

FORMOSA

L.T. Deleo Mon. Feb. 14-'55.

At the U.N., today, the Security Council refused a Moscow demand - for a debate of the Soviet accusation against the United States, charging this country - with "aggression" in Formosa. The Council said - "No", and adjourned, without going into the question.

All of which moves the focus of interest over to Indian Premier Nehru -and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. Who are making efforts for a diplomatic settlement of the crisis along the China coast.

Nehru is quoted as declaring - he's ~~an~~ confident that ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a "cease-fire" can be obtained through negotiations with Red China and Soviet Russia. In London, the feeling seems to be - that negotiations might well concern those islands which the Chinese Nationalists continue to hold, right off the Red mainland.

The British believe that some sort of deal could be made - if the Chinese Nationalists would give up the Quemoy

and Matsu Islands. They've already abandoned the Tachens ~~Islands~~ off shore, to the north. But ^{still hold} ~~holding~~ those other bits of land so close to the coast.

Meanwhile, Nationalist air patrols were, today, scouting the South China coast - seeking signs of ^{a transfer of} ~~a shift of~~ Communist military power. The belief is that the Reds, having gained the Tachen Islands, are ^{shifting} ~~moving~~ south for moves against Quemoy and Matsu.

FOLLOW FORMOSA

The word in Washington is - that the United States has not given any pledge to defend those islands. But we would, almost certainly, intervene - if the Reds launched any serious drive to take them. This information, given to newsmen, came after Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, on Formosa, told a news conference that the United States would, surely, defend the islands. Chiang didn't claim he had received a formal commitment -but spoke in tones of certainty.

The Washington word reasons the matter this way:

A Red assault on the Quemoy or Matsu would require air superiority, over the islands, for any chance of success. But the Reds could not gain air superiority, except by bombing the Nationalist airfields on Formosa. If they did this, the United States would intervene - having guaranteed Formosa against attack.

In Moscow - a pledge that Soviet Russia will back Red China. So stated by new Premier Bulganin. The assurance

was given at a reception, celebrating the fifth anniversary of a mutual aid pact between the Soviets and the Chinese Reds. Christian Pineau - a leader of the Socialists. They got Bulganin declared that the Mao Tse-tung regime can depend, not only on Russian sympathy, but also on Russian help.

leader, in his own French Socialist Party. At nightfall they told him - go ahead. So, tomorrow, Pineau will consult the other Parties, and see - if he can line up a majority. And - report to French President Coty - tomorrow night.

Ever since the fall of the Premier Mendès-France ten days ago, they've been having a tedious political confusion - same as usual, only worse. First, Pinay - tried to form a government - and failed. Then Pflimlin - tried, who also failed. Now Pineau has been thrown the ball. So the French political extra play would seem to be from Pinay to Pineau.

FRANCE

In Paris, today, another prominent politician undertook the task of assembling a new government. Christian Pineau - a leader of the Socialists. They got him out of bed before dawn - and offered him the chance. Then all day today, he was confabulating with fellow leaders in his own French Socialist Party. At nightfall they told him - go ahead. So, tomorrow, Pineau will consult the other Parties, and see - if he can line up a majority. And - report to French President Coty - ~~z~~ tomorrow night.

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LONDON

In London, Scotland Yard is cracking down on Colonel Scotland. Which may seem - like a confusion of names. So we'd better get it straight.

The Yard, of course, is Britain's famous detective headquarters. You may wonder - how it ever got that name, "Scotland"? Well, in that locality, during the Middle Ages - the kings of Scotland maintained a palace. Where they resided - when they visited London.

in question,
The Colonel, whose name is Alexander Scotland - is Britain's number one spy catcher. Chief of Counterespionage in two World Wars. The trouble is - the Colonel has written a book. The title - "London Cage." That's what they call a mansion in London, where German prisoners were interrogated, in World War Two. The charge is that the Colonel's book reveals - forbidden military secrets.

The publication of "London Cage" has been held up - during the argument. Last week, Scotland Yard walked in, and seized the Colonel's private papers - including many confidential documents.

That aroused the Colonel's ire. So today he announced -
he'll go ahead with publication, in spite of all official
protest. The Colonel - defying the Yard. Scotland versus
Scotland.

MATUSOW

Matusow, the turn-coat witness -- today, denied ~~a charge~~ that he tried to shake down an attorney formerly employed by the McCarthy Investigating Sub-Committee. The assertion was, that last Spring, he asked Lawyer Daniel Buckley: "How much would it be worth, not to mention you in the book?" Which referred to the forthcoming book, in which Matusow confesses that he testified falsely in Communist cases. He also denied - he had tried to borrow a thousand dollars from Buckley.

All this transpired at a hearing on a petition for a new trial by thirteen second string Communist leaders, who were convicted in a trial - at which Matusow gave evidence against them.

CONVENTION

At the White House, today, there was a conference - on the next Republican Convention. National Chairman Leonard Hall and other leaders - confabulating with President Eisenhower.

Upon emerging, the Chairman stated - he assumes President Eisenhower will run for a second term. The subject was not mentioned at the conference, but Hall says nothing transpired that might indicate anything else. His opinion has been, all along, that the President will run - and there was nothing, today, that would make him change his mind.

He said - the President favors ^{*(a convention)*} a date late in the season. And - a shorter political campaign. Which would eliminate a lot of speechmaking and the rigors of campaign travel. Of course, the President might well feel that way about it. If he intends to seek another term, you'd expect him to welcome an electioneering schedule - not so tough.

