

ATOMIC

C.T. - P. & G. Friday, Nov. 5, 1948.

(From Paris, a sensation<sup>al</sup> story about Stalin and the Atomic Bomb. We are told that two bombs were detonated in the presence of the Soviet Premier - but failed to explode properly.)

The Paris newspaper says it has its information from a former member of the Soviet General Staff, who is now a chemist in South America. This officer is quoted as declaring that the Russian Atomic tests were staged on a peninsula in the Caspian Sea. The bombs were made of Atomic Material that came from two plants described as - the Soviet Oak Ridges. These are said to be at Altai and Sloudianka, in Siberia. The bombs, moreover, had a new type of detonator, invented by a Russian Engineer.

This account pictures Premier Stalin and a group of his Politburo Chieftains, gathered at that Peninsula in the Caspian Sea - watching for what was to be a duplication of our own famous atom bomb test on the New Mexico Desert.

Two bombs were exploded, but something went awry. In each case the blast went off prematurely, and used

only twenty to twenty-five per cent of the Atomic power. whereupon Stalin ordered a new technical group to be set up - to produce a properly working Atomic Bomb by this Autumn.

## AIR LIFT

At Berlin today, a big aerial transport flew through blinding rain and fog, and landed safely on a new flying field. Which began the operation of the Tegel Airport, completed two months ahead of time - to provide new facilities for the Air Lift, which is by-passing the Soviet land blockade.

That first plane brought a cargo of two Generals and twenty thousand pounds of cheese. An odd assortment - but I suppose the Americans need the Generals, and the German population certainly does need the cheese.

To help in the celebration of the new airport, the winterized Air Lift brought in more than forty-five hundred tons of food and fuel - in spite of the miserable weather.



CHINA

(China today sent its congratulations to President Truman on his election, and at the same time made an appeal) ~~Chinese~~ Premier Wong Wen-Hao (asking for American aid to help the Chiang Kai-Shek Government survive.)

All American Military dependents, wives and families of army men, have been ordered out of the area of Shanghai-Nanking. <sup>of course</sup> which is the very heart of China.

~~After~~ <sup>Following</sup> their conquest of Manchuria, the Communists are massing for a drive into Central China, the valley of the Yangtse.



Here's later news. A bulletin from Nanking. Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek has given General Fu Tsoe complete command over military operations in northern China. The Chinese President's order so sweeping that the nationalist General is virtual dictator over the whole area. He'll decide where to fight, and when, and be responsible only to himself and to the Chinese nation. Chiang granting him unlimited powers.

## PALESTINE

The State of Israel getting armament from the Reds behind the Iron Curtain - that was a major headline today. The story tells of a supply line by air, operating from Communist Czechoslovakia to Jewish Tel Aviv.

Israel getting weapons in Czechoslovakia, the great Skoda works. Also airplanes - which are procured from various countries, taken to Czechoslovakia, and flown from there to Tel Aviv. The planes are described as being of every sort, British and American fighters, German Messerschmitts, American transports.

The pilots on the supply line are international free lancers, flyers of many nations, who join up for good pay. Some of them have deserted - and they give the information about armament flown from behind the Iron Curtain to the Jewish State.

All of which, if true, would be a violation of the Armistice in Palestine - the Truce providing for an Arms Embargo.

ADD PALESTINE

The latest - a State Department announcement indicating that a request has been made to Czechoslovakia - to stop the illegal shipment of arms to Israel. What reply? Unsatisfactory. A spokesman at the State Department says that Czechoslovakia does not deny that armament is being sent to the Jewish state. But as for stopping this, the answer is what the spokesman calls - "entirely unsatisfactory and evasive."

Another late bulletin. Egypt ~~xxx~~ claiming that the troops of Israel have opened an attack on Moslem positions in Bethlehem, the Jewish forces hurling shellfire; the Egyptians shooting back. This, as the united nations asks Israel to withdraw from ~~xxx~~ positions captured <sup>in</sup> recent fighting. The government at Tel Aviv refuses; and we hear that they can't do anything else. *That* they'd be faced with an Israel Army revolt.



## TRUMAN

News from Washington gives material for a study in contrasts -- a comparison of this day with Sunday before last. Today is three days after the election. That Sunday was nine days before the battle of ballots. Now President Truman returns to Washington. Then -- he left the National Capital for his last campaign jaunt, only twelve days of difference; - <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ what a stunning contrast.

Sunday before last, President Truman went to the Washington railroad station, almost alone. Those ever-present Secret Service men trailed along, as did some close advisers. ~~As~~ As for cheering crowds, there were none. Big political leaders? - Conspicuous by their absence! Harry Truman left Washington a lonely figure, as lonely as only a sure loser can be. He was off on what was regarded as the last gasp of a hopeless battle, and few people were interested in the man who was not going to be elected President.

Today - <sup>^</sup>remarkable how it was not the same. The change - spectacular. Throngs of a million roared a welcome. When Harry Truman emerged from the railroad

station and drove through the streets - the same route ~~as~~ he had taken, lonely and ignored, so short a time before. Today he received an ovation such as greets a conquering hero, an acclamation from the multitudes, the heartiest of all congratulations from the politicians. ~~It was~~ One of the biggest days that Washington has ever seen.

It would be interesting to know what the President thought about it today, whether he indulged in any reflections about-fair weather friends. I wonder- did he take note of a lot of beaming, important faces that smiled in glowing homage today but were conspicuous by their absence when he was leaving Washington?

Many a champion has noted bitterly how his boon-companions had vanished from around him after he has lost the big fight. With Champion Truman, its the other way around -the cheering crowd was missing before he fought the big fight. He was supposed to have lost it in advance. But he didn't lose - and what a difference that makes.

