

PALESTINE

L.J. - P. & G. Thursday, July 1, 1948.

(The Arab League political committee has turned down Count Bernadotte's proposals for a Palestine peace.) The decision unanimous; so reported from Cairo. The Arab leaders now are said to be debating whether to send the Count a flat rejection of his peace terms, or perhaps reply with some counter-proposals. They are to announce their decision on Saturday, so we are told. An Arab spokesman in Cairo today said that (the Arab states are standing on the proposition that the Arabs must have complete sovereignty in the Holy Land. They will not recognize a separate Jewish state.) So they say.

The assumption in Cairo is that United Nations (Mediator Bernadotte favors a Palestine federation, with Israel as an autonomous state, with the same status as the Arab states.

Only eight days of the truce remain.) Eight days; with both sides announcing that they expect to resume the shooting war on July Ninth; unless an agreement can be reached.

Late word from Jerusalem: that the Arabs are moving heavy artillery into the Judean hills, ready to set up a wall of fire around the Holy City.

From Tel Aviv we hear of an atmosphere of disillusionment, a belief that the fighting will start again, in eight days.

From the island of Rhodes word that Count Bernadotte left for Jerusalem today, by air, to settle a dispute ~~is~~ between Jews and Arabs over the water supply for the Holy City. The Count going in person to try and settle this ticklish problem. Also to look into the question of Jewish food trucks using the road between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, which is said to be frequently blocked by Arab patrols.

The cause of yesterday's blockade was a ~~xxxx~~ lost camel. The Arabs held up a Jewish convoy, until they got their camel back; although the animal had strayed away in the night, as camels will. The United Nations supervisor instituted an all night search for the roving camel. They finally found it, grazing

in the garden of a trappist monastery. It may ~~not~~ not have been the camel that escaped, but it was a camel. So the men handed it over to the Arab; whereupon the Jewish food convoy was allowed to go on to Jerusalem.

TEL AVIV FOLLOW PALESTINE

A dispatch from Tel Aviv gives us a colorful story of modern D'Artagnans - soldiers of fortune - gathering at the Gat Rinnon Hotel, all set to fight for Israel. Many are said to be Americans, rangy sons of Texas in sombreros and high heeled cowboy boots, New Englanders, and soft spoken adventurers from the deep South. Also, British, Russians, Swedes and Latin Americans. Most of these are ex-flyers. If war is resumed they'll fly the war surplus fighter planes that Israel recently has purchased from somewhere, British spitfires, German Messerschmitts, and a few U.S. Thunderbolts.

And while these chaps are waiting, these soldiers of fortune spend most of their time in bull sessions, each man his own General, each sure the war'll be in the bag once they take the air. Every few hours new men are arriving, we hear. Some in their world War uniforms, with wings and rows of medals, decorations won in the air over Germany, at Anzion Beach, and at Guadalcanal.

Sirens too, would-be Mata Haris; slim lovelies arriving as mysteriously as these soldiers of fortune. Where from? Nobody knows. Nor can anyone tell you how the fighting men got to Tel Aviv. But, everyone there says they are being paid in American dollars, which they spend freely, on American cigarettes, canned foodstuff, and so on, which is appearing by magic on the shelves of the stores in Tel Aviv.

Many of these soldiers of fortune are mysterious gents. One a giant Nicaraguan, nearly seven feet tall, with a triple row of medals. He says he has fought in every war anywhere since he was fifteen. And, now he's asking for more.

And there are two Russians at the Gat Mignon Hotel. One a Bolshevik, an early revolutionary who was kicked out by the Communists over twenty years ago. The other a veteran of Allenby's Army that captured Jerusalem who became a British brigadier in world War Two.

Keeping a weather eye on this motley crew

are the Jewish Security Police. For there a persistent rumor that Communists have infiltrated into the new Jewish Army. So they are keeping a close lookout for Reds. Also, the soldiers of ~~ISRAEL~~ ^{fortune} who have come to fight for Israel - if Israel has to fight again - are talking too much to the beautiful spies. All of which is keeping the anti-espionage men in Tel Aviv busy overtime.

BERLIN

(In Berlin today, Russia ended all four-power cooperation for Germany. The Russian Delegation walked out of the Kommandatur, the four-power council which governs Berlin.) Soviet Colonel Boris Kalinin said his side was quitting because of the attitude of Colonel Frank Howley; our Commander in the German capital. Kalinin was referring to Howley's walking out of the Kommandatur meeting on June seventeenth. But General Clay says that Colonel Howley was within his rights and had the permission of the Chairman to withdraw.

