

PALESTINE

R.T.-V.+G. Monday, Dec. 13, 1948.

From Tel Aviv comes word of what can be achieved by men of Good Will. The road to Bethlehem - the most Sacred Shrine of Christianity, will be open at Christmas time, for the annual pilgrimage.

The agreement to open the historic road, along with Joseph and Mary travelled Nineteen Hundred and forty-nine years ago came about as the ~~xxxx~~ result of an on-the-spot conference ~~xxxx~~ between Arab and Jewish leaders Colonel Abdullah El Tel and Colonel Moshe Dayan of Israel.

They met to discuss the possibility of a permanent armistice. And the first thing they decided was to allow the annual pilgrimage to take place as usual - the journey to the birthplace of the Savior. With the understanding that all Pilgrims are accompanied by a United Nations escort. Israel to provide the transportation, the drivers of all cars to be Christian. All Pilgrims to be checked by both

the Jewish and Arab authorities.

Last year a mere handful visited the Church of the Nativity as compared with thirty thousand Pilgrims the year before.

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A Tel Aviv dispatch says that Abdallah has told the Jewish Agency that he will support a Jewish state -- this, if Israel will not oppose his plans for a greater Syria.

and in his capital at Amman, Transjordan today King Abdallah was formally proclaimed King of Transjordan and Arab-Palestine. The decision taken after a sixteen hour session of his parliament. Both houses finally voted unanimously for the desert King to rule over Arab-Palestine.

And Zionist leaders in Cairo, we are told, are denouncing Abdallah. They are warning him formally that

PALESTINE PEACE

In Palestine a sudden march of events towards an armistice, and permanent peace between the Jews and the Arabs. Israel has offered to negotiate an armistice with King Abdullah of Transjordan and the desert king is expected to give a favorable answer within forty-eight hours.

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PALESTINE PEACE -2-

if he proclaims himself King of Arab-Palestine he is violating his pledge to the other Arab nations -- Egypt, Saudi-Arabia and Syria -- that pledge to engage in a Holy War. And from Gaza, the old Phillistine capital in southern Palestine where he has set up a separate capital, (Egypt's King Farouk, says that he will never accept the annexation of Arab-Palestine by a King of Transjordania.)

BERLIN

The new Non-Communist Lord Mayor of Berlin has asked the Western Allies to raise the Air Lift to eight thousand tons a day. That much is needed, he says, if Western Berliners are to pull through the winter.

Meanwhile, the news wire tells of the Soviet Government in Berlin moving into the Black Market in a big way, in order to get as many Allied Marks as possible. A U. P. Correspondent who visited Black Market centers, found Russians there in force. The Russians were offering American cigarets at twenty one dollars a carton, and Soviet Textiles at two-hundred dollars for enough to make a suit.

The Russians want Allied money to buy machinery for the factories in the Soviet Zone.

Up to now the Russians often have cracked down on the Black Market with spectacular raids. But now that their Berlin zone is under the Iron Curtain, they apparently are supporting it. The reason? Because the Western Mark is worth three-and-a-half times the

BERLIN - 2

Russian Mark; and some shopkeepers in the Soviet Sector won't take anything else. If you want a glass of beer you pay for it in Western Marks -- or go thirsty.

The Allied Western Sectors of Berlin may be merged into one -- all under the administration of the newly appointed Non-Communist Lord Mayor, Dr. Ernst Reuter. At a press conference today the Mayor said the American, British, and French Military Commanders are considering such a merger.

CHINA

Across the other side of the world in Shanghai, E. C. A. Administrator Paul Hoffman announces that American Aid to China might continue; even if a coalition Government were to replace ^{the} Chiang Kai-Shek regime. ~~This~~ provided such a coalition were not dominated by the Communists.

As he spoke there were near riots in Shanghai. ~~as~~ Crowds ^{young} tried to storm the government banks ~~to~~ exchange ~~their~~ ~~currency~~ ~~for~~ gold and silver. A mad rush ~~came in~~ ^{with} and China's Gold Yuan, the Chinese dollar, dropped ^{to} from thirty-five ~~to~~ an American dollar, to seventy and seventy five.

ESPIONAGE

The latest on the case of the pumpkin papers. House investigators today say they may ask the key figures in this Red Spy case to submit to lie-detector tests. Ex-Communist Whittaker Chambers, Alger Hiss, and his brother Donald to be asked to submit to ~~tests of that~~ ^{that} electrical device ~~believed~~ ~~to detect~~^s whether you are telling the truth, ~~or not.~~

Congressman Mundt of the Un-American Activities Committee says that if they are made, these tests will be ~~made~~ behind closed doors. Last August Whittaker Chambers agreed to a lie detector test, but Alger Hiss refused.

