

RUSSIA

C.I. - P. & G. Tuesday, March 29, 1949.

Arrowhead

The Soviets make another change --

Sokolovsky leaves his Berlin post. The Red radio tonight announced that ^{the Red} ~~Marshal Sokolovsky~~ in command at Berlin, has been removed, and becomes ^{First} ~~Deputy~~ Minister of the Soviet Armed Forces.

~~So here's~~ Another move in what ~~seems~~ seems to be a large scale, long-continued shakeup. And immediately deep meanings are sought. Marshall Sokolovsky at Berlin has been the toughest of Red soldiers in opposition to the Western allies. Hence, his removal brings the quick surmise from abroad -- that it's a sign of a softer Soviet attitude, part of a peace offensive. But, at the same time, the tough Sokolovsky becomes First Deputy Minister of the Red Armed Forces. Which might indicate a toughening of attitude at the very center, Moscow. So, we have the usual enlightenment -- it's either a case of "yes" or "no".

SOLDIERS

Today there is official announcement of the fate of two American soldiers who went A W O L in Germany, and wandered into Red Czechoslovakia. They have been sentenced to long terms in prison as American spies. This is revealed by the official news agency of Communist Czechoslovakia, which states that Privates George Jones of Owensboro, Kentucky and Clarence Hill of Jackson, Mississippi, have been tried in secret by the Red tribunal, on charges of espionage - Jones doomed to ten years, at hard labor; Hill to twelve years.

This ends a mystery which began last December - when the two soldiers disappeared from their units in Germany. No word was heard from them, until January, when one, Clarence Hill, got a letter through to the American Embassy in Prague. The message read as follows: "Myself and my friend are being held for crossing the boundary without authority papers. We have been questioned, but nothing has been done about returning us to the U. S. zone in Germany."

American diplomatic officials made repeated attempts to procure the release of the two. But were not even given permission to visit them. So now the news - the two American soldiers condemned to long terms of Red imprisonment.

The U. S. Embassy at Prague has entered a formal protest against the convictions, and calls the charge of espionage -- preposterous.

NORWAY

The Norwegian Parliament votes to join the North Atlantic Security Pact. In the session tonight the Norwegian Reds howled in opposition, and staged angry demonstrations. But the vote was one-hundred-and-thirty to thirteen in favor of lining up ~~xxxxx~~ with the West.

DIAMONDS

The Army authorities today were studying a remarkable story -- related by a Colonel sent to prison two years ago. In Nineteen Forty-seven, Colonel Edward J. Murray of Palo Alto, California, was convicted by a court martial of smuggling ninety-thousand dollars worth of uncut diamonds from Japan to the United States. He was sentenced to five years in prison, of which term he has served nearly two years. So now he asks for a writ of Habeas Corpus to procure his release, and gives a new explanation of the diamonds he brought to this country -- a story that he did not tell at the court martial. Why not? He says he refrained from disclosing the facts, because, he thought his attorney at the trial was incapable of taking full advantage of the evidence.

So what's the story now brought forward -- after nearly two years of imprisonment?

Colonel Ed J. Murray of Palo Alto relates that, while serving as an Army Colonel in Japan he was traveling by jeep from Yokahoma to Tokyo -- and on the road, he saw 3

men fighting. He stopped his jeep and got out.

"As I approached" he relates, "two of the men got up and ran. The other arose from the ground and thanked me for saving his life. There was," he goes on, "a big car parked at the side of the road, and ^aportly elderly gentleman opened the door and also thanked me. ^I ~~He~~ asked him what was doing on, and he replied: 'Just a slight mistake -- everything is all right'." To which Murray adds that the man in the automobile took his name and address, and drove on.

Such, according to the story, was the encounter between the U.S. Colonel and the portly elderly gentleman, at night, on the highway from Yokahoma to ~~Taa~~ Tokyo. Which was followed several days later by another incident at night. Murray says that he was in his Tokyo hotel room, when there was a knock on the door. He answered and a Japanese whom he did not recognize, entered. This unknown Japanese, after asking the name of the American Colonel,

and being told - placed an envelope on the desk of the hotel room. ^{"I have} ~~have~~ been directed to deliver these to you" said the stranger. "I have done so, goodnight". And he left.

