

L.T. - P. & G., TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1953

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY!

First that news from Luang Prabang. In Indo-China, the Communists have driven across the province of Laos, and are now within twelve miles of the capital city of Luang Prabang. So Laos - the legendary "Kingdom of a million elephants", is facing a last stand battle to keep from being overwhelmed.

A dispatch from Hanoi tells of a French airlift pouring men and supplies into Luang Prabang - about ten battalions of troops with their weapons. French officers estimate that the Reds are regrouping for a major assault on the city. And that it may come before the end of this week.

Plans already have been made to evacuate officials, if necessary. But first priority on evacuation goes not to a human being, but to a sacred golden image of Buddha. Tradition in the "kingdom of a million elephants" is that Laos is doomed if the statue falls into enemy hands. So the sacred image has been entrusted to the eldest son of the King, who has orders to save it no matter what else happens.

Buddhism, of course, is the top religion in that part of Asia. So, like often in the past, an oriental state is putting much of its trust in Gautama Buddha. The people hope he will save their land and keep their "kingdom of a million elephants" from being overrun by the Reds.

KOREA - WAR

American pilots are looking for a Communist MIG. They've searched for plenty of Red planes before. But this time they have a special one in mind - if it ever appears. That is, they now are waiting for the first Red pilot who will desert, fly his plane over to our side.

All this, of course, has to do with General Mark Clark's offer to the Reds. As we heard last night, our Commander in Tokyo is offering one hundred thousand dollars, and political asylum, to the first Red pilot who flies a MIG to one of our bases.

How do our own airmen feel about this offer? A few who were asked about it, disagreed in their opinions. Our first jet ace, Major James Jabara, of Wichita, Kansas, thinks there's a good chance some Red will take us up on it. "I'd like to see it work," he

said. "You know, deserting with a plane isn't new. A lot of Germans did it in the last war."

But according to Lieutenant Ivan Ely of Charleston, West Virginia, the chances are not so good. He put it this way: - "If their pilots are anywhere near as ~~sure~~ loyal as their propaganda says they are, there won't be any takers."

In the meantime, all of our pilots are waiting, all hoping for the chance to escort that first Red deserter back to their base, when - or rather if - he turns up.

A dispatch from Tokyo states that it may be a few days before any Red planes are seen, either as enemies or as deserters. Bad weather grounding aircraft on both sides. Rain and heavy clouds covering nearly all Korea and Manchuria.

The only important Allied attacks were made from the sea. Planes from two aircraft carriers, struck at two Communist staging areas with the returning pilots telling of huge fires raging, destroying Red supply buildings, also ammunition dumps going up.

KOREA - TRUCE

We are getting all set for high-level diplomacy, in case of a Korean armistice. Today our retiring Ambassador to Japan, Robert Murphy, was named as temporary adviser to General Clark. Murphy, a professional diplomat, will be on hand if he's needed, to deal with the Reds, attached to Supreme Headquarters in Tokyo. President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles have asked him "to stay on and work with General Clark on the armistice negotiations."

At Panmunjom, the third meeting between the truce negotiators has been held. The last big obstacle now is the question of repatriating all prisoners-of-war. If agreement can be reached, then work on an armistice can begin.

The fourth meeting at Panmunjom is on right now. But, it's too soon for any news.

In the meantime, the first group of ex-prisoners have landed in Hawaii. Flown there. A dispatch from Honolulu describes a typical Hawaiian welcome, GI's greeted with leis of flowers, and hula girls, and soft music.

Tomorrow the boys will be flown from Hawaii to Travis airbase, near San Francisco. Then, on home. To wherever they live, in twenty-one states.

RUSSIAN PEACE PLAN

The British Foreign Office is skeptical about that Russian peace plan. This being official British reaction to a statement by Molotov. According to Molotov, the Kremlin favors a five-power agreement. The five to be Russia, the United States, Britain, France - and Communist China.

The Molotov statement is just a repetition of the Soviet stand in the past. The Soviet idea being, to make no real concessions. But, to get acceptance of Red China by the West. One London expert put it this way: "The conclusion which we must draw from this argument, is that Russia is not prepared to give anything away. That her basic aims remain unchanged."

Pravda is playing up the Molotov statement. The Moscow paper describes it as the means to a real settlement of international questions. But Western

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diplomats remind us of how little faith we should have in statements from the Kremlin, until there is a real change in Russia.

GERMAN BISHOP

In East Germany, the Reds continue their campaign against the Protestant churches. Their latest move, the recent banning of the Young Community of the Evangelical Church. The Reds trying to undermine the Church, by taking children away from it.

