

C.I. - Sunoco. Friday, March 15, 1946.

INDIA

★ Today's British declaration <sup>of</sup> ~~of the~~ independence <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ India, may well be one of the turning points of history.

(A settlement of the long and vexing Indian problem would be of the greatest importance in tranquilizing one of the trouble spots of the world, and would mark a major transformation of that entity with which our own country is so closely related, the British Empire.)

Few things could be more definite than the statement made by Prime Minister Attlee in Parliament today. He told the Commons that the British Cabinet Commission, soon to start for India, will go with full authorization to establish ~~xxx~~ the complete independence of that vast sub-continent. The Commission is to preside over negotiations for a kind of constitution to fit the complex and bedeviling social and religious problems of India. Attlee recommended the formation of an interim government to take charge while the constitution is being

drawn up - a caretaker government that would have the greatest possible public support in India. Then, independence, of any sort that the Indian people may decide upon! The Prime Minister said he hoped that India would chose to have its freedom within the framework of the British Empire. If not - that's okay too. ~~Atlee declared that it was up to the Indians themselves to decide whether or not their country would retain ties with the British Empire or whether they wanted to out-  
loose completely.~~

✓ I have been talking with British friends who are aware of recent trends in India, and they tell me that the major problem is that same old story - the feud between the Hindus and the Moslems. What the British now want is for India to call a constitutional *convention,* ~~amendment,~~ to work out a scheme for the government of the country. The leaders of ~~the~~ Hindu nationalism agree

to that. The Moslems are opposed. They want two conventions, one for the Hindus, one for the Mohammedans. This in line with the Moslem demand for - Pakistan, which means a separate and independent Mohammedan state in India.

Informants to whom I talked today say that there is some possibility of a compromise on this point between the Hindus and the Moslems. They tell me that Gandhi, right now, is in a cooperative mood, and he may turn out to be a power for moderation and compromise.

However - suppose that the Hindus and Moslems can't get together on the question of a constitution? Here's one answer suggested by British opinion that I have consulted: If the Indians themselves cannot get together on a constitution for an independent India, why then the British will draw one up - as fairly as they can, balancing things between the two groups. And then they'll impose this constitution on India - temporary maybe. The Indians



to work out their salvations as well as they can under the British arranged scheme of government.

What are the prospects of a free India remaining in the framework of the British Empire of its own volition? The British hope is that Indian leadership will perceive the wisdom of such an association- while their country is developing a free political system. India, they point out, will need a tie-up - for purposes of defense especially. The British concede that in the face of antagonism and agitation, the Indian masses would probably cry - away with everything British. But, with Britain itself insisting that India make its own choice, a more moderate prudence might prevail.

Of course, it is one thing to proclaim Indian independence in the Parliament in London, and it will be



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another when a Cabinet Commission gets out there into  
the tangle of perplexities that is India - but it would  
seem that the independence of India is on the schedule

of the world <sup>for the immediate</sup> ~~in the near~~ future. — the 400,000,000  
people of India to be on their own.  
The British Raj pulling out. //

IRAN

News of the Iranian crisis merely increases the tenseness of the <sup>at</sup> issue -- <sup>with</sup> ~~and there is~~ a wave of alarm and wild rumors throughout the <sup>^ Middle</sup> ~~Near~~ East.

The Iranian Minister of War today pledged his country to a last-ditch battle against the Red Army, if the Soviets ~~should~~ make any move toward <sup>Teheran</sup> ~~the~~ the Iranian capital. The War Minister declared that the Soviets were threatening the security of his country. He said that Red Army troops in Iran had been ~~tripled~~ tripled in the past month, and that they were being heavily reinforced at a point only twenty miles from Teheran. Also, said he, Soviet motorized columns are moving toward the frontier of Turkey.

We have been hearing right along about these Russian military moves. The new angle today is a declaration/that the ancient Persian nation will resist - "fight to the last man," said the Iranian Minister of War. He added that even boys and girls would join in the battle, if the Red Army should move toward Teheran.

