

MASARYK

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(Today brought one of the most dramatic actions in the history of diplomacy. At the United Nations, the chief Czechoslovak delegate filed a complaint against Soviet Russia - for the rape of Czechoslovakia.

After the Red seizure of that country about 2 weeks ago Jan Papaněk stayed on as chief delegate for Czechoslovakia at the Security Council of the United Nations. So, when he acted today, he was the official representative of his country - and of its Communist government. Which featured a dramatic angle, almost without precedent, I suppose - as he filed his protest, charging that Soviet Russia had instigated the Red seizure of power, which installed the present Communist regime *government in Prague.*

(This happened a few hours after the news broke - the suicide of Foreign Minister ^{Jan} Masaryk of Czechoslovakia, son of that famous Masaryk, revered as the father of Czechoslovak independence. When the Reds grabbed the government at Prague, Foreign Minister ^{Jan} Masaryk stayed on -

(as did President Benes, another liberal of renown.) How could they endure it? We wondered at the time. How could they endure being the servants of the Communist tyranny? Well, Jan Masaryk couldn't - and he took the tragic way out.

Today in ^a ~~the~~ United Nations Committee room, ^{at} Lake Success, New York, Chief Delegate Papanek called a news conference. His voice choked with sobs, as he told the newsmen of the action he had taken. Foreign Minister Masaryk a suicide - ^{and} Papanek couldn't endure it any longer either. So he had filed an official Czechoslovak protest with the Security Council, charging that Soviet Russia had instigated the Red seizure of power, using fifth column tactics and a threat of force. ~~Surgeon~~

~~In his complaint to the U.N., ^{Papanek} he cited the fact that Deputy Foreign Minister Zorin had arrived in Prague shortly before the Communist coup - and when a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister comes to a satellite country, that means a decision. According to the Chief Delegate of Czechoslovakia, Zorin brought the Moscow order - seize power. The order was obeyed by the Czechoslovak~~

And that's a threat to the peace of the world, according to Chief Delegate Papanek - which is the reason he gives for filing a protest with the United Nations.

But ~~TRYGVIE~~ Trygvie Lie, Secretary of the U.N. refused to pass the dramatic complaint of the grief-stricken Czech delegate, to the Security Council for consideration. Trygvie Lie ~~feeling~~ that Papanek's letter was a communication from a "non-governmental organization", and as such could not be placed on the Security Council's docket. It will be pigeonholed at U.N. headquarters, and be available for examination by U.N delegates on request.

Newsmen asked Papanek, after he had read his statement, whether he considered himself as spokesman for a government in exile.

"In exile?" echoed Papanek bitterly "That depends on the other members of the United Nations.

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The fate of Czechoslovakia is in their hands. I
can no longer postpone my duty to my terrorized,
silenced and enslaved people."

The suicide of Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk has produced worldwide repercussions. Today in Washington, officials of the United States government were shocked, and the British Foreign Office echoes a similar sentiment. The sombre news from Prague is taken as another indication of how impossible it is for one of liberal ideas to live in the world of tyranny behind the Iron Curtain. But other opinions are likewise expressed - was Foreign Minister Masaryk really a suicide? The only definite news is ^(now) the announcement made by the Red government in Prague - that Masaryk threw himself from a window to his death, and that the Red Regime is paying him solemn funeral honors.) The latest - he was immediately succeeded today by a Communist Foreign Minister.

There were instant surmises - that Masaryk

had been murdered, surmises voiced in government circles in Washington, the State Department, and in Congress. One of those to express doubt about the official story is Congressman Karl Stefan of Nebraska, who was born in Czechoslovakia. The death of Masaryk, in the words of the Congressman - "Could just as easily have been murder." To which he added: "The Kremlin has never stopped at murder." ^R So here we have a hint of a sinister international mystery, which was echoed today by the Czechoslovak Consul at San Francisco - a nephew of President Benes. He said, "I can't help thinking this is very strange. It's almost the same thing that happened to the Minister of the Interior, ^{DETIWA} ~~Detina~~. Which refers to the fact that last week the Foreign Minister who had served in the coalition government before the Reds took over, was reported to have jumped from a window in a suicide attempt - gravely injured.