And now what's going to happen in Berlin is anybody's guess. The Allied control Council is still operating, but has not met since March twentieth, when the Russians walked out. The guessing is that the Russians may call a new meeting of the Council. But there is nothing definite on this yet.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Britain and France, today authorized a separate government for Western Germany. However, the new government has very limited powers. This, we are told, because of strenuous opposition from France to any possibility of a strong Germany.

General Pierre Koenig, the French representative in Frankfurt, today informed a meeting of German officials, that the three big powers will control Western Germany's Foreign relations, foreign trade and allied funds. The western Allies also to have the right to approve all tax laws and regulations drawn up by the new government.

General Lucius Clay told the representatives of the German states -- they are called Minister Presidents, and there are eleven of them -- that the new currency of western Germany will be coupled with the Marshall Plan, to improve Germany economy, and assist individual freedom.

COLD WAR

And how are we faring in that Cold War in Berlin? General Lucius Clay today described the situation there as serious, very serious, he says, with tempers strained on both sides. As American, British and French officials are getting together in London to complete the draft of protest to be sent to the Kremlin over the Russian starvation blockade of Berlin.

But there are signs that the Russians are weakening. Why? They are getting short of food and necessities which our people and the British are funning into Berlin in the biggest air transport operation ever known. An American spokesman in Berlin today discloses that the Russians are making feelers to our people to see whether they can engage in some barter - to help them out. They want wheat, pencillin, insulin, streptomycin, the new wonder drug that is used in the cure of tuberculosis. So they are asking us what we can do about it. -Which may mean they'll let up on the blockade soon.

Here's the latest from Yugoslavia. The Tito regime is not only in the doghouse with the Kremlin. It has also fallen out with ~~its former~~^{another} satellite, Albania; and, with its neighbor, Bulgaria. ~~So~~ Tito's Communists ~~are~~ now surrounded ~~on all sides~~ by hostile members of the Cominform, the Communists of Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and ~~Italy~~^{Albania}.

But the Tito regime is not worried, we learn. The official Yugoslav news agency today began an all-out attack on Albania, ~~it~~^{ing} charged the Albanians with insulting Tito, and indulging in hostile and brutal acts. One of these, the ~~re~~^{re}veal of pictures of Tito from public places; another, the erasure of the ~~his~~ dictators name from all Albanian school books.

As for Bulgaria, well the Yugoslavs had a word for it today. "Liars and cheats" howled the ~~Yugoslav~~ Yugoslav News Agency. ~~at their bad neighbors and it~~ Warned^{ing} the Bulgars that the Tito Regime is not going to be changed, just because a "bunch of Marxists wants it that way."

Meanwhile, in Belgrade, the Yugoslav Army, the Communist Party, and the public, ^{were} ~~have been making~~ demonstrations ^{no} ~~all~~ ^{to} day, ^{for} ~~in favor~~ of Tito.

On the soviet side of the iron curtain, Communist spokesmen are supporting the Cominform in equally vigorous language. The Tito regime branded as opportunist and obstructionist. From Russian Occupied Germany, a Communist manifesto accuses Tito of underground activity in Germany. Hungarian Communists ~~have~~ also joined ^{ing} in the cry, ~~they are~~ calling for the Kremlin to immunize the party against ^{the} indoctrinated disease germs of the hated Tito.

A dispatch from Prague, Czechoslovakia says that regular Communist leaders there were taken completely by surprise by the Tito "infidelity." They, the Red leaders, have issued an appeal for the Kremlin to purge the party of Tito adherents, claiming that hostile elements are at work in Germany and Hungary, ~~as~~ ^{as} well as in Jugoslavia.

COMMUNISTS

In Washington today, a leading New York Department store executive ~~has~~ told a House Labor Sub-Committee that his employees belong to a union headed by an individual whom he described as a "notorious Communist". A Communist who keeps his store clerks in line by strong arm methods. He describes it as a reign of terror.

The Department store executive produced one of his personnel managers to back up the story. The latter told the committee members how one woman employee was dragged from the door of a church, and forced into a picket line, against her will; and how another was told she would get her head cracked if she crossed the picket line.

And, another revelation: When new management took over a prominent department store in New York City, the union decided that it would be "disloyal" to give good service to the customers. And told their members to behave accordingly. The management in checking at two stores, found that seventy-

two percent of all customers who came in, left without buying a thing. All because of the brusque way they were treated. They were given the works - the Party Line special treatment.

