed the leadership of the

nation on the death of President Roosevelt, Secretary Stettinius presented his resignation -- as did the other cabinet members, according to custom. The new President asked Stettinius to stay in office during the San Francisco conference, and in that capacity represent the United States in the drawing up of one of the charter of the United Nations. Stettinius agreed to this and thereafter the President suggested to him that he could be of the highest national service if he, after presiding over the draft of the charter, were to act as American delegate in the council of the United Nations; and Stettinius agreed to that.

So today, the arrangement was put promptly into effect. Last night the signing of the charter was completed and President Truman with a formal address, closed the San Francisco conference. And today he accepted the resignation of the Secretary of State.

In today's disclosure the President announces that Stettinius will not accompany him to the forthcoming meeting of the Big Three in Berlin.

It has been previously stated that Stettinius would -- just as he had gone along with President Roosevelt to the Yalta conference with Stalin and Churchill. However, Stettinius' view is that he will be needed in Washington during the time when the Senate is deliberating its approval of the United Nations Charter. He thinks he should be on hand, ready for consultation with the senators -- if need be.

The President will name a new secretary of state next Monday or next Tuesday, and the immediate guesses are that he will appoint his old friend, former Supreme Court Justice Byrnes. This has been rumored repeatedly -- Byrnes having been a close adviser to the late President Roosevelt.

These headlines emanate from a small town in Missouri - Independence. That's the Truman home town, and the President was there today -- renewing acquaintances with old friends. The folks of Independence has a great time everybody calling the President Harry. And he replying with Jim or Joe, Mary or Annie.

SUCCESSION

President' Truman's plan to change the presidential line of succession was okayed today by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. This was the first Congressional step in the business of enacting a law that would make the Speaker of the House of Representatives the next in succession to President Truman -- instead of Secretary of State.

All of which is the more interesting as Secretary Stettinius resigns and the President picks a new Secretary of State. His main argument in proposing the change in the line of succession, was that he didn't want to be in a position of selecting his own successor -- if anything should happen to him.

TRUMAN

One reason I was pleased that my return from the Far East came at the time when the San Francisco Conference was in its closing hours, was that I wanted to see and hear President Truman. The last time I had seen and talked with him was ~~xxx~~ when he was still just another United States Senator, head of the Truman committee. And I had never visualized him as President.

I had hoped he would speak early yesterday afternoon so I would be able to devote most of my broadcast to it. But, it didn't work out that way. And before boarding a plane I went in and listened to the final speeches, the wise and impressive one by the aged South African Field Marshal Smuts, the one by the Handsome Saudi-Arabian Prince, in sonorous Arabic that no one could understand, and above all the address of the President of the United States.

Mr. Truman more than lived up to the advance billing he has been getting, the word that I've been hearing about him right round the world. He is a far better speaker than he used to be. Something

must have happened to him. It was a warm, friendly speech that completely won the delegates from the fifty nations and the rest of the crowd that jammed the San Francisco opera house. He had poise. His voice was well modulated. He had change of pace. His gestures were natural and appropriate. What he had to say was right in every way, just right, without seeming to overdo it. And his smile and genial manner, well, in that assemblage which included several hundred distinguished men from nearly all the countries of the globe, Harry Truman of Independence Missouri, stood out. It was his day. All of which was a pleasant experience for a wanderer returning home from far countries.

JAPAN

We have no American confirmation of the Japanese story of the latest American invasion -- landings on the island of Kume, that bit of land west of Okinawa in the direction of the China coast. But the conquest of Kume would place the seaborne Americans at their nearest point to China thus far.

Tokyo thinks that the reported attack on Kume may mean preparations for an American drive to the China coast -- the a preliminary to the invasion of Japan which the Japs anticipate so nervously. Tokyo propoganda today was switching its guesses back and forth from Japan to China as the next probably American objective.

