

SYRIA L.T. - P. G. Thurs. Nov. 29 - '51.

(The government of Syria was overthrown today),

ⁱⁿ~~the~~ the latest upheaval in that near eastern country.

Also -- the quickest and most surprising. (Yesterday, a new government was installed at Damascus - headed by Premier Maaruf Dawalibi. Then, a few hours later, the new Premier and his cabinet were deposed by an Army Coup D-Etat. In again, out again - at high speed.) All engineered by Lieutenant Colonel Adeeb Shishakli, called the Syrian strong man.

The eruption is all the more interesting, because the deposed Premier was - anti-Western. He stood in opposition to the Middle Eastern Defense ~~Pact~~ Pact proposed by the United States, Great Britain, France and Turkey. The Lieutenant-Colonel-strong-man, on the contrary, favors a pro-western policy, in return for military supplies.

He has an interesting history, this Adeeb Shishakli, -- ~~He~~ came into prominence in the Moslem strife with Israel, several years ago. Leader of a group of Galilean Guerrillas that campaigned against

the Israeli. Which brought him ~~late prominence~~ ^{to the fore} in Syria. Thereafter, backed by his band of guerrillas, he rose high in what is called the "colonel's group". A military clique that has ~~a military clique~~ that has engineered one coup d'etat after another, overthrowing four governments during the time since the Palestine war.

(This latest followed a long political crisis - Syria left ~~xxx~~ without a government for twenty-three days. Then, at last, a Premier and cabinet assumed power, only to be overthrown a few hours later by the Lieutenant ~~xxx~~ Colonel strong man. He accuses the fallen government of planning to merge Syria ~~xxxx~~ with Iraq, under the King of Iraq.)

We have the same sort of news from another part of Asia, Siam. This was a day of two governments overthrown -- by military revolt. (At Bangkok, the top generals and admirals of Siam overthrew Premier Pibul Songgram, in a bloodless coup d'etat. They claim he failed to suppress Communism and end corruption. The new head of the government is Lieutenant General Sriyanon, commander of the police -- the police being the largest armed force in Siam.

The country has had a series of ~~xxx~~ political overturns. The deposed Premier, Pibul Songgram, seized power four years ago - and only last spring was the target of an attempted coup d'etat. He was kidnapped by rebels of the Navy. But the other armed forces remained loyal, especially the police - and the revolt was crushed in fierce fighting. This time, however, all the armed forces joined against him - and he was overthrown today.

The coup d'etat is the more dramatic, because it occurs just as the King and Queen of Siam

return to their country. They were in Switzerland for a visit - and, right now, are aboard ship, expected to land at Bangkok on Sunday. Their Siamese Majesties will find a new government - which, however, promises to support the Monarchy.

FOLLOW SIAN

Here's a later dispatch from Bangkok -

to make the confusion complete. The military rebels have restored Pibul Songgram to the post of Premier but with a cabinet consisting mostly of military

leaders. (It isn't clear whether or not the commander of the police retains the dominating job that he assumed earlier in the day. Maybe he has been deposed by now. It's all too Sianese for understanding.

INDO-CHINA

A dispatch from Indo-China states that the former Commander of Communist Forces in Cochin China, has been killed in battle. "Which," says the dispatch, "represents a sinister deed of the Reds - with angles of "Titoism."

The former Communist Commander was dismissed from his post recently - charged with failure to carry out orders from Political Commissars of the Reds.

"Titoism," they called it. Then, to get rid of him, they betrayed him, and sent him to his death.

The story is that the deposed Commander, together with a Colonel also dismissed for "Titoism" - was escorted on a forced march of twenty-three days, until the party reached a section where anti-Communist patrols were active. There the recent Red Commander was put in a spot where he was cut down by the fire of anti-Communist guns.

KOREA EXPLOSION

Tonight news tells of a devastating explosion at the South Korean port of Pusan, which was the key point of the old beachhead. An ammunition storage place blew up with three violent blasts.

Early reports state there were many casualties but, apparently, the Americans at Pusan escaped without fatalities.

At this hour there is no explanation of what caused the three blasts that demolished the great ammunition storehouse.

KOREA

The confusion about the state of war in Korea is explained as a misinterpretation of an order issued by Eighth Army Commander Van Fleet. There's nothing too clear about the explanation either -- but General Van Fleet issued a directive applying to the thirty day period of all-out negotiations for an armistice. He did not mean - stop the shooting during that period unless attacked. But, somehow, his order was taken to mean something like that.

Today, there were stern reminders that the war is still on - the Reds not to be given a time of lull and quiet in the thirty day period. So cannon thundered again on the wintry battlefield, and at one place there was violent fighting, when the enemy stormed a hill, and our troops recaptured it in a counter-attack.

(In the air, today was the biggest ever

for the Reds. They put in the Korean sky the largest number of jets thus far - more than three hundred.

American planes were outnumbered fantastically --

and had the worst of the air battle, though not

as much damage was done on either side.) One M I G

damaged, and three of our Sabre Jets, They were

hit, but got back safely to their bases. More than

three hundred MIG's came down from the Manchurian

sanctuary - and we opposed them with fewer than

forty, showing ^{how we have been} ~~the danger of our~~ losing command of

the air in Korea, as some of our top air people have been telling us.

(In the truce talks at Pan Mun Jon - the Reds display some sign of yielding - in the latest deadlock. Yesterday, they were insisting on - evacuation of all foreign troops from Korea. Today they stepped down, were talking about - a "gradual withdrawal.")

TRUMAN FOLLOW KOREA

(President Truman tonight repeats his warning of last night - that there can be no cease-fire in Korea until a full armistice ~~xxxxxx~~ has been signed.) To which he adds: "Any premature slackening of our effort would cause us more casualties in the long run."

