

FOREIGN MINISTERS

B.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1945.

The story of the failure of the London Conference was told today in the British House of Commons. Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin did the reporting - and he is a forthright plain talker.

Bevin related that on September Eleventh, the day the Council of Foreign Ministers began, he proposed <sup>a mode of procedure,</sup> ~~that~~ In the framing of treaties with former enemy sattelites, the decisions should be made by the nations ~~that were to~~ <sup>ing</sup> sign the treaties. But - that all the Foreign Ministers in the conference should participate in the discussions.

Bevin stated today that this was in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement -- made by Stalin, Truman and Attlee.

~~the Council of Foreign Ministers only with the understanding that France had a vital interest in the peace arrangements in Europe - in the Balkans, for example.~~

The Bevin proposal was immediately okayed by American Secretary of State Byrnes. And Molotov gave his okay, conceding that the procedure proposed was in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement of the Big Three. Today Bevin stated: "The proposal which I made was adopted without dissent."

And so, under that procedure, they went ahead - for ten days, during which time the Council held sixteen plenary meetings.

On the subject of a peace treaty with Rumania, there was a wide difference of opinion -- the United States refusing to sign any pact with the present Soviet sponsored government of Rumania, which the United States does not consider ~~to be democratic~~ ~~not~~ chosen by free election. Molotov was not having his way in the matter of Rumania, and maybe

that was the reason for what thereupon happened - the bombshell.

It exploded on September Twenty-Second, when Molotov stated to Byrnes and Bevin that the procedure under which they had been deliberating was in violation of the Potsdam Agreement of the Big Three. And he declared that he would not continue on that basis. Byrnes and Bevin were astonished at the sudden change. They tried to argue Molotov out of his new position. "I pointed out to him," said Bevin today, "that we had all agreed at our opening meeting that this was the way in which we intended to work." But Molotov refused to budge.

Why had Molotov changed his mind? Today Bevin stated: "He told us later that his new attitude was taken up on instructions from his government."

As for the reason why the Soviet government acted as it did - we can only guess.

The British Foreign Secretary stated today that they tried to break the deadlock, by referring the

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question of procedure to the heads of the governments of the Big Three. They queried President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee, and Generalissimo Stalin. In reply, Truman and Attlee supported the position taken by Byrnes and Bevin. Stalin backed the Molotov change of attitude.

As a last measure, the Foreign Ministers tried to agree at least on an announcement to be made about what the conference had been doing - a public report. Molotov demanded that, instead of one report signed by all, there should be separate reports on each treaty discussion -- these reports to be signed only by the nations that would sign the treaty. Which, of course, would make it appear that only the treaty-signing nations had been in on the discussions - when, in fact, all of them had been in on the discussions during the ten days before Molotov changed his mind. In other words, it would appear that Molotov's new idea, ~~the one after he had changed his mind~~ had been in operation all along.

~~Byrnes and Bevin did not like this, but after some more wrangling, they agreed to it.~~

Then Molotov injected a new one. He stated that before he would sign any of the reports on the conference, the Council must strike from its record all mention of the agreement on procedure that he had made in the first place. In other words, falsify the record - by rubbing out the agreement that Molotov had made, so as to cancel his change of attitude ten days later. "This in effect," said the British Foreign Secretary today, "would not have given a true record of our proceedings."

Byrnes and Bevin refused to do it, and that was the end - the Council of the Foreign Ministers breaking up without even issuing an announcement of what they had done.

## GREECE

The government of Athens has quit, Premier Voulgaris and his Cabinet Ministers handing in their resignations today.

This follows a Left Wing move against elections that the government had scheduled for January Twenty-fifth. Leaders of the ELAS, the party of the Leftist insurrection, several months ago, sent a protest against the elections to President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee and head of the French Government DeGaulle, and they <sup>Leftists</sup> informed the <sup>Greek</sup> Premier that the election would be boycotted. The ELAS, and other factions too, would simply stay away from the polls they said.

The Premier today stated that such a boycott would make the elections a farce, and so he resigned.