This afternoon Congressman Mundt further disclosed that the Committee's spy hunters are sure now that only four State Department Officials had access to those secret documents -- the pumpkin papers, ^{that} and they know who these people are. Now the investigators are looking for the typewriter on which the stolen documents were copied -- copied when they were sent to the Communist spy ring almost ten years ago.

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A typewriter, we are told, always leaves clues. No two machines are exactly identical, and many a criminal has been traced because he left his typewriter around. In this case, the Congressman from South Dakota says his investigators have some interesting clues. They know that the typewriter was manufactured between Nineteen Twenty Eight and Nineteen Thirty. This from a letter written on it. But they want to be sure now that the same machine which wrote that letter also wrote the copies of the secret documents.

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GRAND JURY

Congressman Nixon of California of the House Un-American Activities Committee, appeared before the New York Grand Jury today which is investigating Communist espionage. He brought with him the microfilm of two hundred stolen secret government papers.

Afterwards, Nixon told reporters that he was not going to give up possession of the films. So tonight he took them back to Washington and there he will hand them over to the FBI for examination, but the films will always be in the custody of the House -- to be produced whenever the Grand Jury wants them.

Meanwhile, (Alger Hiss has temporarily given up his twenty thousand dollars a year job as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.) Hiss offered his resignation, but the Endowment's directors gave him a three-months' leave of absence, with full pay -- no action to be taken now on his resignation.

INVASION

Costa Rica wants an international air patrol to see that no invaders cross its borders from Nicaragua. The request made in Washington tonight by ^{the Costa Rican} Ambassador, Esquivel,

The latest, from San Jose, capital of the Central American Republic, tonight, tells of four unidentified men killed by a Costa Rican military patrol. The first casualties. And that Costa Rica's rapidly recruited army is holding the invaders to the positions they took up on Saturday.

Only a few days ago we heard how the President of Costa Rica had abolished the Army. Armies were too dangerous, said he. So Costa Rica would have none. Today the President had changed his mind. Massing his forces for a counter-attack he called on every able bodied man to join him.

In Managua, the Nicaraguan Foreign Office has issued a formal denial that any Nicaraguans have invaded Costa Rica. The Nicaraguan Government also says it is stopping all persons from crossing the frontier, to Costa Rica.

In telephone conversation with his Embassy in Washington; General Somoza, Commander in Chief of the Nicaraguan Forces says he knows nothing of any invasion of Costa Rica. He says that if his National Guard had invaded Costa Rica last week, they would be in the Costa Rican capital by now.

Meanwhile Costa Rica is appealing to the Pan American Union for Military Aid under the Rio Defense Treaty -- to help defend itself against invasion. Is it phantom invasion? Also Appealing to Guatemala, for help. And the Costa Rica war office says that fiteen hundred Nicaraguan tropps are now thirty miles inside the mountainous frontier.

We hear that President Truman is being kept informed of all developments.

RETAKE

VOTES

President Truman today came a step nearer his second Administration. For this was the day for the members of the Electoral College to cast their ballots. In the recent election, Mr. Truman piled up a total of three-hundred-and-four electoral votes out of the total of five-hundred-and-thirty-one. Theoretically he did. But, today Mr. Truman lost one vote. Preston Parks of Tennessee gave his electoral vote to States Rights Candidate J. Strom Thurmond.

So far as I know this is only the second time in our political history that an elected President has lost a pledged vote in the Electoral College. It happened once before in Eighteen Twenty. President James Monroe was reelected, unanimously. So he should have received all of the Electoral College Votes. That was in what was known as "The era of good feeling, -- when the Federalist Party had collapsed, and everyone was backing Monroe. But, in the Electoral College, William Plummer of New Hampshire kicked over the traces and cast his vote for John Quincy Adams,

VOTES 2

The recalcitrant Mr. Plummer felt that no one should share with President George Washington the honor of being elected unanimously.

Today Preston Parks of Tennessee joins with William Plummer of New Hampshire who, back in Eighteen Twenty, provided a diversion in the Electoral College by doing as he pleased -- which the law allows him to do.

ran across a description of the ceremony held in
Eighteen Forty-one. A magazine article told how, as
a bleak cold day, with a bitter wind, Ninth President
William Henry Harrison, rode a charger at the head of
the parade. Then he remounted at the capital and rode
back to the White House. So, this already is the
precedent.