One of the most alarming -- and plausible -- of the rumors that is circulating in the Middle East is that an uprising may occur among the Kurds -- wild tribesmen who inhabit ~~the~~ mountain sections in ~~both~~ <sup>Iraq,</sup> Turkey, and Iran. If they should revolt and declare their independence -- <sup>that</sup> ~~it~~ might well mean another of those Soviet-sponsored regimes, a number of which now flourish under the wing of Moscow. A Kurdish state, under Soviet auspices, would indeed be a dangerous trick to <sup>play</sup> ~~pull~~ against ~~both~~ <sup>Iraq</sup> Iran, and Turkey.



## RUSSIAN ANSWER

There was a neat bit of anti-climax in Washington today - the kind of drama in which lofty suspense turns into a ~~horse~~ laugh in the last act.

The world situation being what it is, there was immediate interest when the Soviet Charge d'Affaires went to the State Department to deliver a diplomatic communication. When he emerged from the office of Secretary Byrnes, the newsmen asked him - what kind of diplomatic communication? What ~~was it all~~ about?

The Soviet Charge d'Affaires replied that he had handed to the Secretary of State Moscow's answer to an American note.

That raised the tense interest several degrees higher. Washington had sent several notes to Moscow, these concerning major topics of world dispute, and not one of them had been answered.

A newsman asked: "Was it in answer to the note on Iran?"

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To which the Charge d'Affaires responded in a breezy off-hand way: "Oh, there are so many other problems, Manchuria, etcetra." And, with that, he hastened on his way.

That produced a news flash stating that Moscow had sent a reply to one of the American notes - and that the Soviet Charge d'Affaires had declined to reveal whether the answer pertained to Iran or Manchuria.

Which of the three notes of protest was getting a reply? That was the suspense. We waited for the news wires to bring the answer - hoping that the State Department would not delay in revealing the secret. The hope was not in vain. Shortly afterward, an announcement was made - and here's the way the bulletin flashed, hot from the wire: "The Soviet government," it stated, "today delivered a reply to an American note about Russia's request for a billion dollar loan."

## STALIN

Stalin has resigned -- but don't get excited. It's a mere formality. The newly elected Supreme Soviet is meeting, and it is the custom for the Soviet Premier to offer his resignation. Stalin did, and was immediately asked to take office again and form a new ministry. So, everything remains as before, Stalin running Soviet Russia.

But here is something new. (A late dispatch <sup>from Moscow</sup> states that ~~the~~ the Supreme Soviet today voted to abolish the name of Commissar as applied to members of the government. Hereafter the ordinary European title is to be used, Cabinet members being called -- Ministers. All of which is something of a revolution in names, with the ousting of a revolutionary name. The old-time Bolsheviks of the Lenin ~~and~~ and Trotsky era doted on that proletarian expression -- Commissar. It was a sort of label for the Marxist revolution -- Foreign Commissar, and so on. And, by comparison, <sup>now</sup> the title of Minister <sup>will</sup> seem painfully bourgeois.



## CHURCHILL

Winston Churchill got his ~~big~~ reception in New York today -- the traditional welcome that the Big Town gives to great people. It was raining, drizzling, but large crowds turned out to see Britain's war leader -- who has stepped anew into the spotlight, of the news as ~~an advocate of British~~ <sup>as advocate of British</sup> American fraternal association. Tickertape showered down through the moist atmosphere, as ~~Winston~~ Churchill rode along in high style to <sup>the</sup> City Hall -- where he made an address -- speaking again in favor of a closer tie between his country and ours.

There was a flurry of disturbance when the police had to deal with Communist pickets denouncing Britain's wartime Chieftain. They represented themselves as Communist war veterans -- the Reds availing themselves of the glory of soldiers of America. The scrap was brief, and twenty Communists were taken to the police station and charged with disorderly conduct.

