

P.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, August 14, 1941.

MEETING

In London they're calling it - the worst kept secret.

The rumor broke nine days ago, and reports have been insistent ever since. And it's now disclosed that newspapermen in London were tipped off by a prominent British political figure, who told them to watch for one of the biggest stories of the war. So no wonder the British are saying - the worst kept secret. Indeed, we have some speculation from London that there was a deliberate leak - word permitted to get out. This - with the intention of making the axis people nervous, particularly Japan.

Yet there was plenty of secrecy - and still is. Where was the place of meeting? London has had a lot of rumors. One report had the President and Prime Minister conferring in Bermuda. Another placed them in Greenland. Today we are told that they met on the ocean - merely that, no specific place mentioned. From London we have the phrase - "Only the calm blue seas encircled them."

How many attended the meeting? Roosevelt and Churchill - we know. How many others? A large number, we are told. London states that Prime Minister Churchill was accompanied by a party of twenty-three. And the Washington supposition is that President

Roosevelt had with him a considerable group of army and Navy officials.

Was Harry Hopkins there? We are not told, but word from *that he was* Churchill was accompanied by President Roosevelt's emissary to Europe, ~~This seems to be~~ implied in a British statement that the meeting of the President and Prime Minister was an American suggestion - transmitted by Harry Hopkins.

*also*  
We know <sup>^</sup> that Lord Beverbrook was there. The presence of Churchill's powerful Lieutenant was officially stated, and the word continued that he would go on to Washington - for further conferences. And here's the latest on the subject of <sup>or</sup> Beverbrook - he arrived at Washington this afternoon. He came by plane -- aboard a bomber that had British markings.

So air transportation played a part in the historic meeting, though we don't know whether Churchill and the British group went ~~by~~ by ship or by plane to meet the President and his party at sea. On what vessel did they foregather? We don't know, but probably a warship - and not the Presidential yacht, Potomac. That craft is small, with accommodations for only eight guests.

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We are told that Roosevelt and Churchill were in contact for three

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days, and had several meetings. There is no detailed picture of the event on the ocean.

Where are the President and Prime Minister now? The only statement that we have is one from London. It says "They are now outside any power of the enemy to harm them". Possibly meaning that Churchill is already back in Britain and the President in American waters. Anyway, it's a hint of British apprehension that the Nazis might have tried to do something to interfere with the meeting. Hence the precautions ~~fm~~<sup>TP</sup> of concealment. Even after today's official disclosure, there's still plenty of secrecy in the case of that worst-kept secret.

London is comparing it with those familiar axis conferences - between the two dictators, Hitler and Mussolini. The meeting at Brenner Pass with the blaring of trumpets, propaganda, publicity, motion picture cameras, and the rest of it. The Roosevelt, Churchill get-together was so different -- and so much more important. London hails it as an event of world importance, which will make those dictator meetings staged by the axis powers look like two-cent bugling on a cracked tin horn.

ADD MEETING

9

The eight point program for peace is a milestone along the troubled road this world is traveling. It pledges the government of the United States and Great Britain to effect a peace settlement that will eliminate Nazi tyranny - destroy it. The eight points remind one forcibly of those fourteen points of twenty-two years ago, when Woodrow Wilson enunciated principles of peace to follow that former great war. Indeed, some of today's eight points have a close resemblance to six of the fourteen points. Others are implied in the Woodrow Wilson program.

The first point of the Roosevelt-Churchill plan states that neither Great Britain nor the United States seeks any ~~aggrandizement~~ aggrandizement, territorial or other <sup>wise.</sup> Neither country wants to acquire anything as a result of the war. That was implied in the fourteen points.

Second, the President and the Prime Minister declare against territorial changes that do not accord with the wishes of the peoples concerned. That ideal was expressed in the fifth point of the Woodrow Wilson fourteen - the one about self-determination, the right of small nations to determine what government shall rule

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them. This is expressed still further in the third point of today's Roosevelt-Churchill declaration <sup>which</sup> ~~It~~ calls for self-government to be restored to nations that have been conquered, - meaning, of course, countries <sup>the</sup> ~~of~~ Nazis have seized. This is taken to be aimed specially at France, the promise that conquered France shall be rid of the over-lordship of the Nazis.