Tokyo states that fierce fighting is in progress on Kume. It's a tiny bit of land nine miles long and the miles wide. Our forces, while concentrating on the conquest of Okinawa, are seizing a whole string of small islands in the Ryukyus -- and it may be well that the American command wants Kume to bolster Okinawa as a major base.

On that island so bitterly won, General Stilwell today assumed command of the United States Tenth Army, which conquered Okinawa. Vineger Joe presided over a flag-raising ceremony within twenty yards of the grave of the Japanese Lieutenant General who lost the island.

The Jap commander and his chief of staff had committed suicide in a formal ceremony of hari kari; going through all the traditional ritual, their bodies found later in a shallow grave near their command post where their soldiers had made a last stand. And today at that former Japanese command post the American flag was araised by General Stilwell who of all our military has had the longest years of experience with Far EEstern military affairs.

AIR WAR

The latest B-29 raid, about which we heard last evening, set enormous fires at a great Japanese center for the manufacture of aviation fuel. Today's report pictures the giant refinery as one enormous torch blazing high. And none of our planes were lost.

And new objectives for the B-29s may be indicated by a Tokyo report today which tells of superfortresses over Hokkaido. That's the northernmost island of Japan, far to the north, across from Soviet Siberia. The B-29's in their deepest penetration of the skies over the Japanese home islands are scouting Hokkaido. So says Tokyo, with intimations that the northern island may soon become a target for bombing.

MILITARY FIGURES

Even if we haven't unified command yet in our war with Japan, no overall commander like General Eisenhower who did such a masterful job of coordination in Europe, the impression I brought back from the Pacific is that we have a highly competent group of leaders running that war. Take General Al Wedemeyer, in China, formerly one of General Marshall's right hand men in Washington, in the months that he has been there he has made a favorable impression not only on the Chinese and on our Allies in general, but also on our own people, who by the way, if they have been in Asia for some years are hard to please. As for MacArthur, his campaign right up from Milne Bay to Manila, is already being called a classic -- the way he bypassed and outguessed and fooled the Japs, and the way he and General Kenny managed so many landings without any losses on the beaches.

Then going North to the islands nearer Japan, I was fortunate in being able to meet and see something of all our top commanders there, Admiral

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Nimitz, who without a doubt is one of the most inspiring naval leaders in all our history; General Stilwell, who was turned round in Mid-Pacific when on his way home and ordered to take command of the forces on Okinawa; and General Arnold, who in addition to being Chief of the Army Air Forces is himself in command of the Twentieth Air Force that has been blasting the industries and cities of Japan.

I saw an item in a Paris paper when I was in Germany a couple of months ago, an item saying that General Arnold had been ill. Well, he too arrived in San Francisco this week, having flown 45,000 miles in twelve weeks. And that's an all time record for any military leader. During that time, he was urging his airmen on to greater efforts. He did this in those closing weeks of the war with Germany; and recently he has been doing the same thing in the Philippines, the Marianas, the Bonins - at Iwo Jima O at Okinawa, and all over the Pacific.

His energy, his drive, and his enthusiasm. seem

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SEE^m boundless: seeing his bomber and fighter groups off on missions, interrogating them in person upon their return, finding out how the fliers are taking it, what targets they had hit, what opposition they encountered, how they felt, and what if anything they wanted. And all the time driving the idea home to every man he met, whatever his branch of service and whatever his rank, that he has only one aim, to lick the Jap, to do it as quickly as possible, and get our boys home.

A commanding general who covers a global war to the extent of 45,000 miles in twelve weeks, and who keeps driving and pushing himself and his men, in the way that General Arnold has been doing, well, you have to be plenty rugged to do that.

GENERALISSIMO STALIN

Stalin has a new title -- Generalissimo. Today the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet awarded to Stalin the title of "Generalissimo of the Soviet Union." There is one other Generalissimo, as we all know, out in China -- Chiang Kai-shek. And now -- Generalissimo Stalin.

