

BIG FOUR L.I.-P.H. Friday, June 15, 1951.

The Western powers gave their answer to Soviet Russia today - in the question of a conference of the Big Four. (Great Britain, France and the United States, in identical notes, challenged Moscow to join in a meeting of the foreign ministers in Washington, July twenty-third - without further argument.)

The dispute is, of course, about the agenda - the subjects to be discussed. (The Soviets want to include the North Atlantic security pact and American bases in Europe. The Western powers disagree. Today they told Moscow - the Soviets could bring up those questions, if they wanted to. But we will not have them put on the agenda in advance.)^R Which might seem to be a distinction without a difference - but actually, there is a difference.

The agenda would consist of topics that menace world peace. So, if the security treaty and the American bases were put on the list, it would be an admission that they are a threat to world peace. Which Moscow charges, and which we do not admit.

The argument in today's note is that the deputy foreign ministers in Paris, trying to arrange a high level meeting, have reached agreement on enough points - to make possible a conference of the foreign ministers of the Big Four. Which puts it up to the Soviets - do they, or do they not, want an international get-together in the hope of easing the world tension?

An immediate preliminary answer -- is, they do not. The joint note from the West was handed to Moscow deputy foreign minister Gromyko, in Paris today, and he said at once -- this changes nothing, it adds nothing to what the West has been saying all along. However, the official answer will have to come from Moscow.

KOREA

The story remains the same in Korea. Allied forces advancing everywhere, against little opposition. In one place after another, U. S. armored columns thrust ahead, up to four miles today - with little fighting. One force of tanks is within nine miles of Kumsong, the new headquarters for the Chinese Reds. Which places U. S. armor at a considerable distance above that Iron Triangle, recently captured.

The general picture is one of the Reds in full retreat, with only scattered rear guard actions. American officers believed the enemy is trying to construct a new defense line to the south of Pyongyang, the Red Korean capitol. If so, they're helped by the weather - which is wet. The U. N. advance has to be made through oozy, gummy mud, - ^{with} ~~and~~ rainy skies are holding down air activity.

DESTROYER

At the port of Sasebo in Japan, Navy experts today were studying a jagged hole in the hull of a U.S. Destroyer. What did the damage? That's the sinister question.

Last night we . . . now the destroyer Walke had been damaged by an underwater explosion, with a loss of twenty-six lives. Probably the destroyer struck a mine -- or was it the doin^g of an _^ underwater torpedo?

The damaged warship was on its way, under its own power, to a Japanese port. ^{And} Today -- in dry-dock, ~~and~~ experts began a survey.

Near the stern of the vessel, the steel plates, three-quarters of an inch thick, are torn and ripped, folded and twisted -- as if it were a tin can. Seems hardly likely that a mine could have caused the devastating damage -- especially as the destroyer was travelling at high speed, which would tend to wash any mine away from the stern of the ship.

Torpedoed? A hit registered by a hostile submarine? The experts declare officially that they don't know what it was, no

way of telling. ^{But they point out that a sub should} ~~The language is cautious, cryptic.~~ have been spatted by the detection apparatus aboard the destroyer. The language is cautious.

DESTROYER--2

They refer to the thing that hit the destroyer as -- the
"unidentified object." Giving the whole thing a turn of
mystery.

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BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, JUNE 15.--(UP)--THREE MEN WERE KILLED AND THREE W
WHEN THE MINESWEEPER THOMPSON WAS HIT BY ENEMY SHORE FIRE YESTER
OFF THE EAST COAST OF KOREA, THE NAVY ANNOUNCED TODAY.

MORE VV624


(Today's testimony in the MacArthur hearing brought ^a ~~the~~ sharp attack on the state department ~~and~~ and its Far Eastern policy.)

The witness was former Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, who, after a feud with Secretary of State Acheson, was fired by Pres. Truman.

(Today Louis Johnson, ^{former Secretary of Defense} charged that the State Department was out to "destroy" Nationalist China. He said he himself was continually smeared because he tried to ^{procure} ~~secure~~ American aid for Chiang Kai-Shek on Formosa.) He declared that in December, nineteen forty-nine, he presented a plan to dispatch a military mission to Formosa; - but what he called "political pressure" from the State Department, caused the joint-chiefs-of-staff to turn it down. Last month, the mission was finally sent to Formosa.

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Along another line of testimony, the former secretary of defense declared that Russia's best bomber is an inferior version of the American B-29, and that the United States has "thousands" of better bombers.

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Meanwhile, at San Antonio, General Douglas MacArthur was continuing his appearance in Texas.



He hurled a blast at Secretary of ~~State~~ State Acheson - whom he did not name. But he referred to the Acheson explanation that the State Department had belittled the importance of Formosa, as a propaganda move, in case Formosa should fall to Reds.

MacArthur declared : "We have , indeed, reached an astounding concept of morality, when an official estimate, such as on Formosa- is now stated to be false and to have been intentionally publicized in order to mislead public opinion."

The MacArthur address was made to a crowd of fifteen thousand Texans, assembled in the Plaza before the Alamo, shrine of Texas independence. Under a blazing southwestern sun, the crowd gave him a tremendous ovation.

Later news - The investigating committee in Washington has invited MacArthur to return for another round of questioning.

It looks as if there'll be a maritime strike on the East and gulf coasts. In New York today, companies and unions, who have been negotiating vainly, gave up hope of avoiding a walkout at midnight. The shipping companies have asked President Truman to invoke the Taft-Hartley law to prevent a tie-up. - which the President says he will not do.

