

C.T. - P. & G. Tuesday, May 11, 1948.

PALESTINE.

(The truce at Jerusalem was endangered today, when a ferocious battle between Jews and Arabs on the Tel Aviv highway surged near to the suburbs of the Holy City.)

The battle occurred at a point twelve miles west of Jerusalem, where the Jewish militia had stormed an Arab road block. Today the Moslems came surging in a heavy counter attack. The fighting swept along the highway toward Jerusalem, and heavy gunfire reverberated <sup>in</sup> the

Katamon suburb. The Katamon quarter was, itself, a battlefield a week or so ago -- <sup>until the shooting</sup> ~~only yesterday's war~~ <sup>was stopped by</sup> ~~except~~ the truce that has prevailed recently. But

now, as the day closed, it looked as if the battle along

the highway might sweep into the Katamon suburb, <sup>all the</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>way to the Jaffa Gate, and</sup> start an outbreak there again, bringing to an end the

armistice that has established a temporary peace in the Holy City.

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In the United Nations, meanwhile, the American delegation is trying an eleventh hour move to do something about Palestine before the British mandate

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expires four days hence, this coming weekend. This time the United States had some support, a late bulletin stating that France has joined in a new American proposal for a trusteeship over Jerusalem.

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A late bulletin tells of a Jewish village attacked — by Arab tanks, mechanized equipment. The location, near the border of Egypt — on the edge of the Sinai Desert. The implication would seem to be that motorized Egyptian forces had pushed across the frontier.

## SOVIETS

In the news about Soviet Russia's headline diplomatic move, there are two separate stories of the doings today, ~~stories of reverberations~~ - one from Washington, the other from Moscow.

Washington, taken by surprise - the Soviet manoeuvre completely unexpected. Molotov, as disclosed by the Moscow radio this morning, intimated that the United States had suggested negotiations for a settlement in the Cold War. Molotov saying - yes, Soviet Russia would enter such discussions to end the feud between East and West. What's astonishing in Washington is Molotov's indication that the U.S. Government ever proposed any such negotiations. The Soviets are saying they were invited. - So how do they figure out <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ invitation? The answer is that they seized on one sentence, just one, in a long document.

The facts are these: Last Tuesday, May Fourth, our Ambassador to Moscow, Bedell Smith, delivered to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov a representation from the State

Department in Washington, to which the Ambassador added supplementary declarations of his own. All this consisted of a restatement of American foreign policy, with warning to Moscow that the U.S. Government means what it says. Molotov was told that our present foreign policy has the overwhelming support of the American people, who are strongly in favor of moves to block Soviet aggression. <sup>That we are</sup> ~~We are~~ going to go through with the European <sup>Recovery</sup> Program, the Marshall Plan, to strengthen the free nations of Europe against the spread of Communist dictatorship - and, we <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ going to push rearmament to a goal of overwhelming American military ~~strength~~ strength - in the face of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Soviet-Communist threat to the freedom of the world.

*tel*  
*?*  
~~To this Ambassador Bedell Smith added a list of Soviet violations of pledges made to the United States - beginning way back in Nineteen Thirty-Three, when the Roosevelt Administration extended American recognition to the Bolshhevik Government of Russia. At that time, in return~~

~~for recognition, the Stalin regime made various promises,~~  
~~including a guarantee that Moscow would not interfere in~~  
~~American affairs through the medium of the Communist Party~~  
~~in the United States.~~ Ambassador Smith told Molotov that  
all <sup>ew</sup> ~~these~~ pledges had been violated, except one - that one  
being the promise that the Soviet Government would permit the  
presence of an American Christian clergyman in Moscow.

~~Our Ambassador painted a picture of a continued~~  
~~break breaking of agreements, and we all know the story -~~  
~~the Soviets failing to keep their wartime word, given at~~  
~~Yalta, for example. The news has headlined <sup>the</sup> a violation of~~  
~~single pledges of free elections in countries that have been~~  
~~turned into Red dictatorships, Soviet satellites.~~

This was the general tenor of the communication that  
the American Ambassador made to the Soviet Foreign Minister, -  
~~with assurances that we ~~are~~ going to stick firmly to our~~  
~~policy of checking Red aggression - which~~ <sup>And it</sup> hardly seemed to  
bid for American-Soviet negotiations to end the Cold War.

