

FOREIGN MINISTERS C.J. - Sumner. Wed., May 8, 1946.

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In Paris, on this first anniversary of VE Day, Secretary of State Byrnes made one of those attempts to capture everything. When you find you can't get anywhere with minor details -- ask for the whole thing. To the Council of Foreign Ministers he proposed a prompt summoning of a full peace conference of the United Nations. A general get-together to conclude treaties of peace in Europe. He suggested that the Grand International Palaver be started on June Fifteenth.

Well, that was the big idea to start with -- to arrange for a general peace conference. The foreign ministers have been taking up one thing after another. They haven't been able to agree on any one of a number of major points. So, having failed in the matter of details, Secretary Byrnes today ~~XXXXXX~~ proposed that they do the whole thing in one fell swoop.

To his fellow foreign ministers he said: "Today is VE Day and I cannot think of any

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better way of celebrating it than by announcing to the world that a peace conference of all nations will open in Paris on June Fifteenth."

In this Byrnes was supported as usual by British Foreign Secretary Bevin, also by French Foreign Minister Bidault. But not by Molotov. The Soviet Foreign Minister could think of better ways of celebrating VE Day than by announcing a peace conference. He would settle for some vodka and caviar.

Molotov immediately rejected the Byrnes proposal, saying that the various peace ~~xxxxxx~~ treaties would have to be agreed upon by the major powers before any general peace conference could be summoned -- the conference to get the treaties as drawn up by the big fellows.

Molotov was adamant, couldn't be budged -- so it looks more than ever as if the Council of Foreign Ministers would soon adjourn -- deadlocked, unable to agree on any important point.

U. N.

Once again there was a vacant seat at the meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations, the usual empty seat -- Gromyko' absent. The Soviet Delegate continued his boycott of the Council on the subject of Iran.

The other delegates went ahead with the matter, and voted to keep the Iranian question open until the Government of Iran can state definitely whether or not the Red Army has really completed its evacuation of Persia. The Iranian Government is requested, in any case, to make a report to the Council on May Twentieth.

In Iran, meanwhile, the news continues the element doubt that we had in our Iranian news last night -- doubt that the Soviets have fully carried out their promise to evacuate the country by May Sixth. The Iranian Government is in a peculiar position of not being able to say whether or not Foreign Troops have actually withdrawn from its own soil. Why can't they merely send agents to look into the matter and see if any Red Army Troops are still

in Persia? Well, they can't get into the Province of Azerbaijan. There, the Rebel Government set up ~~x~~ under the sponsorship of the Soviets, is keeping outsiders from getting in -- outsiders meaning the official government of the nation. With the Azerbaijan autonomous regime keeping them out, the Iranian authorities can't find out whether or not Red Army Troops are still in that Province.

PALESTINE

In Palestine the Arabs are appealing to Stalin. This was announced today by the Arab higher committee, which stated that a message is being sent *radioed direct to Moscow. Asking* ~~via the Soviet Ambassador to Egypt, Stalin will be~~ *Stalin* asked to intervene in behalf of the Arabs and support their opposition to the plan to send a hundred thousand Jewish immigrants into the holy land.

Today's news states that the London government has granted more than half a million dollars to a physicist of Birmingham University, for the construction of a beta-ray tube electrical power of one billion volts which is said to be three times the voltage of the best atomic equipment in the United States.

And another large sum of money goes to Glasgow University, for the production of a giant machine with a magnet weighing two hundred tons. It will be used to produce high energy electrons and will also be connected with the atomic bomb and will produce a great deal of energy.

ATOMIC

The British are building a betatron - which might sound like some kind of insect, but it isn't.

A betatron is a cousin of the cyclotron. It's a machine used in the splitting of the atom, in the business of the atomic bomb. Specifically, a betatron creates particles used to bombard the nucleus of the atom - and Britain plans to have the biggest betatron on earth.

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mesatrons, which are heavy atomic particles associated with the rays that come from out of space.