RAILROADS

In Washington today, the chiefs of three big railroad unions called a meeting for June twenty-seventh - and that's taken as a sign of an approaching end of the railroad labor dispute. Officials of the Brotherhoods of Locomotive Engineers and Locomotive Firemens, and the Order of Railroad Conductors are called upon to vote on terms which they had previously rejected.

The argument began two years ago, and came to a climax with a strike threat -- which caused the government to seize the railroads last August. They've been run by the Army every since, although you might never guess it - - the military control being more or less nominal.

Last month the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen broke away from the other unions, and accepted a pay increase that violated the ceiling on wages -- but it was okayed by the wage stabilization board. So now signs are that the Engineers, Firemen and Conductors are prepared to accept -- in a settlement that will bring an end to government control, the railroads returned to the companies.

NARCOTICS

Those evil disclosures of the horrors of dope are stirring action in Congress. Today, the ways and means committee of the House recommended a drastic increase in penalties imposed on drug peddlers. Those vicious criminals would be given sentences up to twenty years, with no possibility of getting out before the full term is served.

The committee notes the alarming disclosures of drug addiction among the school children of New York - the nauseous revelations at the hearings ordered by Gov. Dewey. So what kind of punishment has hitherto been inflicted on sellers of narcotics to teen agers ? The average last year was about twenty-three months in jail - and many second and third offenders were placed on probation, enabling them to go ahead with their evil trade. Which impels the congressional committee to say: "It appears urgent that steps be taken to increase the penalties."

So the proposal is for sentences of from two to five years for drug peddlers convicted of a first offense. Five to ten - for second offenders. Ten to twenty years in prison for third offenders. That - with no probation or suspended sentences, no way for those most contemptible of criminals to get out before serving

a full term. All of which sounds just and proper -- except that it may still be not enough for the sellers of dope.

In New York, today, the police began a series of raids, and rounded up twenty-one peddlers of drugs. One squad of detectives raided the swanky home of a dancing teacher, an expensive luxurious apartment on Central Park West - and there they found a large supply of narcotics.

BAPTISTS

The Baptist church has a new head -- elected today as the president at the American Baptist Convention. Dr. Kenneth ~~xxxx~~ Latourette, a prominent professor at Yale, becomes the leader of nearly one million, six hundred thousand Baptists, with more than six thousand churches - in thirty-two states. This does not include the Southern Baptists, who have a separate organization.

Church attendance is not too good, according to a report made by the convention. Only forty-two percent of the members of the Baptist church attend services regularly. Twenty percent go to church only at Easter, Christmas, or some other special occasion. Nine percent don't go to church at all. Looks as if something were needed to stir up that old Sunday-go-to-meeting spirit.

FIRE

The tragic figure from Montreal is at least -- thirty-two. That many lives lost when a fire swept a home for orphans, aged and the blind. There were more than three hundred in the building when the blaze broke out, and swept like a tempest.

The news dispatch tells of heroism by Franciscan Nuns, and the children appear to have been got out to safety -- but many of the bed-ridden were trapped.

VOLCANO

Word comes through of a devastating volcanic eruption on an island off the African coast. A fire mountain exploding - with a violent blast of flame and smoke, and a deluge of white hot lava. The island is Fogo, in the Cape Verde group-- off the western bulge of Africa.

The Cape Verde islands are volcanic in origin, and Fogo is just one mass of ancient lava, cast up from the depths of the earth. The volcano is tall, rising ten thousand feet. The crater is actually double, the present one lying within a still older crater. The volcano has been active at various times, and the name of the island is appropriate. Fogo -- being Portuguese for fire.

In the present explosion, there ^{was} heavy damage to coffee plantations. Two villages wiped out - and, in one case, the escape of the inhabitants was cut off by a river of incandescent rock. Boats have been sent to take off the villagers, herded on a beach -- trapped by the white hot lava.

SCIENCE

Scientists are heading north -- anthropologists bound for Point Barrow, Alaska. There they will seek evidence of -- the first American.

It is a Harvard expedition, sponsored by the Navy -- to test the familiar theory that man first came to America from Asia; From Siberia -- across the narrow waters to Alaska. Or, maybe there was a land bridge at the time. So early human remains should be found along ^{and near that} the route -- fossils of the ancestors of *the first the Indians, as far up as Barrow, up near the Pole.*

There have been previous expeditions to ^{western and south-} that same general *western Alaska.*

area. In nineteen forty-eight, there was extensive scientific research in the Aleutian Islands. The result was negative -- indicating that prehistoric migrations to America did not come by way of that island chain. So now they are trying another sector, *farther north along the Polar sea.*

Point Barrow seems odd - at the northernmost tip of Alaska. Any migration from Asia going that way would have swung far to the north. But that is where the Harvard anthropologists are going -- seeking evidence of the first Americans.

WILL

We have heard of many a strange will, many a curious last testament bequeathing an estate. But you never heard of anything stranger than this one. A seventy-one year old spinster leaving more than a million dollars -- and one provision is for the money to go to saloonkeepers. Why? To promote the drinking of liquor.

In Los Angeles Miss Nancy Alma Livingstone was wealthy, and we don't know what inspired her to so strange an idea. But her will, now entered for probate, states that she had what the will calls -- "A good family reason for this request." May be some weird family argument.

The testament names nineteen relatives and friends -- as heirs to the million bucks. But suppose they don't want the million? Sounds unlikely -- but here's the way the will reads:

"In case any bequest is refused, it is to be given to some saloon keeper's society fund - for the promotion of liquor drinking."

How do You figure that out -- *at* the strange bequest by the seventy-one year old spinster?