This follows word that the United States had planned to send hundreds of American soldiers to Greece to observe the election, and see how democratic it might turn out to be.

LAVAL

This afternoon in Paris, the clerk of a court went to a prison cell, and there confronted a haggard, swarthy man - Pierre Laval, ~~who was the~~ arch pro-Nazi collaborationist of ~~the~~ Vichy Government. Solemnly the clerk of the court announced to Laval - that the jury had found him guilty of treason, and that he had been sentenced to death.

Laval muttered: "I was expecting it. I shall not sign any appeal for mercy."

The only appeal that he could make would be to General DeGaulle, head of the French Government, and the universal belief is that DeGaulle would reject the plea, as Laval himself believes, no doubt. So the probabilities are that Laval, long so prominent in French politics, will be executed by a firing squad.

~~Today's decree of doom followed another of these strange acts of courtroom drama in France.~~

Shortly before the jury went out to consider its verdict, a witness had refused to testify. He was Leon Noel, former French Ambassador to Warsaw. Called to give evidence against Laval, he began by reciting his own patriotic career in ~~XXXXXX~~ the French resistance movement against the Nazis.

Laval was not in court - after having been tossed out on Saturday because of yelling outbreaks, he had refused to attend another session. And now his absence was the reason that the former French Ambassador to Warsaw refused to speak against him. "It is morally impossible," he cried, "for me to testify in the absence of Laval - my career owes much to Laval."

The trial of the arch collaborationist is being angrily denounced in French newspapers - even in those that are bitterly against Laval. They say that the court proceedings were turned into a farce, with both



the prosecutor and the judge contributing to scenes of uproar and excitement - in a parody of a trial.

## BEAST OF BELSEN

In Germany the beast of Belsen admitted today that he personally had turned on the gas jets in the mass execution of prisoners. Joseph Kramer, a stolid wooden figure at the trial hitherto, broke under a whiplash cross-examination and admitted he had driven wretched victims into the gas chamber and then turned on the gas jets. This climaxes the confessions that have been read before a British court at Lueneburg, Germany -- the first major trial of war <sup>criminals</sup> ~~criminals~~ guilty of the Nazi atrocities.

## NAZI UNDERGROUND

News comes through of what appears to be the first Nazi underground movement in actual operation. ~~This is~~ not any case of melodramatic Werewolves, but a stark and brutal affair in grim and forbidding country - a virtual No Man's Land.

We are told that the Nazi underground is operating in the vicinity of the once great Baltic port of Stettin. That area and that city were turned over to Poland by the Yalta Agreement of the Big Three, and the schedule is for the German population to be evacuated, and Poles moved in. <sup>TP</sup> The country along the Baltic there was horribly ravaged by war, and once flourishing Stettin is a mass of ruins. Cold weather is closing down on the bleak shore of the Baltic - making things still more forbidding. And that's where an underground organization of German terrorists is described as being in ferocious operation - against the Poles.

Recently, the occupying forces of the Red Army moved out, and Polish authorities came in. <sup>But</sup> They are described as being virtually helpless. Armed bands of Germans are prowling, and fighting regular pitched battles against the Poles. They say that every night the ruins of Stettin echo with scattered gunfire.

<sup>So far</sup> few Polish settlers are moving in, although the land is now supposed to be theirs. - They are afraid. Germans of the ordinary sort are moving out of their own accord, wanting to get away from the terror-haunted region.

~~The Poles are not so happy about their newly acquired territory around Stettin - violent as it is with German underground resistance. They are calling it "Poland's Wild West."~~

## JAPAN

The new Tokyo Premier announces an eight point program of reform - in accordance with the terms of surrender of Japan - the eight points covering various phases of democracy and civil liberty. Baron Shidehara, in a talk with American newsmen, stated that the great war-making industrial firms of Mitsui and Mitsubishi *are* ~~would~~ *to* be broken up - by legislation.

