

LEAD L.T.-K. Thurs. July 9-'53.

A world important headline broke tonight - from Soviet Russia. The downfall of Beria - who has been deposed from power, and expelled from the Communist party as an enemy of the state. So announced tonight by TASS, the official Soviet news agency.

Beria minister of the Interior, and head of the dread secret police, was fired by the Central Committee of the Russian Communist party. Accused of - "undermining the Soviet state in the interests of foreign capital," says the announcement,

Specifically he is charged with anti-state and anti-party activities in Berlin - in connection, obviously, with the NAZI workers revolt in the Soviet sector.

Beria, of course, was one of the triumvirate left in power, after the death of Stalin. He was in partnership with Malenkov and Molotov - and was regarded as a rival, especially of Malenkov. It was expected that there would be a struggle for power within the Kremlin - with somebody overthrown. Snow

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its Beria. Which undoubtedly means the triumph of Malenkov.

Here's a ~~21~~ later dispatch. An announcement issued by the Communist party in Moscow says that Beria will be, in the words of the announcement - "handed over for examination to the supreme court of the U.S.S.R." Which might well mean, another big Soviet purge trial, - ~~Once~~ powerful Laurenti Beria to face the Red court.

This could mean a change in the world situation. Beria was regarded as advocating moderate measures. His over-~~throw~~ throw could perhaps be followed to an end of the peaceful gestures that Moscow has been making. It could also mean a great purge, with internal convulsions - inside Soviet Russia.

CHESS

The State Department in Washington announces that the Soviet chess team, scheduled to play a match in New York will be permitted to visit Glen ~~SANXX~~ Cove, Long Island. This follows a Moscow dispatch last night, which stated that the Russian chess masters, already on their way to the United States, would not play - unless allowed to go to Glen Cove. There the Soviet representatives at the U N have a country home.

The story goes back to Nineteen Forty-Six, right after the Second World War - when an American team visited Moscow, and played a match. The Russians won - and there was to have been a return engagement.

But the cold war came along. The Iron Curtain - shutting down. The United States chess federation sent repeated invitations, but they never got a reply.

Then, recently - a sudden change. The Americans repeated the challenge -- and Moscow accepted. All in line, apparently, with the gestures

of conciliation - by the new regime at the Kremlin.

(The Russian team is headed by the world champion, Botvinnik (accent on the second syllable); Scheduled to meet the top ranking American player, Samuel Reshevsky, hailed as the chess champion of the West. ^{To} ~~They~~ play four games against each other.)

But then - the hitch. The State Department, granting ~~XXXX~~ visas, insisted - that the visiting chess players must not leave New York City. The Russians, on the contrary, wanted them to live at Glen ~~XXXX~~ Cove -- that summer home of Russian diplomats.

~~That argument came to a showdown,~~ ^{TP} and now ~~there's a compromise,~~ ^S The State Department saying - the chess ~~xxx~~ players may visit Glen Cove. But they must reside ~~xx~~ in New York City. It remains to be seen if the Russians will accept that.

Well, it all seems to be a tempest, not in a teapot, but on a chess board. It's hard to see what harm the chess players could do outside New York - except, maybe, pick up some new move. The

real way to fix them would be for our chess masters to demolish them across the board. Capture their queens, and check-mate them.

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Today, Mark Clark was asked -- if he thought the Communists were sincere, when they said they would go ahead with reparations for signing. He replied: 'We'll find out. The United Nations intends to go right ahead.'

The mood on both sides would seem to be indicated by a meeting of liaison officers yesterday -- at which the Communists level out the negotiations for an armistice. It took the Americans and the Reds just fifteen minutes to transact the business. Which certainly is in contrast to that old story of Pan Mun-ju - the Red's haggling and obstructing for days and weeks over some small point.

KOREA TRUCE

Tonight, there's a full dress conference at Pan Mun Jom - the first high level meeting since the prisoners were turned loose by Syngman Rhee.

General Mark Clark is back in Tokyo, after a talk with Rhee. The word being - that the General told the South Korean President the U N intends to sign an armistice, with or without Rhee's approval.

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The mood on both sides would seem to be indicated by a meeting of liaison officers yesterday - who arranged for the top level conference, which is on tonight. It took the Americans and the Reds just fifteen minutes to transact the business. Which certainly is in contrast to that old story at Pan Mun Jom - the Reds haggling and obstructing for days and weeks over some small point.

KOREA BASEBALL

A veteran of the air war came home today, and was asked -- about baseball. Captain ~~T~~^T Red Williams ~~was~~ replied - that he'll go back to the game next year. If the Red Sox, in his words, "want to fool around with an old man."

The famous home run hitter is thirty-five, and returns ^{home} because of an ear ailment - after flying on thirty combat missions with the Marines in Korea. He said he first noticed the trouble, when he caught a cold shortly after arriving over there. Then his ears bothered him particularly - when he ~~flew~~^{flew} ~~was~~^{was} at high altitudes.

He's going to a navy hospital for treatment, and a good guess might seem to be that Red Williams will be back with the Boston Red Sox next baseball season.

IRAN

Iran will get no more American economic aid - until there's a settlement of the British Iranian oil dispute. The government at Teheran was notified by President Eisenhower - on June Twenty-ninth, the President advising - some sort of arbitration. But - no more American cash, until there's an oil settlement.

Sir Winston Churchill, at seventy-eight, has been ordered by his doctors to take a complete rest. He is now in the United States - recovering from an operation in Boston. The Liverpool Daily Post says that the Foreign Secretary is recovering swiftly, and expects to return to Britain soon. Churchill is still in his liver - says the newspaper.