And still ~~xx~~ other grants of cash are being turned over to scientists for cosmic ray experiments connected with radar - the radar detection of cosmic ray showers, the study of radio waves from the sun and the exploration of the stratosphere by rockets.

Today's announcement of the elaborate financing of scientific ~~xx~~ research is accompanied by the explanation that Great Britain is seeking the leadership among the nations in the field of atomic power and atomic weapons. In this day and era, a nation is as important as the science it has.

It would seem that this topic of ultra-modern atomic physics would have little to do with subways. In London today it was announced that British engineers have completed a plan for new subway construction - a billion dollar project ^{(for the} ~~xxxxxxx~~ expansion of [^] the London underground. What has that ~~xxxxxxx~~ to do with the atom? The British government does [^] not

state plainly, but everybody knows what it's all about.

The new London underground is to be deeper than subways were ever thought of before. Hundreds of miles of tubes are to be driven in a complicated system far below the street levels of the British capital - deep down in the rock. The billion dollar project will produce an underground system in which nearly all of London's ten million people could go. During World War ~~Number~~ Two, London learned ^{all} about the usefulness of subways as air raid shelters, and now the plans call for what could be used as a super-air raid shelter for everybody - against atomic bombing. Ordinary shelters, like those that gave people protection against bombing by high explosives, would be of no use against atomic attack. And the answer is - go down deep. The British call their subways - "the underground." And underground would seem to be the right word, with atomic age facilities for the whole population of London to take refuge - far underground.

FRANCE

Over in France, they're having a mysterious political affair - quite in the French tradition of the strange and the dramatic in high matters of government and statecraft. The government in Paris has finally admitted - yes, they've placed Colonel Passy under arrest. This had been reported previously. And had been officially denied. The whole thing had a twist of concealment and evasion that could only stir all kinds of rumors, in Paris, famed for rumors. This was the more so, considering the identity of this Colonel Passy.

During World War ~~number~~ ^{Two}, he was General DeGaulle's Chief of Intelligence in France, a figure surrounded by an aura of heroism and legend. Colonel Passy was a nom de guerre, a pseudonym for the mysterious chief of underground intelligence in France. His name actually is Colonel DeWavrin.

~~When the war broke out, he was a lecturer at the military academy of Saint Cyr, the West Point of France. When France was overthrown by the Nazi, he~~

remained in his conquered country, and became associated with the Free French movement of DeGaulle. As DeGaulle's Chief of Intelligence inside France, he lived a life of underground ~~peril~~ peril, hunted by the Nazis. The mysterious Colonel Passy figured in exploits far and wide - finally becoming the Chief of staff of the patriot resistance forces in revolt against the German conqueror.

And now Colonel Passy is under arrest - taken into custody by order of the French government. Today's story from Paris states that this occurred last week, when Colonel Passy was picked up by the French police. He had been recently married, and was returning from his honeymoon.

The importance of his case is indicated by the fact that he was interviewed personally by French ^{President} ~~President~~ Gouin - who, after the interview, directed that the Colonel be held.

Why? What's it all about? The answer is a closely guarded official secret, but the rumors

are many and suggestive. There's talk about money that Colonel Passy had under his control - "enormous sums", we are told. And an official government ^{(spokesman} ~~fixxxxxix~~ makes cryptic mention of what he calls - "certain financial transactions". One detail, which is given without explanation, is a statement that four hundred thousand dollars have been found in a London bank, deposited by a friend of Colonel Passy.

French newspapers talk about financial scandals, plots and conspiracies with a money angle. One newspaper declares that DeGaulle's wartime chief of intelligence tried to set up a network of secret agents in the departments of the French government - this for ~~fixxxxx~~ [^] the purpose of procuring information by espionage - just what kind of information we are not told. Another version is that DeGaulle's number one liaison man planned to keep the wartime forces of patriot resistance together, keep the underground organization in existence for use in peace time.

