

L.T. - P&G. - MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1952

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's the latest - - just in over Moscow radio. The note and memorandum Deputy Foreign Ministry Gromyko delivered today to the envoys of the Big Three Western Powers in Moscow was a Soviet Draft of a Foundation for a German Peace Treaty. It calls for an early meeting of The Big Four - to draft that treaty.

RED DIPLOMATS

Now about those new and rigid restrictions clamped on Soviet officials in Washington and New York. At last they are forbidden to travel outside a radius of twenty-five miles. In Washington, this applies to Russian diplomats, and also to journalists of Tass - the Soviet news agency. And - in New York, the nine members of the Amtorg Trading Corporation. Soviet people at the United Nations, New York, are exempt - but their own entry permits limit them to the immediate area of the United Nations.

Simultaneously, restrictions of the same sort were decreed in London, Paris and Rome. Joint action by the Western powers - in retaliation for the severe limitations of travel which the Reds have long placed on foreign diplomats in Moscow.

CUBA

The revolution in Cuba today featured a pageant of - white flags. You might have thought the embattled government would confront the rebels with banners of defiance! But - no! At the presidential palace, there were flags a-plenty - each the color of snow. Whate - for surrender.

(The insurrection - staged by an old acquaintance in the news, Colonel Fulgencio Batista, the one-time army sergeant - who, long years ago, played military politics, ran a revolt, and tossed out a President. After which he set a record by overthrowing three presidents - and putting two in power. Now, he has deposed a fourth - President Carlos Prío Socarras.)

Cuba was to have an election on June first - Batista himself a candidate. The way he looked at it is expressed by today's dispatch in the following words: "He charged that President Prío was getting ready to install his own presidential candidate by means of a coup d-etat - - if that candidate failed to show enough

strength to make his election certain." The theory being - elect your man if you can, But, if you can't, make him president just the same. So Batista, to avoid a coup d-etat by the opposition, staged one of his own. So he explains.

(His method was simple. He went to the chief military camp at Havana, and assumed command of the troops. Just made a speech, and marched the soldiers against the presidential palace.)

When armored cars of the rebels approached, the presidential palace underwent a sudden change of appearance - turning white. From windows, one after another, white sheets were hung out. Like a display of - bedsheets.

The armored cars were followed by detachments of infantry, and more white sheets were hung out of the windows. The presidential palace - a pageant of the white flag of surrender.

President Prío had left the palace half an hour

earlier - having got word of what was coming. Where he is tonight, is uncertain. One report is that he's a prisoner in the grim Cabana fortress, the guns of which dominate Havana. But there's another report - that President Prio has escaped to the Provinces to raise resistance against the new revolution.

Tonight Havana is quiet. The coup d-etat was bloodless, except for two government soldiers killed early in the affair. Batista has proclaimed a provisional regime with a list of ministers - though not including a President. He, ~~himself~~ himself, is expected to assume the top office later.

Immediately after the surrender of the presidential palace, Batista's troops took over another palace, headquarters of the organized labor movement. Called - the Workers' Palace. The Secretary-General of the Cuban Federation of Workers was placed under arrest. All - to stop the threat of a general strike. Deposed President Prio was backed by Labor - workers and

students forming the greater part of its political strength. Which is a prime factor in the state of affairs in Cuba tonight.

INDO-CHINA

From Saigon, Indo-China:- a fifteen coach train blown up in Cambodia - blown into a ravine, right off a high bridge, with heavy loss of life. Work of the Reds - the Viet Minh rebels, in their war against the French? This time we hear that the saboteurs were "Issarak" tribesmen - nationalists, who are campaigning for a free Cambodia, including that marvelous lost city of the Khmers - Anchor Vat.

(Meanwhile, the French have cut off two Viet Minh battalions in the fighting near Hanoi. The rebel troops surrounded on an island in the Red River delta, and today, ground troops, with fixed bayonets, attacked through the rice paddies and annihilated them.

KOREA - TRUCE

Tempers flared once more at Panmunjon today - more bitter wrangling. The most violent language was in the tent where the sub-committee on the exchange of war prisoners is meeting. There, Admiral Libby, told the Reds that "unless and until you decide to negotiate, we can see no hope of resolving the issues confronting us." Then striding from the tent, he told newsmen: "I'm not going to sit and listen to that tripe!" Apparently he was referring to yesterday's accusation that the Allies were "inhuman and barbarous" in their "treatment of Communist prisoners."

ADD KOREA

Late word - General Ridgeway has just paid a surprise visit to Truce Campaign Headquarters. The Supreme Commander told UN newsmen that the talks have now reached the stage where it is impossible for him to guess what would happen next.

A North Korean prisoner, informed as the talks proceed are eager to capture U.S. Marines, for information. That any Red soldier who brings in a Leatherneck receives ten-thousand Yen, a medal, plus two weeks' leave in the east coast part of Honsu. Honsu, by the way is chief target for our navy these days. Every day they pound it with at least a thousand rounds.

Here's what Marine Sergeant Major Crawford of the 1st Marine Division says about that prize one-dollar-and-eighty-five cents. He says it gives him that "important feeling." Lt. Jim Brady of Brooklyn insists a dollar-and-eighty-five isn't enough!

MARINE

We have all heard what it costs to train a U.S. Marine, also how expensive all the equipment he carries. Here comes a new twist, from the Reds - Communists in Korea - Per marine they offer one-dollar and eighty-five cents. Now, one-dollar and eighty-five cents to them means ten-thousand North Korean Won - Won being money, of course.