CHURCHILL

A report was printed today that Sir Winston Churchill plans to retire as Prime Minister within three months - and turn his post over to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. This is headlined by the Liverpool Daily Post, an influential newspaper. Which indicates - that the number one factor is - the illness of both statesmen.

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Today a left wing party newspaper printed the statement that Queen Elizabeth consulted the Churchill cabinet about the possible marriage of her sister to the former aviator - and was advised against it. This was promptly denied by ~~XXXX~~ sources close to the British government.

All this ties in with the relation between the ~~British~~ Royal Family and the Church of England. The Sovereign, right now the Queen, is the head of the Church.

PRINCESS

In London, the newspaper of the Church of England speaks out against the nationwide gossip about Princess Margaret - and her alleged "royal romance." All Britain is talking about the younger sister of the Queen and Captain Peter Townsend - who happens to be divorced. Today the church newspaper made the sarcastic observation: "Princess Margaret," it said, "is a victim of match-making spinsters of both sexes." And added - that she is a "dutiful churchwoman" who knows the principles of the Anglican church on the subject of divorce.

Captain Townsend is a thirty-eight year old war hero, who has been an equerry of the Royal Family for nine years. Granted that post by the late King George the Sixth - in recognition of his heroism as a pilot in the air battle of Britain. But now he's leaving the palace - assigned to the British Embassy in Brussels, as air attache. The London gossip is that Captain Townsend has been ordered sent abroad - to get him away from Princess Margaret.

OPERA

At the old city of Nimes, in France, a forty-seven year old woman went on trial today - charged with burning down the famous opera house there. Her defense is the story she tells - hoping it will stir the jury to pity and clemency.

Years ago, she wanted to be a great opera singer - and failed. Then she tried to make her nephew a star of the opera. - ^{But} ~~but~~ that's the story.

Back in her native Belgium, Eva Closset studied singing ^{like} ~~example of the~~ thousands of girls who dream of the opera. She sang minor roles, a few times, with traveling opera companies. Then drifted to lighter music, her flaming ambition disappointed. Especially when presently - she lost what voice she had.

She nursed her bitterness for years, and then found a new goal. Her sister had a son, who seemed to have a good voice. So she turned to him, and taught him - intending him to have a great career. They were in southern France, and she took him to the

magnificent old Opera House at Nimes - to begin there. The best she could do was to get him into the chorus. He appeared in three performances, then was fired. They said he was not good enough even for the chorus.

So at night, she went to the Opera House, dark and empty at that hour - to get some belongings her ~~hus~~ nephew had left there. She took along a bottle of gasoline and some rags. That night the opera house at Nimes went up in flames.

SUB MCCARTHY

In the controversy over charges against the Protestant clergy, committee investigator J. B. Matthews quit his job tonight. Senator McCarthy committee chairman, saying - he accepts the resignation with regret.

This followed a vigorous denunciation by President Eisenhower who decried what he called - "generally irresponsible attacks". The President adding: "Such attacks betray contempt for the principles of freedom and decency."

The President's declaration was in reply to a telegram from three clergymen of the national conference of Christians and Jews - a Catholic prelate, a Jewish rabbi and a protestant minister. They protest in strong terms saying: "The sweeping attack on the loyalty of protestant clergymen, and the charge that they are in the largest single group supporting the Communist apparatus, is unjustified and deplorable."

BOOKS

Senator McCarthy denounces the new policy for U S. Information Libraries^S abroad. The new directive permits the circulation of books by Communists - if they serve "the ends of democracy." McCarthy calls this "completely ridiculous," saying - it gives government approval to Red authors, and ~~helps~~ helps the Communist party indirectly.

Well, it makes quite a problem - something in the realm of a paradox. According to President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles, there's no harm in distributing "mystery stories", for example - even if written by a Communist! The President mentioned Author Dashiell Hammett, a writer of thrillers whose name has been linked prominently with Communism.

(Well, I suppose you could put Red propaganda into a "who done it?" or an author might keep marxism out of the doings of the cops and robbers. A puzzler in the uproar over the - burning of the books.)

DROUGHT

President Eisenhower is flying to Amarillo, Texas, tomorrow - to confer with the governors of six states, which are stricken by the drought. The purpose - to plan aid for farmers and ranchers.

Today, Congress voted a multi-million dollar bill for a loan and subsidy program - to relieve the crisis in the drought-stricken areas.

VOLCANOS

In Alaska, tremendous volcanic eruptions.

Three fire mountains ~~xxxx~~ exploded - fifty miles southwest of Anchorage. Fishing villages in danger of being obliterated. Anchorage itself deluged by falling volcanic ash. These three eruptions of "unparalleled fury" says the dispatch.

FLYING SAUCER

Here's an end to the latest flying saucer story -- the weird one about three little men from Mars, who landed in a saucer. At Atlanta, the police have ordered the arrest of two barbers and a butcher - who put out the yarn.

They said that as they were driving along in their car, when they saw the saucer, a "glowing Red all over"!, So said the two barbers and the butcher. And that one of the little men was run over by the automobile.

They displayed the corpus delicti - and, it did look like a little man. But a professor made an examination, and said - it was a monkey, which they had shaved. Also that they had cut off its tail, to make it appear human. The cops issued a warrant against the two barbers and the butcher, Mike - because they cooked up a hoax about little men from Mars.