ATOMIC_

Today's atomic blast may have been the

first underground A-bomb explosion. There's nothing official about it, but people who saw the atom cloud from a few miles away say it was different from any other. A huge dirty mass of smoke and debris poured skyward, from Frenchmen's Flat. There was none of the usual ball of fire and the brilliant mushroom - soaring to the stratosphere with terrifying beauty. The murky cloud of dirt and rubbish rose slowly from the ground, and climbed only to about ten thousand feet. The impression was one of a giant explosion touched off underground.

At Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, the commander of the Wacs on duty there - has resigned. Any Army spokesman declares that this has nothing to do with trouble recently in the detachment of military ladies. But Captain Johnita Heslinga was mentioned prominently in the case of a WAC private beaten by six women sergeants.

The uproar began when Captain Heslinga was accused by a woman corporal - of persecuting her. Whereupon the corporal, Frances Menusan, was tried by court-martial. One witness at the hearing was Private Carol Ann Kierce. Then, shortly after the court-martial, the six WAC sergeants ganged up on Private Carol Ann and gave her such a whacking - that the six women sergeants ~~had been~~^{were} sentenced to a couple of years in prison. Now, at Fort Breckenridge, the Captain of the WACS has resigned.

KEFAUVER

(Another candidate for a presidential nomination. This time - on the Democratic side. Senator Estes Kefauver of crime investigation fame, announces that he is allowing his name to be entered in the California Democratic primary.) The Senator from Tennessee says he'll support President Truman for a third term, if the President wants one. But he points to reports that Harry Truman will not run again.

Senator Wherry, suffering from cancer,

passed away today, after nearly two months of illness.

WHERRY

The death of Senator Wherry of Nebraska leaves a large vacancy in the Senate - where he was leader for the Republican minority. He was a strong conservative, allied with Senator Taft of Ohio - now running for the G O P nomination for the President. So the choice of a new Senate Republican leader may bring about a test between G O P conservatives and liberals - with presidential overtones.

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CAUDLE

More testimony ~~today~~ from the ousted Assistant Attorney General, Lamar Caudle. Questioned by a Senate committee today, he told the story of an aeronautical business deal - the selling of a second-hand airplane.

Caudle related that September a year ago, he was talking to an old friend, W. A. Stonnell, who operates an airport at Easton, Maryland. Stonnell remarked that he had a twin-engined airplane which was -- "too big to sell" and said -- he would give Caudle a five thousand dollar~~s~~ commission, if Caudle could find a customer willing to pay thirty thousand.

Shortly afterward, ~~xxxxxx~~ Caudle was talking on the telephone to a man named Knohl. The committee counsel today identified this Knohl ~~xx~~ as a one-time convicted embezzler, employed by the two tax defendants, Aaron and Friedus, as an "investigator" to help them in a tax fraud case.

Talking to the Assistant Attorney General on the telephone, ~~xxxxxxKnohlxxxxxx~~ Knohl asked: Did Caudle happen to know where he could buy a twin engine

airplane? ^{Today} Caudle explained that he did a lot of flying, was interested in planes, and Knohl ~~xxxxxx~~ probably knew this. Anyway, the deal was made - whereupon the seller gave Caudle a check for five thousand dollars. Caudle says he asked his boss, Attorney General McGrath - should he accept the commission. He says McGrath told him it was okay.

~~The tax fraud had been postponed three times, and Caudle recommended the postponements. Finally, last year, the defendants, Aaron and Friedus, were convicted and sent to prison.~~

CAUDLE - 2

Atty. Gen.
~~Here's later news~~ McGrath stating ^{ea} that

Caudle told him there was no connection between the people in the airplane deal and any government case.

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FOOTBALL

The verdict on the death of a football star at Villanova College is strange indeed. The county authorities declare that Nick Liotta committed suicide in a fit of depression -- because of the poor showing the team made late in the season. When a college student playing football kills himself because the team lost a couple of games - that certainly would seem like "over-emphasis" in a fantastic way.

OPERA

News from the tuneful world of grand opera tells of an interesting scene. At the swanky Chicago Civic Opera House, they were giving a performance of Carmen; and Carmen has a number of interesting scenes. Like - the spectacle at the bull ring. But, this one was back stage - a sort of trial, [^] court proceedings. The Judge - James Caesar Petrillo, President of the Musicians Union.

The news today told how the performance of Carmen was delayed -- the audience kept waiting. The reason - a charge made against the conductor, Laslo Halasz (Halash). The concert master, the number one violin player, Alfred Bruning - claimed that, at a recent performance of Madame Butterfly, the conductor threw the baton at him, the stick for beating time, which hit him in the face.

The dispute grew so hot it looked like --

no Carmen. But, in the audience, was James Caesar Petrillo, head of the Musicians Union. He called the orchestra players back stage, and held court proceedings.

One witness - the concert master, who testified the conductor threw the baton at him.

^{TP} Witness number two, the defendant.

"Did you throw the baton at him? demanded Judge Petrillo.

"Of course not, its ridiculous" replied the conductor.

He explained that the stick for beating the time slips from his hand sometimes - and that was what happened.

Whereupon Magistrate Petrillo, propounded a question worthy of the wisdom of Solomon. "If" he demanded of the conductor "if you threw that baton,

would you be willing to apologize?"

"Yes" replied Halasz. "But I didn't throw the baton."

"That," ruled His Honor Petrillo, "constitutes an apology; -it settles everything."

After that Solomonian decision, the musicians went back to the pit, ^{Nelson -} and Carmen was performed in Chicago.