When this was pointed out at the White
House today, one of Mr. Truman's advisers said --
Ah, yes, but General Harrison was not followed by
a formal parade as Mr. Truman will be on January Twenty

INAUGURATION FOLLOW VOTES

Mr. Truman plans something new for January Twentieth. He is thinking of setting a precedent -- the first Chief Executive ever to head his own Inaugural parade. When the White House announced this, reporters went to the records - to see whether any President ever had led an inaugural. One of them ran across a description of the ceremony back in Eighteen Forty-one. A magazine article told how, on a bleak cold day, with a bitter wind, Ninth President William Henry Harrison, rode a charger at the head of the parade. Then he remounted at the capitol and rode back to the White House. So, there already is the precedent.

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INAUGURATION FOLLOW VOTES - 2

Those who followed President Harrison were merely
a lot of hangers-on -- office seekers. While Mr.
Truman's inaugural ~~xxx~~ will be a real parade.

~~prices were very high and the hotel~~
~~bedrooms by eleven beautiful Swedish blondes in white~~
~~gowns. With lighted candles in their hair. And they~~
~~served the startled prisoners with breakfast. The~~
~~girls are known as the Lucia girls. and they serve~~
~~coffee and cakes to the Lucia prize winners in bed --~~

it's ~~xxxxx~~ just an old Swedish custom. But you have to
~~go to Stockholm to get it, --~~

NOBEL

There is something more in winning a Nobel Prize than cash and prestige. In Stockholm, three Nobel prizewinners were awakened this morning in their hotel bedrooms by eleven beautiful Swedish blondes in white gowns. With lighted candles in their hair. And they served the startled prizewinners with breakfast. The girls are known as the Lucia brides. ~~And~~ They serve coffee and cakes to the Noebl prizewinners [^] in bed --

~~It is~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ just an old Swedish custom. But you have to

in a Nobel Prize and Nelson!
go to Stockholm to get it, -- if you win a Nobel Prize

JAPAN

There was an uproar in the Japanese Parliament today. Such a clamor that the House was ordered to recess, so the Honorable members could calm down.

Madame Yamashita, one of Japan's new women politicians, ^{has} ~~had~~ formed her own Democratic party.

One of its objects is to get rid of Finance Minister Izumiyama. Madame Yamashita says the nation's budget should be in the hands of a woman.

It seems that Finance Minister Izumiyama when he heard of this invited the lady and her cohorts to a cocktail party. He did this before the formal debate in the diet, the day Mrs. Yamashita intended to launch her attack.

Today Mrs. Yamashita stood up in the House and announced that Finance Minister Izumiyama had insulted her. That when she excused herself from his cocktail party, to take her seat in Parliament, the

Finance Minister took her aside and said: "Lady, I love you". That apparently was the insult.

"I was enraged" she said. "I told him that I had more important business to attend to - that the diet was waiting to hear ~~my~~ my speech."

"Shush" said the Finance Minister "love is more important than business!"

Whereupon the uproar. Male members of the Diet shouted their ~~of~~ disapproval of Mrs. Yamashita.

The clamor was so great ~~that~~ they adjourned

Parliament. *all because the Finance Minister said to the lady member: "Shush - love is more important than business," Nelson!*

ABDULLAH

Early Dec. 13, 1948

King Abdullah was proclaimed King of Trans-Jordania and Palestine today, after a ~~an~~ sixteen hour session of his Parliament. At Amman, his capital, in land east of the River Jordan, the upper and lower houses of his parliament ~~xxxx~~ voted unanimously.

Abdullah the Desert King to rule over Arab Palestine.

Last week we heard about the conference at Jericho. Word came from there that Abdullah might soon claim suzerainty over parts of Palestine as well as over the adjoining country of Trans-Jordania.

Moslem leaders in Cairo, meanwhile have been ~~xxxx~~ denouncing Abdullah, warning him that by proclaiming himself King of Palestine, he will be violating his pledge to Allah -- the pledge to engage along with them in a Holy War.

Later word: The Israeli Foreign Office in Tel Aviv reports that negotiations are under way between Israel and Trans-Jordan -- with some hopes of a peaceful solution by Christmas. The report adds that Abdullah has told the Jewish agency he will support a Jewish State, if Israel will not oppose his plans for a Greater Syria.

In Gaza, the ancient Philistine City, the Egyptians have set up a separate capital. There today King Farouk said that Egypt never will accept annexation of Arab Palestine by the King of Trans-Jordania.

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Afterwards, ^{Cong.} Nixon told reporters that he was not going to give up possession of the films. Not to anyone ~~he says~~ because they are the property of the House of Representatives. So he is taking them back to Washington.

Meanwhile, Alger Hiss ^{has} temporarily given up his Twenty thousand dollar a year job as President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Hiss offered his resignation, but the Endowment's Directors gave him a three months' leave of absence, with full pay, no action being taken now on his resignation.

INVASION

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A telephone report tells how Costa Rica's rapidly recruited Army is holding the invaders to positions they occupied on Saturday.

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