The fourth point of the eight states that the United States and Great Britain will seek to give all nations access to <sup>all</sup> trade <sup>routes</sup> and <sup>all</sup> raw materials that are needed for economic prosperity. This accords with point three of Woodrow Wilson's fourteen points, which called for the removal of economic barriers and an equality of trade among all nations.

The fifth item of today's program declares for a ~~collaboration~~ collaboration between nations in the economic field, to secure better labor standards and social security, and that's expanded by point six which calls for the security of ~~xx~~ nations against aggression.

Point seven gives us a vivid reminder of the days of Woodrow Wilson. Of the fourteen points, the second called



for the freedom of the seas. President Wilson expressed it with the phrase, "Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas."

Today's point seven suggests a peace settlement that will enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.

Prominent on Woodrow Wilson's schedule was disarmament - point four of the fourteen. We find that same aspiration today in the last of the eight points propounded by the President and the Prime Minister. It calls for the abandonment of the use of force, and holds that that must be accomplished through the disarmament of predatory nations - the aggressors. The Wilson idea was for all countries to disarm, but Roosevelt and Churchill agree that the peace-loving nations should keep their weapons for the purpose of stopping attack. This last point of policy enumerated today also calls for an association of nations. These words are used:-"The establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security." This - to follow the disarmament of aggressors. It reminds us of Woodrow Wilson's point fourteen - ~~in~~ which called for the formation of the League of Nations.

2

SECOND ADD TO MEETING

What London expects is a permanent tie-up between the United States and Great Britain, with the United States taking the lead in the establishment of a new world order. We are told that within the past six months the average Britisher has come to think that a continued allignment of the two English-speaking nations is indispensable after the war is over. And we have London comment to the effect that the United States will join with Great Britain in a system for policing the world, to make it - "A better world. "

The peace policy decision was, of course, the headline result of that highly dramatic meeting between the American President and the British PrimerMinister. But it was not all <sup>that</sup> transpired during those three days of confabulation on the ocean. Roosevelt and Churchill likewise discussed plans for furthering the Lend-Lease program - more aid to Britain.

Washington promptly chimes in with word that there'll be a new request for Lend-Lease money - next week. The President will ask for six billion dollars more - to supplement the seven billion that have already been put up. Aid to Britain, and also aid to the Soviets.

They say the Nazi-Soviet war was a <sup>prominent</sup> ~~prominent~~ subject in the Roosevelt-Churchill discussions out on the Atlantic. There's an insistent story that the President and Prime Minister sent a personally signed letter to Stalin, congratulating him on the fight the Red Army is putting up against the Nazi Blitzkrieg. There was even a wild rumor in London to the effect that Stalin was with Roosevelt and Churchill, sat in on the conference aboard ship. You know how rumors will fly. However, the Nazi Soviet war was a prominent topic of discussion. And we hear that one reason why <sup>Flown</sup> ~~Lord~~ Lord Beaverbrook has ~~gone~~ on to Washington is to arrange for American aid to the Soviets.

Right in line with this is a Washington dispatch which <sup>s</sup> ~~stated~~ that the first American tanker to carry aviation gas for the use of the Red Army <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ sailing from Los Angeles today. This was announced by defense Oil & Coordinatir Ickes, who said that ninety-five thousand gallons of aviation gas ~~were~~ on their way. <sup>with</sup> Three more tankers ~~are~~ to follow -- four in all.

<sup>Roosevelt-Churchill</sup> There's a London report that the <sup>conference</sup> ~~conference~~ was held largely because of the possibility of the Soviets being attacked



by Japan in Si~~v~~eria. Signs of Japanese menace towards the Red Army have been increasing. For ex~~a~~mple, we have a bulletin today from Chungk~~i~~ing, the nationalist capital of China. This states that Tokyo has order~~e~~d four machanized regiments from China to Manchukuo - to the border of Soviet Siberia.