In the envelope were five hundred uncut diamonds, and Murray says he believed they were a reward from the portly elderly gentleman in whose behalf he had intervened on the road several nights before. He says he had no idea what the diamonds were worth, and was not aware that he was required to declare them at customs - upon his return to the United States.

"They were pretty things" he says, "and I thought I'd bring them home to my wife."

Such is the story now before the Army authorities. A Federal Judge in San Francisco setting May the Second as the date for a hearing on those mysterious doings that are said to have happened in Japan.

JOHNSON

The new Secretary of Defense is beginning with a tough line. This evening in Washington Louis Johnson held his first news conference -- since his appointment to succeed James Forrestal as the Defense Secretary. Talking to the reporters, he warned the top brass of the Armed Services to stop wrangling and fighting among themselves -- or get out. He said that he had made it clear to the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force that there will be no place around the Pentagon Building, that headquarters of headquarters, for top officers who are not wholeheartedly in sympathy with the unification of the services.

KRISHNA

The gay city of Paris is having a look at the Los Angeles Messiah, Krishna Venta - and gay Paree is giving ~~xx~~ him the kind of reception to delight his occult mystical soul. This fantastic figure in the flowing robes of a priestly Brahmin of India has been in London and Stockholm recently, announcing that he was in Europe on a world-saving miracle. He's there to bring about peace and harmony between East and West. The English and Swedes were plenty curious, -- but ~~xx~~ it takes Paris to get really excited over something weird and esoteric. Moreover, today in Paris, the Messiah of Los Angeles produced ^{his} ~~most~~ priceless remark.

Wherever he goes, he is followed by crowds, -- the Parisians attracted like flies by his flowing robe of bright blue and yellow - like a gaudy combination of a Mahatma, a Gur^{u, a} ~~u, a~~ Swami and a Tantrik Yogi, all rolled into one. The police in Paris are disturbed, because the way things are,

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with Communists and DeGaulists -- the gendarmes are uneasy, every time they see three or four people gathering in the street. But mobs are following the Messiah from Hollywood, and today he treated the Parisians of the boulevards to that remark, enough to make them start gesticulating all at once. ^RIn spite of the sensation he is creating, Krishna Venta the Messiah from Hollywood was melancholy, and sad of heart. In a lugubrious voice he sighed and said: "I will undoubtedly have an end in this life similar to that which befell me more than Nineteen Hundred years ago."

Well, what was that event which befell Nineteen Hundred years ago in Jerusalem, Calvary? To this the echo responds: That's who he thinks he is. /

SPEED

Two airplane speed records were made today -- one for the cross continental flight ~~and~~ in a single reciprocating engine type ^{- plane.} Speed pilot Joe DeBona flew from Burbank, California to New York's LaGuardia field in five-hours-and-five seconds. He did it in a souped up F- Fifty-one belonging to the actor Jimmy Stewart. He landed with only thirty gallons of gasoline left, enough for seven more minutes in the air. Flying coast to coast in a mere few seconds more than five hours Joe DeBona shattered the previous record, for single reciprocating engine plane made by pilot Paul Mantz -- more than a year ago.

The second record set today was made by that same Paul Mantz, who flew from San Francisco to Los Angeles in forty-nine-minutes-and-thirty-two ~~xxxx~~ seconds, a record for propeller driven planes . All of which, of course does not concern the dazzling speed of jet.

RENT

The rent control bill was passed by Congress today in rapid fire fashion - first by the Senate, then immediately by the House of Representatives. In the Senate a Republican move to send rent control back to the committee was defeated, and then the vote -- seventy-eight to eleven. ^P House approval was by a majority of Two-sixty-two to one-forty-four. th The bill is a compromise, which extends rent control until June Thirtieth, Nineteen Fifty, -- and has a "local option" clause which would allow local government to raise the restrictions with the consent of State Governors.