RAILWAYS

In Washington today, Federal Judge ~~W.~~
~~W.~~ Goldsborough, issued an injunction permanently
banning a national railroad strike. ^{Judge} Goldsborough said
that if he didn't issue the order "the whole economic
and political system of the nation would be upset."

Representative^s of the railroad unions
protested that a permanent injunction was unnecessary,
but ^{Judge} Goldsborough said ~~that~~ the unions could not be
permitted to "adopt a process which would disintegrate
society itself, no matter what ~~were~~ the merits of their
case."

The Judge came to his decision after ~~he had~~
heard ^{ing} ~~the~~ Army Secretary Royall, ~~the government's chief~~
~~witness,~~ tell the court that the government does not
intend to give up the operation of the railroads without
a settlement of the present wage dispute. Whereupon one
of the heads of the rail unions "asserted the case should
be carried to the Supreme Court." So said the Judge,
and he pounded his bench, "to permit a strike of this
kind - meaning ^{a nation-wide} ~~the~~ rail strike - is something society

should not be forced to tolerate. Our political

influence throughout the world would be done away with,

and we would become a laughing stock," ~~at that~~ ^{said he. Whereupon}

^{he} signed an injunction banning ^{such a} ~~the~~ strike.

SPECULATION

In Washington this evening the House Investigating Committee revealed that eight hundred and twenty-three federal employees played the Commodity market to the tune of more than two hundred and twelve million dollars during nineteen forty-six and nineteen forty-seven. But the Committee found no evidence that any of them used inside information.

The Committee turned up one financial wizard on the Federal payroll. A nameless girl clerk, who on her salary of three thousand three hundred ~~dollars~~ a year, traded in more than ten million dollars worth of futures. Naturally every one wanted to know more about this feminine wizard of finance. Who is this modest genius who successfully parleyed her meagre salary into a multi-million dollar operation? Did she work single-handed. How did she manage?

The House Committee Report merely identifies her as "a female clerk in the Navy Department". Adding

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that she speculated in wheat, corn, oats, rye, lard, cottonseed oil, cotton, and carloads of eggs; Commodities of which the market price exceeded ten million dollars. Says the Report "It is estimated that this employee realized substantial profits".

Congressman Andreson -- ~~who~~ headed the investigating group -- was pressed for further details. All he would say about this ^{female} financial wizard in the Navy Department was that she was about thirty-five, well-mannered and "pretty reticent about the whole thing". As you can well imagine.

When asked whether she had other resources other than her federal salary Andreson replied dryly, "If the President signs the federal pay-raise bill she will get a ten percent increase on her ^{working} capital". The inference being that the young lady had only her salary to invest, when she first ventured into the market.

POLITICS

At his press conference today, President Truman was asked if Mrs. Roosevelt, meaning Eleanor would be acceptable to join him as a running mate for the Vice-Presidency on the Democratic ticket. "Of course, Mrs. Roosevelt would be acceptable," replied the gallant Missourian. Added Mr. Truman, "What else would you expect me to say?"

Whereupon Clare Booth Luce, who had originally suggested Mrs. Roosevelt for the second spot, jubilantly agreed with the President. "I think it's a wonderful idea" she said. "Wonderful to have a woman as a Vice-Presidential nominee. I'm sure the Democrats cannot find a woman more able than Mrs. Roosevelt," said the ex-Congresswoman from Connecticut.

But Democratic leaders in Washington, polled by the press, show no enthusiasm for the idea.

We hear they are as unenthusiastic about the suggestion as they are over the hint that Mr. Truman may step down for General Eisenhower.

What has Mrs. Roosevelt to say about it. Through her chief secretary at Hyde Park, today,

she said: "I have no intention whatsoever of running for any public office."

Meanwhile, in New York, a group of young Democrats are reported to be conferring with leaders of the Democratic Party on a plan to put the name of Supreme Court Justice William Douglas before the Democratic Convention. The Young Democrats claim to have support for Douglas in thirty-eight states; and they insist they are going to lobby 'round the clock at the convention, for Justice Douglas.

O'DWYER

New York had its political sensation today. Mayor O'Dwyer, a Democrat, declaring open war on Tammany. O'Dwyer bucking the powerful Democratic political machine that has controlled New York on and off for a hundred and fifty years. And the same Tammany that helped put Mayor O'Dwyer in his present job, when he sought to succeed LaGuardia.

Here's what Mayor O'Dwyer says about Tammany: "We need a new party!" "Tammany is so decrepid that you couldn't rejuvenate it if you tried". He added that he is working on a new Democratic organization, one as he put it that will leave "Tammany Hall in the gutter where it belongs." Harsh words those!

And now words not so harsh from you, Nelson.