

The U.N. effort for a "cease-fire" along the China coast - has failed. ^{it would seem,} ~~That is clear, from the reply the Chinese Communists now make to the invitation sent them by the United Nations.~~ In the Security Council, a New Zealand resolution proposed negotiations for an armistice. The Chinese Reds - invited to send representatives to participate in the discussions. But they say - they will not.

Today's communication is not ~~an~~ outright refusal. It merely attaches - impossible conditions. The Red Foreign Minister, Chou En-Lai, states - his government will send representatives to discuss, not the New Zealand resolution, but the Soviet proposal before the U.N. Moscow having introduced a motion - calling for the withdrawal of American forces from the Formosa area. The United States blamed - as the aggressor.

As if that were not enough, Chou En-Lai also demands that the Chinese Nationalists be expelled from the U.N. - and the Red representatives admitted, as the legal envoys of China.

To make matters complete, the communication from the Reds insists - that, without the participation of Chinese Communist representatives, any decision taken by the Security Council concerning China would be null and void.

Tonight, officials at the United Nations are bitterly disappointed. The Chou En-Lai refusal - ending all hope, apparently, that the U.N. will be able to do anything about a "cease-fire" along the China coast.

This, automatically, switches interest over to London - to Indian Prime Minister Nehru, who is attending a conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. Nehru - advocating private negotiations, outside the U.N. We heard, last night, that Nehru was pessimistic about the U.N. effort. Thinking - that the best way would be to call a conference of interested parties, along the line of the Geneva Conference. Which - brought about an armistice in Korea.

Nehru has been pushing that notion - and, in London, today, he was in consultation with ^{U.S. Ambassador Winthrop Aldrich} ~~American representatives~~ who wanted to find out - more about the intentions of the Indian Premier.

In Washington diplomatic circles, there is an inclination to think that the Chinese Communists, in their blunt refusal today, may be trying to promote private negotiations - along the lines of the Nehru proposal. It is noted that Chou En-Lai states that his government will support all "genuine efforts" to relieve the tensions in the Far East.

PRISONERS

The State Department has rejected a proposal - that an effort should be made for a meeting between the imprisoned American airmen and members of their families at Pan-Mun-Jom. The suggestion comes from ^{the} Governor ~~Lee Hoeg~~ of Iowa - who thinks the Chinese Reds might agree to such a meeting, between prisoners and relatives, at the old scene of the Korean armistice talks.

The State Department reply is - that there's no indication that the Chinese Communists would allow the prisoners to go to Pan-Mun-Jom. Or - that it would help to bring about the release of the airmen. And the main point is - to procure their freedom.

SOVIET ECONOMY

The Moscow Radio gave out a statement of world importance, today. Announcing - that Soviet Russia has changed its economic policy. Shifting emphasis away from light industry, the manufacture of consumer goods. And going back - to the former Stalin policy of concentrating on heavy industry. The production - of basic needs for war.

This has been hinted at - for weeks. Now - it's official.

After the death of Stalin, the Malenkov regime made a big play of promising the Russian people better living conditions. More goods - like shoes and clothing, household merchandise and food. Which coincided with a milder tone in foreign affairs. The Soviet - "New Look." But now a quick change, in the field of economic policy. ~~at least~~

The change coincides with reports ~~that we've been~~ ~~having~~ of another struggle for power in the Kremlin.

Between - Malenkov and the Kremlin number two man, Krushchev. With indications - that Krushchev, opposing Malenkov, stood

for the older, tougher policy of Stalin.

Today's announcement is a statement by Krushchev.

Who declares - that heavy industry is the backbone of Soviet power. And adds - that emphasis on consumer goods is "inadmissible." Krushchev ridicules what he calls - "woe begone theoreticians." Declaring - they created a "muddle" by concentrating on goods to improve living conditions.

Krushchev stated all this to the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party on January Twenty-Fifth. That was the day after the resignation of Mikoyan, veteran big shot of the Kremlin, Minister of Internal Trade - a foremost advocate of the production of consumer goods. Now - falling from power.

The Krushchev statement of policy was made public, only today. The timing - significant. The Russian Supreme Soviet opened in Moscow, today - the nearest thing the Reds

have to a parliament. Obviously, the new Krushchev economic policy will be placed before the Supreme Soviet - for an okay.

Krushchev, more and more, looks like the real power in the Kremlin.

Today's opening of the Supreme Soviet was featured, at once - by the presentation of a budget. The largest budget - in ~~the~~ Soviet history. Nearly five hundred and sixty-three billion rubles. Which would come to more than a hundred and forty billion dollars - at the nominal rate of currency exchange.

All eyes are fixed on the figures for armament.

Which are - twelve per cent more than last year. The reason for the increase of money for weapons, is given plainly.

The Red Finance Minister stating: "The international situation does not give us grounds for decreasing our defense needs."

Instead, the figure is boosted.

FRANCE

In Paris, tonight, Premier Mendes-France is battling for his political life - as a new turn in the National Assembly threatens to bring about the fall of his government. The new turn - an attack by a prominent leader of the Premier's own Party.

The French Parliament is debating North African policy - with Mendes-France under assault, because of the way sedition and insurrection has been handled in the French colonies of Tunis, Algeria, Morocco. The chief speaker, today, former Premier Rene Mayer, veteran chief of the Radical Socialists. Mendes-France is a member of that Party. Rene Mayer - a rival of his for Party leadership.