Ample precautions are being taken against Left Wing disturbances at the Waldorf, where Churchill is to speak tonight. CIO Unions in New York, some of which have a Reddish tinge, called for five thousand pickets to protest against Churchill's address, ~~tonight.~~

~~The~~ The police are prepared ~~for that.~~<sup>TP</sup> All indications are that Britain's Prince of public speakers will have dramatic things to say -- a reply, perhaps, to the furious blast that Stalin hurled at Churchill ~~xxxx~~ day before yesterday.<sup>TP</sup> ~~No representative of the United States government will be there -- although President Truman introduced Churchill at Fulton, Missouri, for the address that started the controversy. Undersecretary of State Acheson was to have attended, but he cancelled at the last minute -- saying ~~that~~ he was too busy.~~

There is no advance notice of what Winston Churchill will say. It usually is customary to give to the press and radio advance ~~xxxx~~ releases of important addresses -- but not this time. We'll have to wait until ten-thirty, when the Churchill declarations

will be broadcast by N.B.C.



## SPY

★ The new spy arrests in Canada might be dramatized with a tone of detective story mystery - if the whole thing were not so serious as plain reality. Four Canadian scientists and the only Communist member of the Canadian Parliament - arrested for doing spy work at the behest of Soviet Russia. The documents revealing the secret disclosed that mysterious code names were used - and not badly selected, if detective story twists had been the idea.

The spy business was run by Colonel Zabodin, former military attache' at the Soviet Embassy at Ottawa. In undercover communications, he was referred to as - "the Director". One of the scientists arrested today was referred to as - "the Professor." And another had the classical espionage pseudonym of "Prometheus". However, the tone of detective romance goes poorly in the case of the four Canadian technicians who are charged

with having transmitted secret information to Soviet espionage. All four were McGill University graduates, employed by the Canadian government on armament research during the war.

Chief among them is Dr. Raymond Boyer, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at McGill University. He is said to have admitted that he gave Soviet espionage full information concerning a secret explosive known as R.D.X. - information so complete that R.D.X could have been manufactured in quantity from the instructions he gave. Of the other technicians, one was a squadron leader in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and another is Romanian born, who is said to have employed relatives of his wife in Romania for the transmission of secret information. <sup>TR</sup> Reports <sup>for</sup> ~~SM~~ the Soviet spy ring were made on ~~munition~~ <sup>munition</sup> manufacture, on projectiles, communication secrets, and anti-submarine detection. //

The case of Canada's lone Communist member of Parliament is less explicit. He is being held under spy charges, *as a go between,* ~~but just what is alleged against him is not~~

~~stated,~~ Arraigned in Ottawa today, the Red M.P. stood silent before the court - not a word out of him, ~~during~~ ~~the proceedings.~~



~~X~~ I don't know what things are coming to, when a mistake can happen like that one in Chicago - ~~a howling blunder,~~ a stupendous faux pas. ~~Imagine any politician, especially a big timer named Kelly, falling to such abysmal error.~~ In Chicago, Mayor Kelly presented a proposal to the City Council - and there was no debate, ~~about it,~~ His Honor presented a resolution proclaiming - "Hungarian Day." Well, there's a considerable Hungarian vote in Chicago, ~~and both the Mayor and the City Council were enthused by the idea of paying tribute to the great Hungarian patriot Korruth, Hungary's fighter for freedom nearly a hundred years ago.~~ The Mayor suggested that Sunday be named Hungarian Day, and the City fathers applauded - every politician among them, many of them Irish.

The resolution was passed, and the horrible realization came only when a clerk, shocked and astonished, whispered to His Honor that Sunday, which he

ST. PATRICK'S

had named as Hungarian Day, was March Seventeenth,  
St. Patrick's Day - and how in the name of Kelly could  
you do a thing like that?

You can imagine the confusion of the Mayor and  
the City Council. In doing right by the Hungarian vote,  
they were enacting a measure that would infuriate the  
Irish vote. ~~One can only assume that the boys were so  
mechanical about giving the Hungarians a pat on the  
back, they didn't bother to notice what day had been  
selected - through some error some place.~~

~~In any case, they made haste to rectify the~~  
~~bones~~ Mayor Kelly and the City Council, especially  
the Irish members, hid their red faces as they hastened  
to proclaim March Seventeenth ~~to be~~ St. Patrick's Day -  
as if it weren't St. Patrick's Day already, ever since  
the snakes were driven from Ireland. //

P.S. Hungarian Day was changed to March  
Eighteenth, Monday. *And now my Irish - Hungarian  
friend Hugh*