~~One curious angle concerns the way the~~

arrest of Colonel Passy was kept a secret, denied, with hush-hush and cover up. They say that the French government dominated by communists and socialists, concealed the arrest, for fear the effect the news might have on the French voters in the election of last weekend - when the voters turned down the constitution advocated by the Reds.

The whole thing gives promise of another French political sensation, when the charges are made public against the legended hero of patriot resistance during the war. There ~~are~~ ^{are sure to be top} headlines on the subject of the mysterious Colonel Passy.

COAL

The coal strike is coming close to the general run of people - its effects about to be felt in the form of a rationing of gas. Artificial gas is manufactured from coal, and today the federal authorities authorized companies to ration gas to their customers. So that takes the coal strike right into the home, the family kitchen; and considerable public reaction is expected.

Meanwhile President Truman gives no indication of what kind of action he intends to take, if any. In Congress, criticism ~~was~~ increasing, demands that the White House do something. Also, angry Senators and Congressman are clamoring for legislation to curb John L. Lewis and his union.

ACCIDENTS

President Truman today stated that, unless the states and cities do something to check automobile accidents, the federal government will step in. Mr. Truman was addressing a session of the President's highway safety conference in Washington. He pointed to the fact that this year, the first of the post-war period, the figures for death and injury on the highways has already risen to pre-war levels - although the summer season for automobile touring, the worst season, has not yet begun.

The President declared that states and cities were remiss in dealing with the problem of traffic accidents - they are lax and careless. So, if they don't do better, the federal government will take action. What kind of action? Well, for example - automobile driving across the borders of states comes under the heading of interstate traffic, which gives the government something to say.

President Truman, in making this declaration, recited some vivid facts about the national tragedy

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of death on the highway: "When I was in the Senate," said he, "I made a study of this problem and found that more people had been killed in automobile accidents than in all the wars we had ever fought - beginning with the French and Indian War". To this he added that the number of Americans hurt in automobile accidents was greater than the number injured in both World Wars.

The President put the whole thing in terms of money. "If those deaths and injuries", he declared, "were paid off on a basis on which injuries are settled when somebody is killed or hurt by a railroad, it would pay off half of the national debt". And he added that the mere matter of property damage from automobile accidents averages over a billion dollars a year.

WILLIE

Down in Louisiana, a new lease of life has been given to - Willie. Several days ago, at the state prison, they tried to execute Willie in the electric chair. He is a seventeen year old Negro boy, who committed a murder while attempting robbery. There was no doubt about Willie's guilt - he admitted it. And the black seventeen year old was resigned and willing to pay the penalty for his crime - Willie is religious.

With all the grim formalities they sat him in the electric chair, and pulled the switch. Willie, sitting in the chair, said he was only tickled. Something was wrong with the instrument of death, the electrodes were out of order, and what was supposed to be the powerful death stroke of electricity was only some slight current that just gave Willie a tickling sensation.

So they sent the electric chair out to be repaired. They've got it back now, and the execution of Willie was set for tomorrow afternoon.

Today the matter was up before the Acting Governor of Louisiana. Willie's lawyers appeared and argued, and so did a lifelong friend of the man Willie had killed. This lifelong friend was Louisiana^a French. He spoke broken English mixed with the patois of the Bayou country. He made an emotional plea to the Governor - in behalf of Willie, the negro boy who had murdered his friend.

"This boy Willie", he cried, "walked to the chair on the day of execution. He sat down in the chair, and he never faltered. But the state fell down on its job. It made Willie suffer the torture of death, without completing it". And the friend of the murdered man demanded: "How many times does Willie have to go to the chair to atone for his crime?"

The latest this evening is a bulletin from Louisiana - the acting Governor has postponed the second attempt to execute Willie, has put it off indefinitely. It looks as if the postponement might well be permanent - ~~and~~ Willie ^{not} ~~won't~~ have to go to the chair ~~for the~~ second time. And now Hugh will you take the chair. I mean this chair!