But, the American statement <sup>did</sup> include the following sentence:  
"As far as the United States is concerned," it said, "the door is always wide open for a full discussion and the composing of our differences." ~~It~~ Sounds like an ordinary polite expression in diplomatic language. But that's what Molotov ~~has~~ seized upon - as an offer, an invitation.

So Washington is surprised - also skeptical.

Is Moscow grabbing at that lone sentence as a means of really coming to some kind of terms? It might be that the Soviets want to begin discussions to end the Cold War - and, as a way of saving face, try to make it appear that the invitation comes from the United States. Or, is this another Soviet propaganda manoeuvre? Is it another Moscow move in the battle of nerves?

Here's some evidence on that point (~~Red propaganda today interpreting the theoretical American invitation as a sign of weakness.~~) This afternoon, a RED newspaper in Prague stated: "In America, the anti-war resistance is growing like

an avalanche. Therefore, American diplomacy has proceeded to open a peace offensive, which is to mask its defeat and cover up its former imperialist war policy." Which certainly sounds as if the whole thing were nothing more than a Moscow propaganda dodge.

It has, in fact, put our ~~government~~ government in a quandary, - tends to put the State Department in a hole. Will we refuse to talk peace? It is pointed out that Molotov, in accepting the supposed offer, was vague <sup>and</sup> made no mention of anything definite in the way of discussions for ending the Cold War. Moreover, he reaffirmed the Soviet policy of tying up the satellite countries, in which free elections had been guaranteed by Moscow. So what good would a peace parley do? <sup>↑</sup> ~~(We've had a lot of negotiations, with the Soviets in the past, and these have led to nothing, pledges made by Moscow and broken. So why go into another big-time conference, at which Moscow might make agreements - only to be broken when it happened to suit Moscow's convenience?)~~

All this was the line of thinking in Washington today, with President Truman making an immediate statement - that the communication to Moscow, which Molotov takes as an invitation to a peace parley, did not alter American foreign policy one bit.

In Berlin today, our Moscow Ambassador, Bedell Smith, who is on vacation, said he was astonished at the Moscow publication of the talks he had with Molotov. He noted that such diplomatic communications were usually regarded as confidential - nothing to be blasted on the radio, with a reply.

Now, let's go to Moscow, and see what happened there today. The dispatch from the Soviet capital begins:

"Russians crowded five and six feet deep in front of newspaper bulletin-boards today, and read a Russian-American exchange of notes - which, they hoped, might lead to better relations." The dispatch tells of laboring men in overalls, mothers wearing shawls with babies in their arms, white collar workers, and Army officers - standing patiently, awaiting a



chance to get near the bulletin boards, ~~(and take their turn in reading three columns of print, giving an account of what the Soviets interpret as the American invitation - and Molotov's reply.)~~

"As they read," says the dispatch, "they nudged each other and made such comments as, 'Good, good.'"

The news story goes on to say that many of the Russians beamed for the first time in months at people who were obviously foreigners. An elderly subway construction-engineer said to an American, "Molotov will get together with you folks yet - you just see." The crowd around him babbled in agreement, <sup>so</sup> says the dispatch.

This Moscow news piles detail upon detail in picturing the Russian people seizing eagerly at the hope that the Soviet quarrel with the western powers might be settled - the Cold War brought to an end.

~~(But how about diplomatic quarters in Moscow? The dispatch says that both Russians and foreign diplomats see~~

The Administration puts its okay on a Congressional move against the veto in the United Nations. A Congressional committee is considering a measure to call upon the U.N. to abolish the veto as exercised by the Soviets. Today's proposal is a compromise. Drafted by Senator Vandenberg, and okayed by the State Department, it would abolish the veto in all matters concerned with a peaceful settlement of international quarrels. But it would leave the Big-Powers' veto intact in matters calling for the use of armed force.