Well, that's all very stately for the old time Bolshevik, who for so long was just Comrade, Touvarish, as "Comrade" Stalin he ruled Soviet Russia. As war leader he acquired the title of -- Marshal. And now -- in victory -- Generalissimo of all the Russians.

FRAU X

A common term for a woman of mystery is -- Madam X. But in this case we have Frau X. That's what the news dispatch calls a woman in Norway who is high in the councils of Allied military intelligence. She plays a dramatic part in the hunting out of Nazi War Criminals. She points them out -- putting the finger on them. Her identity is a closely guarded military secret. She wears a black hood to conceal her face, and is merely called -- Frau X. But it is believed that she is a German anti-Nazi -- who, during the enemy occupation of Norway, made it her secret task to gather information about Nazi atrocities.

The situation in Norway right now is a strange anomaly. Most of the German forces of occupation are still there. They have surrendered, but still retain their weapons, and are under the command of their officers. The reason is simple. The Norwegian forces are small, and the Allies have sent only a handful of troops to Norway. The Germans are awaiting evacuation back to their own country, but that proceeds slowly.

The result is that there is a German army of

half a million, which we could easily overwhelm, the Norwegians, British and Americans. But the surrendered Germans are docile, dissillusioned. And Allied intelligence officers go through their ranks and pick out Gestapo and storm trooper war criminals. This they do with the help of Frau X.

The woman in the black hood goes along lines of Germans, looking at them closely, and every so often she points a finger. Whereupon the Nazi thus picked out is hustled away to prison.

For example, Allied Intelligence recently caught an arch war criminal named Hans Zeidler. He was commander of an infamous horror camp at Grini. They called him the Grini Gorilla. When the surrender came the Grini Gorilla dropped out of sight. Passing himself off as a corporal of the German air force, he tried to lose himself in the mass of prisoners of war. Frau X, in her black hood, took one look at the supposed-to-be corporal of the Luftwaffe and said -- "That's the Grini Gorilla."

DISCHARGE POINTS

Here in Washington tonight we have official word about the lowering of discharge points in the Army. Members of the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives state that within a few weeks there will be a decrease in the number of points required at present needed for the discharge of soldiers from the Army. The number required is eighty-five. That will be lowered to seventy-eight or eighty.

However, there will be no change about the release of family men and medical and technical students. All the congressmen report that there has been "tremendous pressure."

FRENCH WOMEN

American soldiers were under attack in France today. They were assailed -- were under fire. The G.I.'s over there have been under fire in many a battle, facing the cannon and machine guns of the Nazis. This time the barrage may hurt them more than German shot and shell -- may hurt their feelings. They are being bombard@d by the criticisms of French women. It appears that ~~Mad~~ Mademoiselle and Madame are disappointed in the American G.I. They admit he is brave in battle, but claim he is not so good in romance. The trouble would seem to be caused by that much abused institution -- the American movies. From Hollywood screen productions Mademoiselle and ~~Mad~~ Madame derived their ideas of Americans -- thought of them as great lovers, heroes of motion picture romance. And G.I. Joe has failed to live up to the Hollywood standard of the sentimental hearthrob.

Today a Parisian magazine stated the case of the French women, and made the charge that the G.I.'s talk and laugh too much and too loudly. They don't go in ~~for~~ for that soft phrase and refined laugh, with intervals

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of tense emotional silence.

Today's news dispatch from Paris summarizes the complaints in these words: "The Yanks are unable, except in the movies, to pay a refined charming and sentimental courtship to the ladies of their choice.

In addition to the charges made by the French ladies, there's an accusation lauched by the French gentlemen. They complain that the American soldiers are a bad influence on French girls -- teaching them to "Chew gum and talk through their noses."

As for the gum-chewing, well, all right, but as for teaching the French to talk through their noses, whatever else did they do? Pardon, Lyons, Longchamps, and Vive La France. Or, am I giving that a Chinese touch? Well, it's tough luck about G.I. Joe and Mademoiselle, isn't it Hugh? I leave such matters up to you. And So long until tomorrow.