

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1941.

Cannon

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Turkey shakes hands with Hitler -- that's the big news of the day, and of the week. Turkey and Nazi Germany have made a pact of friendship -- and non-aggression. Hitler's Ambassador Franz von Papen and Turkish Foreign Minister Saracoglu signed the pact at Ankara just four and a half hours ago.

This comes as a personal triumph for the shifty von Papen. It's the culmination of long months of negotiation, with Britain's diplomats doing their utmost to prevent it.

There is one saving grace in the agreement from the British point of view. The preamble sets forth that the German Government and the Turkish Republic have agreed to conclude a treaty, "without prejudice to present obligations of both countries."

"Without prejudice to present obligations" means that

Turkey has what is known as an escape clause; that she doesn't have to do anything against the letter or spirit of her alliance with Great Britain.

It has been an open secret that Hitler has been putting pressure on Ankara for a long time. According to the grapevine reports, he really wanted the Turks to tear up the scrap of paper which represented the Anglo-Turkish alliance. But that was one plum the wily von Papen failed to pull out of the pie.

Turkey and Germany not only broadcast the signing of the agreement but also its text. First, the two government bind themselves mutually to respect the integrity and inviolability of their territories and to take no measures which are aimed directly or indirectly against either contracting party. Article Two provides that Germany and Turkey bind themselves in the future to contact each other in friendly manner on all questions affecting their common interests. The third article, which is mostly technical, provides that the treaty shall be ratified and asks that its ratification shall be exchanged in Berlin. The treaty is effective immediately and for ten years.

In London, apparently, the new was received with some

consternation, mitigated by the consolation of that saving clause. In official circles it is expected that the Nazis will give out the impression that the agreement will furnish them gangway through Turkey for troops and war materials headed for Syria, Iraq, and even beyond. But, it is also pointed out that any such actions would be contrary to the spirit of the Anglo-Turkish Alliance. Then again some British commentators are arguing that one object of this pact is to give a broad hint to Russia, a nudge in the ribs to Dictator Stalin that he'd better play ball with Hitler.

The United Press has made a canvas of diplomats and high-up Englishmen, and many of them seem to agree that the German-Turkish agreement was a smack at the Soviets. Some of them suggested that maybe Hitler has held off the demands he was believed to be making on Stalin until he had succeeded in rendering Turkey at least neutral. Most of the foreign diplomats appear to believe that, in spite of the escape ~~of~~ clause, ~~this~~ treaty is really the thin end of the wedge, the beginning of a new era of German influence in Turkey. Even some of the British observers agree that they must expect an increase of German power in Turkey, especially considering the way Hitler always keeps nibbling away once he gets a toothhold.

There was considerable excitement about this news today. It came through first in a United Press bulletin from London which merely reported a rumor from what was called a "reliable source", that the pacts had been concluded. Some editors looked upon it with a jaundiced eye and took no chances, although it was quickly followed by another U.P. bulletin, this time from Ankara. Half an hour later another bulletin from London conveyed a report that the non-aggression agreement had been initialed but not yet formally signed.

About the middle of the afternoon it became official. Berlin announced it, and Ankara confirmed.

An obvious conjecture is that this agreement is one of the direct results of the fall of Greece and subsequently of Crete.

In line with all this comes a bulletin from Stockholm. It conveys only a rumor, but it's a rumor in line with others and with the course of events, particularly the mysterious lull in the activities of the Nazi armies. The rumor is that Hitler has now given Stalin a week to answer an ultimatum supposed to have been sent to Moscow.

WAR

In the Near East it is announced from Cairo that General Wavell has withdrawn his desert legions because they achieved their objective. That objective being to find out the real strength of the enemy and to relieve the pressure on Tobruk. The British claim that it was a major achievement because of the heavy casualties and destruction inflicted upon that Nazi-Fascist spearhead at the Egyptian frontier. They claim that the big battle of the tanks was indecisive.

But that isn't what the other side says. Rome claims that the British had thrown a thousand tanks into the battle, many hundreds of them of the newest type made in America. And, says the Fascists, they destroyed two hundred of those British tanks made in America. Berlin also heralds that battle in the desert as a complete victory for the Axis and claims that the British offensive was crushed.

In Syria, the British fortunes haven't been so good either. General Dentz announces triumphantly that he made a smashing counter-offensive against the British and Free French forces, captured five hundred men and important war materials. And Vidhy

tells us that the French counter-offensive got as far as the Palestine frontier. The French declare that they are on the verge of surrounding the Australian troops holding the Fort of Saida, ancient city of Saida.

But ~~in~~ the Free French radio in Jerusalem broadcast a message from Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, British Commander in Syria, urging General Dentz to withdraw his forces from Damascus. That if this is not done, the British and Free French will advance immediately upon the ancient Syrian capital. The British also announce they are now within twenty miles of Beirut.

P M, the new type of newspaper, of which we have heard a good deal, is celebrating its first anniversary, and the editor and founder of P M , Ralph Ingersoll, dropped in to see me tonight. Editor Ingersoll has been following the war as closely as any Editor I know. So let's ask him a question. Ralph Ingersoll, how about celebrating the birthday of PM by giving us your slant on something in which we are all enormously interested? As a result of your jaunt to England and your observation of the way things have been going since then, what do you now think ^{about} the possibility of ~~an~~ invasion?