NIGHT SHOW  
May 11, 1948.

LOWELL THOMAS  
PAWLING, N Y

SUBSTITUTE ITALY.

The Italian Republic has a new president, Luigi Einaudi. His election today was a compromise, after a deadlock in the Rome Parliament. The most prominent candidate was Foreign Minister Count Carlo Sforza, the Elder Statesman; but he was so strongly opposed by the Socialists that he withdrew -- which resulted in the election of a dark horse. The new President Einaudi is a financial expert connected with no political party, an independent. He goes in with the support of the powerful Christian Democrats.

The new president is an example of how complicated political matters can be in Italy. His youngest son is a member of the Communist party, while his <sup>eldest</sup> ~~older~~ son is a Professor of History at Cornell, Ithaca, <sup>U.S.A.</sup> ~~the United~~ ~~States.~~

## DEFENSE

The Armed Services Committee of the Senate has okayed a draft bill. The committee put its approval today on a measure that will establish selective service for as long as five years, to take into the Army, during the first year, some three-hundred-and-fifty-thousand men from eighteen through twenty-five.

## SUBSTITUTE RAILROADS

The railroads are on schedule, operated under the direction of the Army. Which means, of course, that the regular management is running things as usual -- the Army operation being a matter of legality and form. This, is to be the state of affairs for some time to come -- the Unions today ~~saying~~ <sup>declaring</sup> that they will have to have a full settlement of their demands for wage increases and improvement of working conditions before they will sign an agreement that will permit the railroads to return to company control.

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Attempts to mediate a strike in the auto world broke down tonight. Seventy-three thousand employees of Chrysler plants across the nation, are scheduled to go ~~on strike~~ <sup>out</sup> tomorrow. Last minute attempts for a settlement were made; but, the Federal Conciliator announces that negotiations have broken down. "As far as we are concerned there is nothing we can do", he said. -- And, the Chrysler strike seems to be inevitable, beginning tomorrow!

MANILLA.

From Manilla we have a story of a <sup>hundred year old</sup> ~~widow~~ widow.

~~What happened to her? Why, she was annoyed~~  
^  
by a suitor, who wooed her ardently. He was seventy.

He broke into her house to plead his romance -- whereupon the hundred year old widow beat him over the head with a stick of wood, while her daughter called the police.

## JAP SOLDIERS

You'll hardly believe that this next news dispatch is dated today - May Eleventh, Nineteen Forty-Eight. The news is from Guam and states that two Japanese soldiers have been captured - prisoners of war, except that there is no war. Two civilian policemen on Guam, ~~who~~ could hardly believe their eyes, when along a highway -- they spied a couple of soldiers of the Mikado, in the uniform of the Japanese army. They had been members of the enemy occupation force, - and had been hiding for three-years-and-nine months - concealing themselves in caves, managing to exist in some fashion or other. This on Guam, one of the busiest of American bases in the Pacific!

The two Japs gave themselves up. They had in their possession a copy of an American magazine dated a long time back. Why did they cherish that magazine? Because on one page was a picture of the Mikado, Hirohito.

## CHILD

At Leominster, Massachusetts today, Captain Allan Aden, veteran of battle in France, was astonished -- startled. Captain Aden went to Leominster on a mission ~~of sentiment~~ of sacred wartime duty - and what did he find?

The story goes back to the American drive through France and into Germany - back to the war experience of the Seventy-Eighth Infantry Division. One of the soldiers in that outfit was Corporal Romeo Charron - and you might have expected Romeo to be sentimental. Which he was - but in a special way.

The other G.I.'s were always passing around snapshots, their wives and girl friends, and Romeo had a picture too, which he was always displaying proudly. He'd hand the photograph around to his buddies and say: "There's my little girl - isn't she a sweetheart?" It was a picture of a small child, a bright-eyed tiny lass. The other G.I.'s got to know the child as - "Romeo's little girl." He bragged about her so much.