Mayer assailed, not only North African policy, but also the French defeat in Indo-China, and the handing over of French territories in India to the Indian government.

Addressing Mendes-France, he said - he would vote against him.

Before this attack, the government was in danger. Tonight, the belief in Paris is - that Mendes-France is more likely than ever to fall from power.

The Chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee charges - that Harvey Matusow was "planted" by the Communists as a government informer. The Reds - using him in a scheme to discredit investigations of Communism. The Chairman, Congressman Francis Walter, the Pennsylvania Democrat - calls upon the Department of Justice to prosecute Matusow, immediately, for perjury.

~~Matusow was a "professional witness" who claimed he quit the Communist Party in Nineteen Fifty One.~~

(Chairman Walter says that, some while ago, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, of the Methodist Church, stated - that Matusow told him some of his testimony was untrue. Whereupon, Matusow was called before the Congressional Committee, and denied the Oxnam statement. Insisting - that all the evidence he gave was true.

~~But now~~) Matusow has turned right around. Saying - he gave spurious testimony in various cases. In the trial of the thirteen second-string Communist leaders in New York, *in*

Nineteen Fifty-Two - and in the trial of a Texas labor leader last year. Also - in the Owen Lattimore case. He explains by saying - he needed the fees he got as a witness, to enable him to live.

Congressman Walter insists - he's now convinced that Matusow was a Communist all along. His break with the Party - a fraud. He was planted by the Communists - as a government ~~informant~~ witness.

Matusow is publishing a book called "False Witness." The Committee Chairman says he's reading the book - which, he declares, follows the Communist Party line.

In calling on the Department of Justice to prosecute for perjury, Congressman Walter tells what he'll do, if Matusow is convicted. "I will personally," says he, "recommend to the court to fine him an amount equal to whatever he earns from his forthcoming book. No one is going to profit from that kind of business," adds the Congressman.

A. F. of L.

The American Federation of Labor took a fling at Southern Democrats, today. The A.F. of L. is already at odds with the Republican administration, and now charges - that the Southern Democrats in Congress are hostile to higher wages and better working conditions.

A.F. of L. President George Meany told reporters that labor legislation has a better chance in Congress controlled by Democrats. "But," he added, "a few committees, in the hands of a few Southern Democrats, bring no comfort to us."

Well, all the A. F. of L. President has to do now - is to get on the outs with the Northern Democrats. Then He'll be in favor of - nobody.

CONVENTION

The Democrats will hold their Nineteen Fifty-Six Convention in Chicago - if the Special Convention Committee has its way. In Washington, today, the vote was - unanimous for Chicago. Philadelphia - the only other city ~~is~~ seriously in the bidding.

Today's decision will have to be okayed by the full National Committee, which will act soon. The Republicans are expected to choose the same convention site as the Democrats. So it looks as if the two big circuses in Nineteen Fifty-Six will be held in that same old place, ^{the} ~~the~~ Chicago's stockyards.

WILL

At Joliet, Illinois, Mrs. Anna Meads, seventy-one years old - works as a cleaning woman at a YMCA. For fifteen years, she corresponded with Samuel Gallo, a Skid Row derelict in Chicago.

Last autumn, a truck driver called on Mrs. Meads, and handed her a document - which Gallo had asked him to deliver. A will - the Skid Row character leaving his estate to his pen pal.

Mrs. Meads thought - a strange sort of joke. She knew Gallo lived in a flop house, and prowled around - picking up bits of junk.

But now Samuel Gallo has died - and neighbors looked through his room, a flop house cubicle. They found - a litter of stocks and bonds and bank books. The estate - worth about thirteen thousand dollars.

Nobody can figure out how the Skid Row

character ever accumulated that much. One of those
oddities of life - especially with the strange will and
the pen pal heiress.

WEATHER

It's cold - all the way across the country, Atlantic to Pacific. Zero - in New York, today. The coldest February *10 below at my farm.* Third in the history of the big town. [^]Thirty-eight below, at Plattsburg, New York. Which tells the story for the eastern states. In the midwest, and the mountain states - bitter cold and raging blizzards. The passes ^{over} ~~from~~ the Rockies - jammed with snow.

Even sunny California shivered. ~~The~~ thermometer - in the forties, during the warmest part of the day. ~~Which is~~ ^{That's} ~~virtually~~ arctic - for California.

WOLF

From the frozen lands of northern Ontario - accounts of a huge wolf. A timber wolf, as big as a pony.

Bill Gemmell, operator of a camp, declares he has taken a shot at the giant - eight times. But - missing.

A week ago, he gave chase - in a jeep. But, on the ice of a frozen lake, the wolf out-distanced the jeep.

Bill says the animal is three feet high at the shoulder - and more than eight feet, from ~~the~~ nose to ~~the~~ tip of ~~the~~ tail.

Andy Tyson, an aerial hunter who has killed four hundred wolves in the northern wilderness, tells how he spotted the giant brown wolf - accompanied by a smaller white wolf.

Andy was in a plane, flying low over the ice, and killed the white wolf with a shotgun blast. ^{But, Hugh,} ~~But~~ the big one got away - as a fisherman would say.