

MIG

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1953, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

General Mark Clark today made a Dramatic offer -- one hundred thousand dollars for a Mig. Our Commander-in-Chief offered that much money to the first Communist pilot who brings in a Russian built jet plane. After the first one, the offer is -- fifty thousand dollars per Mig.

And the Red Pilots will be given political sanctuary, with a chance to live in some Western country.

The offer was made today by radio broadcast and in leaflets dropped by air.

Chinese and North Korean pilots were told what procedure to take -- to get through the network of American planes, so that they might fly safely to allied air bases in Southern Korea.

Fifty thousand dollars for each Mig brought in, with a special bonus of fifty thousand more for the

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first one.

One purpose -- to make a study of the jets the Reds are flying in Korea. We've shot down a lot, but always over enemy territory. Recently, in Europe, an officer of the Polish Red Air Force flew a Mig to Denmark, where it was examined. But this is believed to be a different type -- not the same as the Migs flown in Korea. A couple of years ago, the Navy fished up an enemy jet, shot down in the sea, but that one was believed to be -- an earlier type.

The Migs that our pilots now encounter, are faster than the U.S. saber jet, and have a steeper rate of climb. The saber jet is armed better, and probably our pilots are more skillful, anyway, we shoot down many more of theirs -- than they do of ours. But we'd like to get hold of those faster, steep-climbing Migs, and study them.

The second purpose of today's dramatic offer is - psychological warfare. Last year, a U.S. air officer made the suggestion which is outlined in a United Press dispatch. Now, our command over there has adopted it -- as a means of shaking morale in the Red Air Force. The idea being - that enemy pilots may be tempted to take advantage of the offer. Which will make them uncertain of each other, arousing suspicion.

It has been noted that, on the ground, fights have occurred between enemy detachments - when one tried to make its way across the line to surrender. Same idea for the air. A Red squadron leader might be afraid that he might be shot down by his own pilots -- who might want to earn the fifty thousand, or one hundred thousand dollars, and gain freedom in the West.

General Mark Clark's move today sounds as if it might be quite a stroke of psychological warfare.

KOREA NEGOTIATIONS

Word from Korea is that there's likely to be a compromise in Armistice negotiations - in spite of the fact that Allied representatives today rejected proposals made by Communists.

At Pan Mun Jom, scene of the exchange of prisoners, the truce ~~talk~~ talks have been resumed. We proposed Switzerland -- as the neutral country to take charge of prisoners of war who don't want to go home.

The Reds rejected Switzerland, and they may propose -- India. The word from Pan Mun Jom is that our side would, probably, accept India. That is, in return for some concession to be made by the Communists.

The real point of disagreement lies in a time limit suggested by the Reds, in proposals handed to our negotiators at Pan Mun Jom, they said they wanted prisoners, who refuse repatriation, to be placed in the hands of a neutral nation for six months. After

that, the status of those who refuse to go home, would be settled by a political conference. Our objection is that the Reds might drag out any such political conference. They might keep it going indefinitely. Which would mean, the prisoners would find themselves in -- endless captivity. So they might consent to go home, just as a way of getting out of prison camps.

The belief is that the Communists will make concessions. Today, Lieutenant General William H. Harrison, Senior, U N delegate, stated:- "There is no real basis for assuming that the Communists will not negotiate in good faith."

The next session of the truce talks begins at eleven A.M. tomorrow. Which according to our time, is tonight.

PRISON-ILLNESS

Nearly every American soldier liberated by the Communists -- suffers from malnutrition; so states an American examining physician.

"These men", says he, "have been living mainly on a diet to which they are not accustomed." The former prisoners, themselves, say they were fed mostly on Rice, the common food of the orient.

One American soldier tells how he made a recording praising Communism. Private Robert Philpot of Morgansville, West Virginia says he was ill, and that was the price of getting into a hospital for treatment.

"I asked the fellows in my battalion about it," says the soldier, "and they said, to go ahead, if it would get me treatment." so he made the pro-Communist recording.

He says that, in the camp where he was, about twenty Americans collaborated with the Reds and got special privileges. One, a soldier from Indiana, tried to convert others to Communism.

GIRL-PRISONER

Liberated prisoners of war are making their folks at home.

The news is telling of the joy, when a mother, wife, and other members of the family talk to a soldier over there, who has come back from captivity;

But there is one G I who seems to be in for a disappointment. This morning, a dispatch from Tokyo stated -- there would be a marriage proposal by trans-pacific telephone. Corporal Lionel Peterson, of the Marines, told the News men -- he was going to pop the question to Miss Odana Stenerson of Black River Falls, Wisconsin. He was pretty sure he'd be accepted.

That bit of news was promptly taken to the young lady at Black River Falls. She was disconcerted. She's now engaged to some other guy. Marriage scheduled for May ninth. She says that when the phone call comes from Tokyo, her answer will have to be -- "No."
Well, it's an old story -- the girl I left behind. Sometimes she has other ideas.