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INGERSOLL:- Lowell, ever since I saw the R.A.F. take on the Luftwaffe -- and lick it to a standstill -- and studied Great Britain's land defenses, I have been sure that Hitler could not successfully invade Great Britain, and would only try if every other effort failed. The R.A.F. beat the Luftwaffe against long odds in September. And the Germans have not been able to raid by daylight since then. Without control of the air by day, invasion is impossible.

Hitler's defeat in the air over England -- in my opinion --

accounts for his turning first to ~~the~~ ^{the} Balkans and then to the Mediterranean, accounts for Hitler's concentrating on the Battle of the Atlantic -- and accounts too for Hitler's present drive to bloodless victory through appealing to the appeasement-minded in other countries. These are all signs of weakness and not strength.

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L.T.:- What do you think Hitler is up to now?

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INGERSOLL:- My notion is that he thinks there is some way he can play his cards -- some combination of military conquest in the Mediterranean plus a peace drive through Vichy - that will paralyze American effort, or slow it up to a point where the British will become discouraged. But, he's all wrong about that. For the time being I believe he will go on shopping around for places like Crete, against which he can concentrate over-whelming forces to achieve small, showy victories on the strength of which he can launch new phoney peace offensives.

The day he tries to take on invasion of England one will know the war is very near the end. For the move is so hazardous that his trying it will mean he is very near the end of ~~his~~ his tether. And I am absolutely certain that with the R.A.F., two million soldiers

and two million home guardsmen waiting for him, he will fail miserably.

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E.T.:- I think so too, Editor Ingersoll. And more power to you and PM.

PROTEST

Dr. Hanz Thomsen in charge of the Nazi Embassy in Washington paid a ceremonious visit ~~at~~ to the State Department today. He was received by Under-Secretary Sumner Welles. Dr. Thomsen handed Sumner Welles a note of protest against President Roosevelt's order throwing out all the German Consular Officers from the United States. Thomsen refused to tell what was in the note. Under Secretary Welles said it was concerned entirely with the order ejecting the German agents, had nothing to do with the freezing of the German funds.

Welles made public one interesting fact. The United States government will make arrangement with other powers at war to permit the German Consular officials to return home through the war zones. There's a meaning in that, say the Washington observers. It means that the State Department wants to head off any chance of having those fired Consuls going directly from the United States to any other post in the Americas.

And here's a bit from Berlin. If relations between the Nazis and ourselves grow any worse they will probably take some action other than ~~more~~ mere tit for tat retaliation with the United States. The Nazi spokesman didn't intimate what that action might be.

No parole for Fritz Kuhn, ex-leader of the Deutsch-America Bund. So says the New York State Parole Board.

When Kuhn was put away, New York's Judge Jim Wallace told him that he was not being imprisoned because he was a disseminator of hate and a rabble rouser, but just an ordinary small time thief.

As for the Bund, Judge Wallace described it as an organization whose importance had been greatly exaggerated, just a bunch of small-fry conspirators made up of bus boys, ex-bartenders and former locker room attendants.

The Chairman of the New York Parole Board said that he and his colleagues did not believe that Kuhn's release would be compatible with the welfare of society. Most of his associations, it was explained, are with persons who are or have been active in anti-democratic activity. Therefore the Board must regard him as a hazard to the public peace and security.

RADIO

The worse domination that could be visited upon public opinion is domination by a political commission. The speaker who said that today was referring to the domination of radio by the Federal Communications Commission. It was Niles Trammell, President of the National Broadcasting Company, who had his day in court before the Interstate Commerce Commission of the Senate. He said that Chairman Fly of the F.C.C. had drawn an inaccurate picture of radio in his report, inaccurate particularly in representing that the N.B.C. and the Columbia Broadcasting System constituted a dual monopoly. Actually, said Trammell, N.B.C. and C.B.S. are two of the most aggressive competitors in American industry -- and the Fly had turned them into Siamese twins in his own imagination.

Trammell also said it was not true that the Blue Network could continue to exist if the N.B.C. was obliged to dispose of it. Fly's orders, he continued, will destroy contractual relationships and create a situation of forced sale that will be practically a death warrant. And he pointed out further that N.B.C. may have to drop at least five popular programs including the symphony concerts conducted by Toscanini, the Farm and Home Hour, the Town Meeting of

the Air, the Saturday afternoon concerts of the Metropolitan Opera Company, the Damrosch Music Appreciation hour, and others. He pointed out further that N.B.C.; has been spending more than forty-five million dollars on sustaining programs and twelve million dollars in research. As for any domination of public opinion, the only opinions expressed on the air are those of members of the government, members of Congress, civic and educational leaders, and others whose views are always expressed as their ~~own~~ own.

DERBY

Not even war stops the running of the English Derby, beg pardon -- Darby. That most ancient of horse-races took place as usual today for the undred and sixty-second time. Nevertheless, war did make two important differences, First of all, it wasn't run at Epsom Downs but at Newmarket, the classic course that was once the favorite racetrack of the Stuart Kings of England and Scotland. Another difference was that, instead of half a million spectators, there were only thirty thousand, and that's a big difference indeed. It's about seventy miles from London might have attracted German planes.

The winner? Oh yes, the winner -- Owen Tudor, a bay bolt. son of Hyperion, who won the Derby of Nineteen Thirty-Three. His owner is Mrs. Katherine McDonald Buchanan. Owen Tudor was a twenty-five to one shot.

The second horse, Morogor, was owned by Her Highness, the Maharanee of Kohlapur. Horse Number Three was owned by the theatrical tycoon, Sir William Jury, known to some of us who knew him in World War Number One Days as "Bill" - And here's a man whose name is not Bill. It's Milt.