HOTELS

When you are travelling, as we are on this western trip, you become interested in hotels. You stop at so many of them. People wonder - how well-filled ~~is~~ does a hotel have to be to break even, and start showing a profit? Well, here at Arrowhead Springs, California I've been finding things out through information from one of the greatest hotel enterprises in America, that of Conrad Hilton, head of the nation's largest group of hotels. It includes such famous caravanserais as the Stevens and Palmer House in Chicago; the Plaza and Roosevelt in New York; the Mayflower in Washington; not to mention hostelries as far away as ^{(Puerto} ~~Rio~~ Rico.

So here's the figure. ^{For} ~~and~~ most hotels eighty-two percent. That is, eighty-two percent of the rooms must be occupied, to break even, and above that figure -- a profit. But there are exceptions. One is the Stevens in Chicago, the

world's largest hotel. It cost Twenty-eight million to build, but later Conrad Hilton bought it for Seven and a half million, and the hotel would cost Forty-two million to replace at the present scale of prices. The Stevens serves a million people a month, either renting them rooms or selling them articles. So, with that giant volume of business, the world's largest hotel has a low break-even point. With sixty percent of the rooms occupied, it begins to show a profit.

The figure is still lower for ^{Chicago's} ~~Chicago's~~ Palmer House -- that because of the renting of stores in the hotel building. The store rentals come to a Million a year -- the highest in the hotel business.

Which takes us to a twister ^{of} ~~hotel~~ finance. Conrad Hilton recently purchased the Arrowhead Springs Hotel - which has a long ^{complex} ~~history~~ history. Americans had their attention drawn to the site first by a giant arrow marked on the side of a mountain - a mark made by the Indians. The arrow

A group of movie people from Hollywood invested Three and a half million ~~and dollars in~~ ~~the present hotel~~ -- movie magnates joined by film stars in putting up the money. The price Conrad Hilton paid several weeks ago was Two Million - after the place had passed through a bewildering series of ownerships.- The Assistant Manager tells me that he has been here for three years, during which time he has worked for four different owners.

The other day Al Jolson was here, and took a plunge into the pool. When he emerged dripping wet, he said: "I've had a Fifteen Thousand Dollar dive."

That was the investment lost by the singer of the mammy songs - oh nammy.[!]

MICROSCOPE

The University of Southern California announces - the world's thinnest slicing machine. If you take the thickness of an inch, this contraption will get five hundred thousand slices out of it. Sounds like something to slice the ham you sometimes get in sandwiches.

But that is not the purpose at all. That slicing machine was devised to produce sheets of organic tissue thin enough for the electron-microscope - the microscope so powerful that some day it may enable the human eye to see the atom. Until now, they've had to study tissue, twenty-five thousand slices to the inch. [!] but that was altogether too ~~thick~~ ^{thick}. So, Doctors Daniel Pease and Robert Baker, both professors in the school of medicine, went ahead and invented the new gadget.

They say ~~that~~ already, the electron-microscope, with ~~that~~ thinnest of slicing, has been able to detect the ^{Genes} genes in the chromo-somes of the fruit fly - those genes being the units of heredity.

So don't think that gene is a guy who tends bar or runs radio controls. Gene is what makes heredity work! hi-yah Gene. The reason for this descent into nonsense is that Gene is the radio technician here on this program.

But let's get back to serious scientific matters. That thinnest of slicing machines, half a million slices to the inch, may solve one of the most important problems of the world - how to slice it so thin that it is not still baloney.

And Ken -- with something that's neither thin-- nor baloney.

PERSIA

The Government of Iran made a protest to Moscow today, a complaint that rises out of a border clash. Red soldiers made what the Persians call -- an "unprovoked attack". A party of Russians are said to have marched against an Iranian military post on the Frontier - one Persian soldier killed, two made prisoner. The Teheran government has been demanding the release of the two, but the Soviets refuse to release them - unless the Iranian Army takes the blame for the border incident. This Teheran refuses to do - and today sent a formal protest to Moscow charging an "unprovoked attack".