A North Korean prisoner, informs us that the enemy are eager to capture U.S. Marines, for interrogation. That any Red soldier who brings in a Leatherneck receives ten-thousand Won, a medal, plus two weeks' leave in the east coast port of Wonsan. Wonsan, by the way is chief target for our navy these days. Every day they pound it with at least a thousand rounds.

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KOREA - WAR

The Sabrejets knocked down seven more Migs today. Some eighty Red Jets swarmed across the Yalu to attack the American bombers that were pounding targets near the river. According to dispatches, the Red Jets were routed - seven down, three damaged, with the rest high-tailing it back to Manchuria.

RAILROADS

The Government will seek an injunction tomorrow to halt the Mid-West railroad strike. Justice Department lawyers are flying to Cleveland tonight to present the government case in Cleveland Federal District Court. More than five thousand five hundred railroad workers are tied up, thousands of freight cars are stalled, and passenger operations on the New York Central, west of Buffalo, are down to zero.

In Chicago, the striking Unions called the walkout ~~was~~ a "token" affair - something to spotlight their wage demands.

WEATHER

The South hit by a violent windstorm. The center of it - northwest Louisiana; and Mobile, Alabama - the causeway across romantic Mobile Bay. - flooded.

In Washington the Weather Bureau warns that more of those black funneled twisters may strike on a line from Vicksburg to Baton Rouge.

SCHUSTER

New York's vicious murder case ^{is} ~~was~~ as much of a mystery as ever tonight - the killing of Arnold Schuster, the young clothing salesman, who recognized alleged Bank Robber Willie Sutton - and pointed him out to the police. He was shot down by a lurking gunman in ~~Knox~~ gangster style - and the motives are perplexing and obscure. ^R The police are seeking a former prison pal of Willie Sutton, who escaped with him several years ago - they want him on suspicion. But there's a belief that the murder is unlikely to have been committed by accomplices of the fugitive, in whose capture Arnold Schuster aided. ^R Some surmise that the murder might have been the doing of underworld characters who merely sympathized with Sutton. There's even a guess that the crime may have a connection with the shooting and wounding of prominent Attorney Rosenblatt, who figures in the suit to break the will of a granddaughter of J.P.Morgan. ^R But all this is vague and ~~sub~~ nebulous. Little more than dim speculation, ~~with a posting of rewards of~~ ~~substantiated rewards now amount to~~ ^{— with a posting of rewards of} tens of thousands of ~~more than ten thousand~~ dollars for the capture of the killer.

EDWARDS

At Washington, Indiana, a sixty-nine year old woman and a seventy-nine year old man are under indictment - for trying to return the lower part of Manhattan Island to its "original owners." The Indians?
No, the Edwardses!

Back in Colonial Days, one Thomas Edwards, held legal title to the southern section of ~~Manhattan~~ Manhattan. Today, worth sixteen billion dollars - according to current real estate values. Wall Street, for example, is on land once owned by the original Edwards. The claim is that his title still holds good, and that lower ~~Manhattan~~ Manhattan belongs to his heirs - any number of Edwardses. Mrs. Anna Edwards Wiley is one. Sp she says all she wants to do is establish rightful ownership.

The authorities declare it was all a money-making scheme run by the sixty-nine year old woman and her ^(seventy-nine) ~~seventy-nine~~ year old secretary, Franklin Van Winkle - no descendant of Rip Van Winkle, we suppose. They say

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the two collected more than ten thousand dollars in fees from people who believe they are heirs to the original Edwards, and engaged the two to press their claim.

This, say the authorities, comes under the heading of "mail fraud." Something like - the old trick of selling Brooklyn Bridge.

LEAD - TREASURE

Nelson, I hear some one has just pronounced you
Radio's No. 1 announcer. Whoever it was, he's a bit
late - you've long held that distinction.

And look what has happened to me:-

TREASURE

I ^{we} ~~have~~ just been presented with a scroll that reads: To certify that Lowell Thomas has been elected Mr. Treasure Hunter of 1952. All that in letters of gold. I suppose this is because I ~~so~~ often include tales of adventure -- of expeditions searching for the loot of the Spanish Main; the gold of the Incas, and other treasures.

Accompanying the scroll are what are called the "articles of office." One, a genuine Piece of Eight, ^{now,} the coin so highly prized by buccaneers of the Spanish Main; square cut, from a bar of Spanish silver; presented to me by Robert Nesmith, National President of the Treasure Hunters.

The second article they have given me is crystalline calcite from the Louis XVI cavern, in Haiti.

And, a third article, jadite with some free gold, from the Lost Ladder Mine in Colorado. Years ago Prospector Dan Roland found a rich vein, ^{but} ~~he~~ died without revealing it's location. To get to it you had to drop down in a crevasse, by ladder; the Lost Ladder ^{Mine}

TREASURE--2

The Treasure Trove Club that has given me this scroll and these articles of office has some three hundred members. President Nesmith himself, is an expert on pirates, Vice President Henry Wilson, of Willits, California, has spent years hunting for the Lost Peg Leg Mine in the Sierras, and so on. And Nelson, they tell me that Long John Silver's parrot can still be heard on windy nights in the Caribbean -- screaming "Pieces of Eight! Pieces of Eight!"