He was not so forthright on the subject of - Shintoism, the imperial state religion, ~~in Japan.~~

It was announced that one of ~~General~~ MacArthur's tasks would be to abolish fanatic ~~religious~~ nationalism in religion, and sometimes this is regarded as an intention to eradicate Shintoism altogether - although we all understand what a ticklish thing it is to try to suppress a religion. *π* The new Premier ~~it~~ today warned that any rash tampering with Shintoism might cause disturbances among the masses of people in Japan, and

he declared that the evils that grew out of the state religion had been caused by what he called -

"distortions." In other words, Tojo and his fellow warlords had perverted the national <sup>cult</sup> ~~religion~~ to suit their own purposes of aggression. Shidehara denied that the war policy and war crimes of Japan could be attributed to the essential beliefs of Shintoism.—  
*ancestor worship.*

## JAPANESE LOOT

Here's an astonishing thing about the latest American seizure of treasure in Japan - MacArthur's troops taking over some twelve million dollars' worth of gold, silver and platinum at the headquarters of the Japanese Army and Navy. The Tokyo government, itself, did not know about the existence of the hoard of precious metals. All this wealth was stored away in buildings occupied by the <sup>Jap</sup> Army and Navy. Where did they get it? The belief is that the treasure was looted from countries occupied by the Japs during the war. The twelve million dollars' worth seized today brings the total of Japanese treasure taken over by MacArthur to the huge sum of two hundred and fifty million dollars, much of it believed to be loot.

In addition to the surprising disclosure that the Tokyo government did not know about the treasure hoards in the possession of the Army and Navy, the American military authorities came upon still another

astonishment - the fact that the Jap armed forces had not given any accounting of the money they spent. They just drew what they wanted, and never handed in any bookkeeping to show where the money went. <sup>TR</sup> That system of Army finance had been going on ever since the beginning of the war in China. Today an American spokesman declared: "We were astounded to learn that the Army and Navy had not reported any expenditure since Nineteen Thirty-Seven." ~~Which is~~ <sup>an</sup> indication of the freedom of action the warlords had - the Japanese governmental methods that led to the launching of the disastrous adventure of war.



NIMITZ

Admiral Nimitz had his ovation in New York today - immense multitudes of the metropolis lining the streets as he drove by. Their cheers were still another triumph for the commander of the Navy in the victory over Japan.

## ARGENTINA

In Argentina, Peron has resigned. The Number One figure in the government of the Colonels, which has been so scathingly denounced as a Fascist outfit, today gave up his posts as Vice President, Minister of War, ~~the~~ and Secretary of Labor. The announcement of <sup>Col.</sup> Peron's resignation is accompanied by a government statement that elections are to be called -- the Argentine people to go to the polls next April.

This is late news and it isn't clear what it all means. -- On the surface it might appear to be an end of the dictatorship in Argentina and a turn toward democracy.

But here's one angle :- Peron in resigning, may be getting ready to run for President in the election.

## ATOMIC BOMB

The atomic bomb director stated today: "We are ~~fin~~ flirting with national suicide if this thing gets out of control." Major General Groves, Director of the project that developed the atomic bomb, made this declaration to a Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. He appeared as a witness in favor of setting up a Congressional Commission for atomic development as President Truman has recommended.

"In irresponsible hands," declared General Groves, "the power of the atom might destroy the world." But, at the same time, the release of atomic energy may, in his words -- "prove to be the greatest boon to mankind in the world's history." So his advice is this: "The greatest minds of our nation," says he, "will be required to administer this discovery for the benefit of all of us."

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skill and <sup>know</sup> how of the American worker, which I don't think any other nation has." But he qualified -- "you never can tell."

Here's General Patton again -- he predicts that another war is inevitable. Old Blood and Guts today took his new job, the command of the Fifteenth Army -- an army on paper. <sup>And - he</sup> ~~he~~ made a speech <sup>in which he</sup> ~~and~~ described people <sup>who</sup> ~~wh~~ believe that all ars are finished as -- "wishful thinkers." <sup>P</sup> He refused to make any guess as to who would fight in the next war -- and on which side. He put the question in vivid Patten words -- "Who except God," he demanded, "is capable of telling when or where the situation will occur that will develop another madman? And who can tell," he added, "whether the future madman is now fully clothed, in short pants, or in diapers?"

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