Then the Corporal was killed in a wartime jeep



accident. The other G.I.'s were sad about it, and couldn't forget "Romeo's little girl." So they took up a collection to send to her - dollars, francs and occupation marks. They raised a thousand dollars and turned it over to their commanding officer - Captain Allan Aden of Pulaski, Pennsylvania. He - to deliver the money to "Romeo's little girl", when he got home.

So now Captain Aden is back, and he went to

Beaminster ~~on a mission of assistance~~ to carry out the sacred duty. He <sup>hunted</sup> looked up Romeo's widow, and had no trouble in finding her - but she looked blank when he said he had come with money for "Romeo's little girl." The Corporal's

widow shook her head - she and her husband had no children,

~~no little girl~~ <sup>TP</sup> The Captain was astounded, ~~about~~ <sup>What was it all about!</sup> ~~about~~ <sup>what did it mean?</sup>

<sup>old of the</sup> picture that Romeo was always showing around. The widow brightened, <sup>had</sup> with some gleam of understanding. She went to a

bureau, and brought back a photograph - a picture of a child.

Yes, nodded the Captain, that was "Romeo's little girl."

*Romeo*  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

It turned out to be ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ niece, his sister's daughter - Carol Ann Hachey, now five years old. Romeo, with no child of his own, had committed the ~~slight~~ amiable fraud of bragging about his niece and giving his buddies the impression that it was his own youngster.

Today Captain Aden presented the thousand dollars to five-year-old Carol Ann - "Romeo's little girl."

LONG

Early May 11/48

In Louisiana today, the shade of Huey Long walked once again. ~~The ghost of the Kingfish must have been there.~~

The doings were so flamboyant, so completely in the style of *the King Fish*, ~~of that gaudy, noisy Louisiana Governor who left a legend of the spectacular peetin', testin', high, wide and handsome.~~

(The dynasty of Huey Long returned to power in Louisiana today. A brother of the late Kingfish, having been duly elected, was installed as Governor at Baton Rouge.)

There was a giant parade; ~~which consisted of~~ a hundred and forty-one units, ~~and~~ forty-one blaring bands - which proceeded to the huge football stadium of Louisiana State University.

*TP* There, awaiting them, were two-hundred-thousand free hot dogs, two-hundred-and-forty-thousand bottles of soda pop, ~~and~~ sixteen thousand half pints of ~~and~~ buttermilk, and a hundred-and-fifty huge barrels of ice water. Sounds like an awful lot of soda pop, buttermilk and ice water for toasting the memory of the Kingfish, who in his lifetime was not such a violent consumer of soft drinks. *R* But, wait a minute - there

was something else, not so extensively advertised, something mentioned more discreetly.)

The vast throng of the followers of the Huey Long dynasty jamming the football stadium today, consisted of two separate elements. One segment was from the red hills of northern Louisiana - the original stamping ground of Huey Long. The red hills are Protestant and Nordic - inclined to vote prohibitionist. The other segment of adherents of the dynasty was from southern Louisiana, the bayou country, Louisiana French, lots of Cajuns. The Louisiana French don't go in so much for soda pop, buttermilk and ice water. You seldom see the French-speaking Cajuns show much enthusiasm for buttermilk. So for them the promise, though discreetly made, was that there'd be a little wine, ~~I suppose a "little" must~~ *something special -* a dozen barrels or so.

In any case, the Huey Long dynasty returned to power in Louisiana today - with ~~splendors and festivities~~ *a colossal Fish Fry* that would have delighted the heart of the Kingfish. ~~But don't~~

## RAILROADS

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In the world of automobiles a strike has been scheduled for tomorrow -- seventy-three thousand employees of the Chrysler Company all set for a walkout in plants across the nation.

ITALY

The Italian Republic has a new president, Luigi Einaudi. His election today was a compromise, after a deadlock in the <sup>Rome Parliament</sup> ~~Chamber of Deputies~~. The most prominent candidate was Foreign Minister Count ~~Carlo~~ Sforza, the Elder Statesman, but he was so strongly opposed by the Socialists that he withdrew -- -- which resulted in the election of a dark horse.

~~The new President Einaudi is a financial expert who was connected with no political party, an independent -- who goes in with the support of the powerful Christian Democratic Party.~~