So what's ^{is} the real truth - amid all the ^{is} suspicions of Red murder, not suicide? Today, trying to procure some

information that might give a hint, ^{I telephoned} ~~I called~~ one of this country's foremost diplomats, who occupied important posts in Europe for years. He was a friend of Foreign Minister Masaryk, and what he ^{said} ~~told me~~ gave me a shock of revelation. ^{TP} He said that last fall ~~approximately~~ he had Masaryk for dinner at his home - that was when the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister was last over here, attending the General Assembly of the United Nations.

"I noted," ^{the} prominent American diplomat told me, "that he seemed very dejected. So much so that at dinner Masaryk said: 'I ought to commit suicide - ~~but~~ I would if I had the courage.'"

This was long weeks before the Reds grabbed the government in Prague - but, all the while, Masaryk was becoming involved more and more in the toils of the Reds. He had gotten into the toils - when, during the war, Soviet Russia was given control over Czechoslovakia, and Masaryk believed he could collaborate with the Soviets, and preserve the freedom of his country - in partnership with the Reds. All he had got was bitter disillusion, forced to play the Communist game,

compromising
involving himself more and more, surrounded by Red ~~tyranny~~ *conspiracy*
and Red espionage. The American diplomat with whom I spoke today told me that at the San Francisco conference, where the United Nations Organization was formed, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister found himself dogged by Soviet spies, who had dictaphones placed in Masaryk's hotel room - that in San Francisco.

Well, he was the son of one of the great figures of liberalism in Europe, himself a liberal of international renown. Even before the Soviet-inspired-Red seizure of his country, ^{he} ~~she~~ *saw what* ~~was~~ was coming. Which impelled him to say what he did at the New York dinner table - that he ought to commit suicide, and would, if he had the courage. Then came the Communist coup, and he went along with it for a couple of weeks - then found the courage. That would seem to be the real story of the tragedy - the sombre bit of table talk in New York being dramatic evidence in what some are regarding as a sinister international mystery.

I myself crossed Masaryk's trail from time to time - especially on lecture tours in this country. In recent years he did a lot of speaking over here. Masaryk traveled the length and breadth of the United States as a Number One protagonist of the doctrine of freedom, liberal democracy. We had the same lecture manager.

The last time I saw him was at a dinner where Vishinsky spoke. It was at the time when the statesmen of the world were over here for the General Assembly of the United Nations, and an association of foreign newsmen, entertained a number of them at dinner. At the table for the guests of honor sat the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Vishinsky. A few places down the line from Vishinsky sat Masaryk - and the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister looked as dejected as if he then surmised what the future would bring.

FOLLOW_MASARYK

The latest is a scathing statement by Secretary of State Marshall. Commenting on the death of Foreign Minister Masaryk, he declared this afternoon that conditions in Czechoslovakia now constitute what he called - a reign of terror.

Freedom suppressed! Civil rights abolished! - and this latest Red aggression makes the world crisis worse than ever. Secretary Marshall, describing the state of international affairs, used the words - "very, very serious."

MARSHALL PLAN

In the Marshall Plan debate, Senator Taft of Ohio stated today that he would support a move to cut the European Recovery Program to ~~about~~ four billion ~~dollars~~ for the first year. Senator Vandenberg, Number One Republican protagonist of ^{the} a by-partisan foreign policy, is ~~making~~ fighting for the total of five billion, three hundred million - which ^{was} ~~is~~ okayed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. There's a congressional group, the revisionists, who want to slash the Marshall Plan, and now they have the support of Senator Taft to the extent of a cut of one billion, three hundred million.

The latest, Vandenberg driving for a vote by the weekend.
~~Meanwhile, the debate drags on, the latest long blast of oratory being from Senator Glen Taylor Idaho, who is running for Vice-President on the Henry Wallace Third Party Ticket - both the Senator and the Third Party ~~is~~ being altogether against the Marshall Plan for stopping Communism in Europe.~~

POLITICS

(At Milwaukee today, a MacArthur-for-President rally was called - a rally of six states, to whoop it up next week. The method of boosting the boom will be to organize MacArthur-for-President clubs.) National Chairman ~~Lansing~~ Lansing Hoyt stated ^{ling} today that such clubs ^{right now} exist ~~already~~ in twenty-two states - and the idea will be extended to every state in the Union.