Now the Bishop replies. Otto Dibelius, head of the Evangelical Church, calls upon the Young Community to remain faithful to the Church. Furthermore, the Bishop points out that this anti-Protestant campaign is much like that of the Nazi regime. "But," said he, "the Church will survive, just as it survived before."

The words of the Bishop are described as the strongest any Protestant leader has used so far. The Reds have repeatedly persecuted the Protestants in East Germany. Bishop Dibelius points out, among other things, how the Reds have disrupted church services. That

children are warned not to attend Bible classes. That religious education has been hampered. And that members of the hierarchy have been arrested.

The Bishop ~~Bibelius~~ urges his people not to yield to Communist blackmail or pressure. ^{This} ~~which~~ means that he has now openly come into conflict with the East German authorities and that a struggle is on for the allegiance of the youth in the Communist Zone.

COMMUNIST SPY

During the War, ^{one} ~~an~~ Communist spy stole more than one hundred blueprints from a General Motors plant. The Communist - Thad Mason, now testifying before the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee.

Mason said that he stole the blueprints in Nineteen Forty-Four or 'Forty-Five. His point of operation being the G.M. plant in Cleveland, where he was a file clerk. He was part of a Red spy ring that operated in the plant. Two other employees he worked with were a dishwasher and a counterman in the cafeteria.

According to Mason, the three Reds worked like this:-
Mason, as a file clerk, would take the blueprints ^{away} from the office, hidden in a newspaper. Then he would hand the newspaper to the counterman, who in turn would pass it on to the dishwasher. The dishwasher would take the prints to the basement, where he had a photographic set. He would film the documents. Then he would ~~return~~ return them to the counterman, who would hand them back to Mason. Finally,

Mason would return them to the files.

The particular blueprints they stole, were plans for a landing craft engine. But all of their labor seems to have been in vain. Because a group of Communists in France had already stolen a complete landing craft. This the French Reds turned over to the Russians. And so, when Mason went to France, with his blueprints, the Reds there only laughed at him. That was his reward for all the work he had done and all the danger, of pilfering documents from General Motors.

After the war, Mason went to Poland. And there he became disillusioned with Communism, because he found the Poles - here are his words: "a nation in captivity. A downtrodden nation run by outsiders." So he escaped from Poland, and abandoned the Communist Party. Now he is telling the Senate Sub-Committee

everything that he knows. And Chairman Herman Welker says that his sub-committee is already following up some of the leads given to them by the former spy.

In the meantime, officials in the Cleveland plant are somewhat skeptical about the Mason story. They say, they believe no blueprints were available to him at the time. There were no plans in the file room where he worked. They add that there is no basement under the cafeteria. So any photographing could not have been done there.

FILIBUSTER

The filibuster ends. After three weeks, the opponents of the Tidelands Oil Bill agree to a vote.

Before they gave in, Senator Taft said that he would begin round-the-clock sessions to break the debate. Whereupon opponents of the bill decided to stop their filibustering. The vote will come next Tuesday, with debate on amendments limited to four hours each.

So ends a filibuster in which one record was set, by Senator Morse of Oregon, who spoke against the bill for more than twenty-two hours. Senator Morse says he is satisfied, because he believes he has made the public aware of the danger in this Tidelands Oil matter.

M.P.'s

Here's a story about two feminine politicians in Britain, involved in an unlady-like controversy. Patricia Ford is a Conservative member of Parliament. Bessie Braddock a Socialist. Mrs. Ford supported a statement in the London Sunday Express, that a woman Socialist snored during late sessions of the House of Commons. Meaning her colleague Mrs. Braddock. The Socialist lady M.P. didn't like that remark a bit.

And now Patricia Ford, M.P. apologizes.

Described as "a full, frank, and whole-hearted apology."

Prime Minister Churchill narrowly avoided being caught in the middle. He was about to speak for Mrs. Ford, when it was announced that Mrs. Braddock was taking no further action.

LADY ASTOR

Women once more are throwing away a golden opportunity! Who says so? Why Lady Astor. The Virginia born member of British aristocracy once again wades into a controversy.

On her recent visit over here she made the front page with her acid crack about Senator Joe McCarthy. Now she turns her attention to British women, saying that "the women's movement was never at a lower ebb than it is in the United Kingdom today."

What's wrong with British women? Lady Astor argues that the trouble is - glamour. "I mean these mass-produced movie stars," was the way she put it. She added: - "The press never used women in a more ridiculous way. And yet we have magnificent women in this country." Lady Astor doesn't care for movie stars and their style. And she thinks there should be more

feminine politicians. "Glamorous women! They make me sick!" says Lady Astor. What do you have to say about glamorous women, Nelson?