London makes the comment that it was the threatening Far Eastern situation which drew the President and the Prime Minister together at this particular time. <sup>And</sup> They are said to have decided upon measures for a firm stand against Japan.

This would seem to ~~g~~ have some striking confirmation in a ~~ix~~ later bit ~~ex~~ of news - from London. The British Government today embargoed all exports to Japan. The British board of trade issued an order depriving Tokyo of the right to purchase goods in the British market - save by special export license. London says that this move was made as <sup>a</sup> quick result of the Roosevelt-Churchill meeting - their decision to check Japan.

## REACTIONS

In Congress, the big news of the day was received with mixed emotions. Administration supporters greeted the Roosevelt-Churchill peace program with cheers. Speaker Sam Rayburn said the eight points expressed what he described in these words, "a very great and very laudable hope".

Senator Connally, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, *put it this way:—* ~~said~~ - "a noble and magnificent statement of policy."

The anti-interventionists see the matter in a different light. Republican Congressman Dewey Short had the ~~following~~ following to say:- "some sort of an alliance has been formed, and I don't like these secret under-cover agreements".

Other opponents objected, saying the conference at sea was just another step toward getting us into the war. "It is tatamound", declared Senator McNary of Nevada, "to a declaration of war by this country, which is the province of Congress only."

Some legislators were inclined to applaud the Roosevelt-Churchill declarations as a move for peace, Senator Johnson of

Colorado said he was glad the leaders of the two nations had had a man to man conference, and that ~~they had made peace the~~ ~~keynote of their deliberation.~~ "The eight points will have a strong idealistic appeal," said he.

One interesting source of comment is the ~~an~~ axis countries. Rome makes the observation that the joint declaration is another sign of an alliance between the United States and Great Britain. But this will not prevent an axis victory, say the Fascists.

Berlin uses the words, "propaganda bluff". The Nazis say they regard the oceanic confabulation as - "unimportant". A Berlin military spokesman issues this significant statement: "We wonder", says he, ~~to~~ "whether Roosevelt and Churchill made a blunder in choosing this particular moment - or whether the German Army had luck in completing its victories just at this time." He was referring to German military bulletins issued today. ~~They reported~~ <sup>ing</sup> reported huge blitzkrieg victories in the Ukraine - the Red Army in fast retreat, the Panzer columns shattering the opposition and seizing vast areas of Soviet land. The Germans

claim to be in virtual possession of what is called, "the bend of the ~~in~~ Dnieper", that great area of the Ukraine which is bounded on the East by a loop which the river forms.

It seems likely enough that today's Nazi claims of a new and overwhelming victory were ~~lir~~ timed to coincide with the announcement of the meeting of the President and the Prime Minister. The Nazis of course had had rumors of the event, and got today's news promptly. So the bulletins of triumph <sup>no doubt are</sup> ~~may have had an angle of~~ counter-~~prop~~ propaganda.

Moscow denies them utterly, and ridicules the claim of blitzkrieg advance in the Ukraine. The usual contradiction in these days of so many contradictions.

A rather grim echo of the Soviet war is heard in London. Today the Director-General of the British home Guard gave ~~directions for - a scorched earth policy, This to be applied in case of a German invasion. The head of the Home Guard,~~ Lord Bridgeman, made the statement that Britain has learned a lesson from the Soviet tactics of destroying everything in the ~~partia~~ path of the advancing enemy - scorched earth. So if

Britain is invaded, that same method of universal destruction will be used.



## BEAVERBROOK

Here's a startling detail in a late bulletin -- just in.

Lord Beaverbrook and his staff flew from England in the company of the British transport plane that crashed. That was the accident which killed twenty-two pilots employed in ferrying bombers across the ocean. Seven of the fliers were Americans. The British Press Association states that the plan was for the two planes to travel together -- Lord Beaverbrook's and the transport carrying the pilots -- but the latter crashed into a British hillside. All lives lost. And after the tragic accident Lord Beaverbrook and his party flew on alone to meet President Roosevelt.

And now a word from Hugh concerning the conserve gasoline program announced by Secretary Ickes.