Meanwhile, there's a MacArthur-for-President move among the veterans, although it's not exactly what you might think - or would you? At Chicago today, a group of former G.I.'s established an organization to be known as - "Veterans against MacArthur." The same thing is true at Harvard, where fifty-seven students published an advertisement today in the Harvard Crimson, the under-graduate newspaper. These collegiate veterans declare that they all served in the Pacific theatre of war under the command of General MacArthur, and they are organizing to oppose his nomination on the Republican ticket.

On the other hand, here's the opposite - Veterans for MacArthur. In Wisconsin a veterans' organization today joined the MacArthur-for-President boom, announcing - "We're for him a hundred per cent." They are former doughboys of the First World War, who served in the Rainbow Division - which General Douglas MacArthur commanded. In a letter, the President of the group says he has heard rumors that a lot of G.I.'s are opposed to the presidential drive in behalf of the supreme commander at Tokyo. To which he remarks: "We of the Rainbow Division, veterans of World War One, cannot understand why."

~~XXXXXXXX~~ WEATHER.

The weather is making news tonight - bad news. The coldest weather of the winter in the Middle and Southwest -- and it's been a mighty cold winter already. Now a great blizzard - whipped by a forty-five mile ~~xxxxxxx~~ wind is sweeping down from Canada. Northern Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas already struck. In Western Kansas one third of the highways blocked - schools closed - emergency measures being taken to preserve fuel. All this with Spring but ten days ahead.

Stockmen in the Leoti region of Kansas - that's about forty miles from the Colorado border - report that their cattle are "drifting" -- the herds running away from the snow, in zero temperatures. When cattle "drift" they don't eat, and so if these herds can't be located, the cattle will die.

In part of Missouri, sixteen inches of snow, the Mercury below zero. At Kingman, Kansas, dust

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blowing with the snow, threatening the winter wheat. From Buffalo, Oklahoma a report that this storm is "the roughest blizzard in twenty-five years."

And the weatherman has bad news. Still colder weather on the way, says he. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ An unforgettable winter making its last freakish kick with a furious March blizzard.

FAN MAIL - LAKE

I'm getting in deeper and deeper - sinking in that lake in Louisiana, drowning virtually. ^{Recently} ~~From~~ a radio friend in Michigan ^{sent me} ~~I received~~ a correction - in verse, saying that I had mispronounced the name of that noble body of water. So I apologized to the radio audience - and the lake. Now, however, along comes a letter from John Kent, a fellow newscaster of New Orleans - and he should know. He corrects the correction, and also puts it in rhyme - as follows:

"The people here are up in arms
In cities, hamlets, towns and farms,
You'll get to be an also ran,
If you keep saying Pontchartrain.
That guy from Michigan is inane,
You're right L.T., it's Pontchartrain."

By this time I'm ready to call it - Lake Erie.

MAID

This next bit of news is for ladies who have had trouble with help in the household. You know, the maid who never dusts off the bureau and the cook who breaks the handles off the expensive China teacups. So shed a sympathetic tear for Sir John and Lady Rigby over in London. Sir John and Her Ladyship hired a new maid, and here's what happened:—

Over a weekend, while the family was away, the maid gave a party, and served Sir John's champagne. They drank up bottle after bottle of Sir John's best vintage. The next day, the maid threw another party, and this time her preference was for Sir John's rare old port. Sir John prides himself on the excellence and antiquity of the port in his ample cellar. He had a lot less, after the big weekend celebrated by the maid and her friends.

The climax came when the maid called in a jeweler, and asked - how much would he bid? The articles she offered for sale were Lady Rigby's diamonds, emeralds and rubies - the family heirlooms.

That brought about the downfall of the festive maid - the police called in. They investigated, and here's what they found. She is a former cabaret dancer, who was released from prison only three days before Sir John engaged her.

So it's another sad story about the household help, all the more melancholy because of the remark that Sir John made when it was all over. He shook his head, sighed regretfully, and said: "She was really a wonderful cook."

Poor Sir John. She Nelson let's shed a tear for ~~the~~ Sir John.