However, the question of a date - is up in the air. The Democrats, also, want - a later convention, and a shorter

campaign. They were talking about August Twenty-Seventh - really late. Then they thought - maybe, August Thirteenth. But, over the weekend, they made a tentative choice - of July Twenty-Third .

The reason for all this changing is - that election laws in some of the states might make it impossible to hold late nominating conventions. There's a time limit set - for entering nominees on state ballots. In Connecticut, for example, the law demands that candidates must be certified by August Fifteenth.

The Democrats are suggesting - that several states, which stand in the way, should alter their election laws. Which brings a response from Connecticut - saying that a small "technical" change would remedy the situation there.

~~At the G.O.P. conference in the White House, today, it was decided that the Republican National Committee shall meet in Washington on Thursday, and decide the question of a date. That is, if the question of state laws has been~~

Today's White House gathering also discussed the question of - where. The place - for the Republican Convention. Chicago, Philadelphia, and San Francisco are in the running. The Democrats have already selected Chicago - and, of recent years, the custom has been for both Parties to hold their conventions in the same city. For reasons of - economy. But Republican Chairman Hall says, that San Francisco is making a real bid for the G.O.P. convention.

Talking -

~~Talking~~ - in terms of real cash. Always - the number one issue.

HURRICANES

The Weather Bureau, today, gave out - a new list of names for hurricanes. The names - by which the big storms of Nineteen Fifty-Five will be known, ~~When~~ they come on - in late summer and autumn.

So, what are the new names like? Same old story - girls' names. The Weather Bureau - ignoring protests, that it isn't flattering to the ladies to identify them with hurricanes. Some ladies, they say, were flattered - by having tropical tempests named after them.

Anyway, the Weather Bureau claims - girls' names are the best. Short, easily recognizable. Names - that stick in memory.

A new list has been assembled, because they don't want the names of last year to be confused with hurricanes of this year. The new list - going this way: Alice, Brenda, Connie, Diane, Edith, Flora - and on down the alphabet. It's a complete alphabet - so what have they got for X Y Z? The answer is - Xenia, Yvonne, and Zelda.

Alice - get ready. The first hurricane of the season will be named after you. As for Zelda, she needn't worry.

There have never been more than ten hurricanes in one season.

So there's no likelihood of getting along to the ladies -

down toward the end of the alphabet. *Never any*

Xantippys and Zebedies.

SUBWAY

New York City had a subway snarl - today. Because of a sort of "chain reaction." At a huge Brooklyn plant, providing power for the subway - a generator blew out. That threw an extra load on seven other generators in the plant - causing them to blow out. That was the "chain reaction" from one to another - and the power plant was powerless. So were the trains in the subway. Stalled - along the line from Brooklyn to New York.

Three trains, with more than four hundred passengers, were stranded in a tunnel under the East River. There - for more than an hour, without any heat. The weather, bitterly cold - and, no electricity, no heat. The passengers nearly froze.

Another train was on a bridge, going up a rising slope - when the power failed. The motorman - smart. He let the train roll back - down the slope. Back, down to a station - where the passengers got off.

More than ^{three quarters of a} million people were late to work, in New York today - because of the "chain reaction" in a Brooklyn power plant.

STARLINGS

The old County Courthouse at Springfield, Illinois, has a new line of strategy to use against that perennial enemy - the starlings. Like many a prominent building, the venerable Courthouse is plagued by swarms of those pestilential birds. So now - "buzz-bombs" against the starlings.

A Committee of the County Board of Supervisors has put in an order for twelve dozen missiles of a novel type - reminiscent of the "buzz-bombs" that assailed London in the Second World War. Each one - a cannon-cracker, with a propeller. Set the propeller going, and the big firecracker will rise. The mechanism - carrying it up to a given height. At which - the flying missile explodes.

The idea is to send up a barrage of these - thundering at the level of the Courthouse roof. That's where the starlings roost - thousands of them. The hope is - that the noise of the buzz-bombing cannonade will frighten the swarms of birds away.

~~Well~~ ^{That} the Sangamon County Courthouse is famous - in the story of Abraham Lincoln. Back before the Civil War, the

building was the Illinois State Capitol - much frequented by
Lincoln, in his early days as a local political figure and
the home-spun humorist. ^{So} now, ~~so~~ you can imagine the shade of
Honest Abe, watching, and laughing - as they make the
"buzz-bomb" attack against the starlings.

VALENTINE

The largest Valentine in the world is on display right now - at Madison, Wisconsin. The writing on it - in letters ten feet high. Fifteen letters - which would make the length ~~xxxx~~ almost - one hundred and fifty feet.

The creation of the giant Valentine was witnessed by Barbara Feidelson - a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin. As - she sat at the window of her living quarters, on the fourth floor of a local hotel. The window - overlooking Lake Mendota. Frozen over - and covered with snow.

There, on the lake, was Earl Scholl - walking, and walking. And - leaving tracks on the snow. Trudging along, the young fellow formed huge letters, which read: BARBARA, I LOVE YOU. Romantic declaration - for all to see.

So that was Barbara's Valentine. Barbara says - that, as she watched, she was "very thrilled." *Oh Hugh,*
lovely, warm sentiment - on ~~the~~^a frozen lake.