All of which must be cause for meditation by

Philosopher Truman. ~~If~~ so, he's keeping his thoughts to himself. Today, as President Truman, he beamed on everybody, had a grateful smile for all and sundry.

On the White House portico, he addressed the crowd, and all he had to say was what he has been saying ever since Election Day-refusing to gloat, refusing to crow. ~~He~~

~~said he hoped he would be, in his words, "worthy of the confidence, worthy of the responsibility." And - he congratulated this country on having a Vice-President like Alben Barkley of Kentucky, who stood beside him.~~



## ATLAS OF IGNORANCE

We have tonight a challenging proposal in the realm of geography. It comes from S. Whittemore Boggs, Special Adviser on Geography for the State Department in Washington. Expert Boggs makes a suggestion that one thing the world needs is -- "An Atlas of Ignorance." That is, a lot of maps showing, not what we know, but what we do not know about this world of ours. Ignorance of Topography, Geology, Mineral Resources, types of soil, kinds of life, climate, and so on down the line of the many things we don't know.

So that would be the Atlas of Ignorance. And it made me think right away that I could make a contribution of ignorance. That is, I could name a number of areas on the map about which mighty little is known, and which cry out for investigation and knowledge.

Some years ago I was in Afghanistan, itself one of the least investigated of countries. I was journeying along the Old Caravan Route, the Golden Road to Samarkand, running deep into Central Asia, the ancient trade route from India to Turkestan. A caravan route that had been

traveled for ages, mainly by merchants and their long camel trains. Yet how little we know about much of the region on either side, the wild mountains and desert. Still as little known about it as in the days of Alexander the Great.

I thought of the fabulous things that investigation could accomplish. By digging in many parts - almost anywhere along that Caravan Route, you might unearth mementos of the dim past, coins of Bactria, bits of pottery left from Pre-Historic civilizations in the Valley of the Indus, weapons of long ago, sword hilts or dagger blades dating back to the times of Tamerlane, the Persian Hosts of Darius the Great, the Aryan Invaders of India and Persia.

Thinking about that today, I wondered - if there were not some others who have each a favorite spot of Ignorance. So I phoned people who should know a lot about what we do not know about ~~this~~ world.

I talked to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the famous Arctic Explorer, and he promptly said Lakes. I wondered about that, and Stef explained. He said that our older maps, before the time of Aerial Charting, show



the Arctic region, like the Northern shores of Alaska, Canada and Siberia, to consist of solid land. But Aerial mapping now discloses that this was all wrong, and that these polar lands are, in reality, a network of lakes.

This prevalence of water is because the ground underneath is frozen, and water on the surface cannot drain downward. The water stands in the form of a vast number of lakes. So the older maps, picturing great spaces of dry land, were all wrong - and aerial mapping is only beginning to show the Arctic Area to be spotted and dotted everywhere with lakes.

I called General James H. Doolittle, and asked him for an angle of Military Aviation. The Commander of the Eighth Air Force in the bombing of Germany, has been flying in the north of 'late, on tasks of Arctic Research. He told me that there were actually three north poles, the geographical pole, the magnetic pole, and the weather pole. This last, the weather pole, is the spot of ignorance that he wants to emphasize.



He pointed out that during the war, combat pilots faced three outstanding perils. First and the worst, the weather. Second, enemy combat planes, third, Anti-Aircraft fire, flak. That's why the factor of weather is foremost with General Doolittle.

He said it is understood that the number one generating place for the weather we have is the Greenland Icecap. That's the weather north pole. American-Canadian Air Forces are working hard on that point. Right now weather stations have been established in the areas of the weather north pole, and a job is being done to eliminate that spot of Ignorance, make it known by mapping the air currents, the generation of weather. ~~That, said General Doolittle, is one task to which this country could devote a lot more effort and money.~~

What about mining, minerals?

I telephoned the world's most famous mining engineer, former President Hoover--who made his first success in the development of minerals in the Orient. ~~He told me that China was one vast area in which Geology and Mineral~~

He pointed, in particular, to China's Western Province, Sinkiang, a vast primitive area known as -- the Chinese Wild West. He said there is evidence to believe that Sinkiang has a wealth of minerals, and the South Chinese Province of Yunan, too.

For World Commercial Aviation I consulted Juan Trippe, President of Pan American World Airways, and talked with Sam Pryor who spoke of Soviet Russia as the great blank so far as we are concerned. The Russians, themselves, have probably made extensive studies for their own aviation, but, we don't know about that. So one large place in the Atlas-of-Ignorance belongs to the vast land behind the Iron Curtain.



## WAR BRIDE

The Immigration Department made a decision today in another one of those war bride cases.

Sergeant Gaber of Pittsburgh met Elizabeth Sauer while serving in the occupation forces. They became engaged. He returned home, and sent for her. She arrived in Pittsburgh, on condition that she and the former Sergeant would be married within ninety days, the Immigration Law limit. But at the Gaber home in Pittsburgh, the German girl met brother Karl.

Whereupon the complication ensued - but nothing angry or acrimonious. In this war bride triangle, the three principles got together, and talked it over -- and brother Ralph decided to step out of the picture.

But there still remained the Immigration Department, which had admitted Elizabeth to marry Ralph, not Karl -- within a period of ninety days. The authorities were notified of the change of plans, the right-about face in the field of romance - so what's their answer? They say it's okay. They don't care which brother the war bride marries, so long as she does it



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And now here's Nelson, who may have some advice  
for brides.