MILITARY

From Washington, a graphic picture of the huge magnitude of our military program -- and the drain on the economy of this nation. Roger Eyes, Deputy Secretary of Defense, puts it in these impressive terms:-

"The Army, alone" says he, "has now on hand, or on order, goods having a value greater than the total of all inventories, in the hands of all manufacturers, of all things, within the United States."

He adds, that the money spent by the Army and Air Force, this fiscal year, will equal or exceed the total net income of all farms, and the expenditures of the Navy will ~~exceed~~ exceed three-fourths of the total farm income.

"The Armed Forces" he adds, include three-million-five-hundred thousand military personnel and one-million-five-hundred thousand military personnel and one-million-three-hundred-thousand civilian employees -- equal to the combined populations of Boston, Chicago, and Dallas."

SECURITY

President Eisenhower has ordered new security tests for all government employees. He signed an executive order today, abolishing the old loyalty program begun by President Truman in nineteen-forty-seven. That one was designed to rid the government of disloyal persons. The new Eisenhower program has the same purpose, but would also get rid of individuals whose personal habits might make them careless with government secrets.

HISS

The supreme court today rejected another appeal by Alger Hiss, former state department official now serving a prison sentence - on charges connected with communist espionage. The high tribunal turned down an appeal two years ago, after which Alger Hiss tried it again. Claiming, that former Communist Whittaker Chambers, who testified against him, constructed a fake typewriter with which he turned out incriminating documents. The typewriter was a prominent feature in the conviction of Hiss.

The supreme court rejected this appeal today without explanation. Three justices did not vote. Frankfurter and Reed, who were character witnesses for Hiss at his first trial, and justice Clark - who was attorney General when the case began.

IRAN

In Iran, two members of the Parliament, the Majlis, are accused of being involved in the murder of the Iranian chief of Police. His body was found over the weekend, strangled to death, and the government immediately attributed the crime to enemies of Premier Mossadegh.

Which is followed today, by charges against two members of the Parliamentary-opposition to Mossadegh.

VOLCANO

Japan had a volcanic explosion today -- and, there was an evil twist of fate. Which made this eruption a swift episode of terror, and tragedy.

Mount Aso is Japan's biggest volcano. It's crater is seventy miles in circumference. Called -- the largest volcanic crater in the world. The Fire Mountain has erupted repeatedly, but has always given ample warning -- rumbling, shaking -- earthquake in advance.

The slopes are a national park, and a favorite haunt of tourist and sight seers, who climb up and gaze down into the enormous crater.

So that's the way it was today -- with a party of some five hundred students from all over Japan gathered on the volcanic rim. Also -- hundreds of other sight-seers.

It was a gala scene -- when, suddenly, the volcano erupted. No advance warning this time -- that was the

trick of fate.

A scientist on the scene gives the following description: "There was, he say, "a slightly perceptible earthquake a few minutes before the eruption, followed by a series of rumblings like the tramp of marching feet. Then, suddenly, the mountain blew its top. Dense black smoke shop up into the sky, more than a thousand feet."

The hundreds of school children, and other sight seers, broke into a wild panic, fleeing down the slopes of the mountain -- pelted by chunks of molten lava and rocks as big as a man's head. In the bombardment, at least six were killed, and the death list is likely to run higher; with hundreds injured.

Tonight, Mount Aso is in violent eruption, hurling giant clouds of smoke and masses of debris high into the sky. The volcanic explosion called -- "probably the most violent in the history of ~~the~~ Japan's No. volcano.

GREEN TRIAL

7 Greenwich, Connecticut is having a strange trial. Two defendants -- their lives at stake. And they are trees -- a couple of old, majestic elms.

They stand on a residential street, and their ancient roots, gnarled and thick, spread out over the sidewalk. The claim is that children on their way to school, have to make a detour out into the street, -- that's dangerous, because of traffic. So some people complained, and called on the town tree warden to cut down the two elms.

The tree warden proceeded according to old Connecticut law -- providing that, before a municipal tree is cut down, a notice must be posted on that same tree. Does anybody protest? If so, there must be a trial. So, placards were tacked on those two ancient elms, and there was a chorus of protests. Saying in effect -- "woodman spare that tree."

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The argument is that the two elms are too beautiful to be destroyed. Also, that the people complaining are --- "new comers." Same old quarrel -- between the old -- timers and the newcomers.

So at Greenwich, Connecticut, long famed as a community of millionaires, two trees now go on trial.

URANIUM

The atomic energy commission ridicules a report of a fabulous Uranium strike in Colorado. Over the weekend there was a report that, near Central City, prospectors have found what one newspaper called -- "The world's richest Uranium load."

The Atomic Energy commission states that its own mining Engineers have been investigating that section of Colorado since "ineteen-'orty-Eight, without finding anything worth while. "We have had occurrences of Uranium in the area, but nothing of commercial value," says the atomic energy commission.

CRIPPLE CREEK:

Speaking of mining - over the weekend I was in the mountains, at Cripple Creek, for a pouring of a gold ingot - at the new Golden Cycle Mill. Always exciting to see gold coming out in molten form. Also we celebrated the launching of the first important book ever written on the Cripple Creek story, an absorbingly interesting book by Marshal Sprague, about a fabulous gold camp. Don't miss it, and now Nelson.