


PLANES

L.T.- PALM SPRINGS, Tues. Mar 10, 1953

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles says our government takes a serious view of the shooting down of an American jet fighter in Southern Germany today. Two of our F-84 Thunder jets were attacked by two Russian built MIGS from Czechoslovakia. The Red planes invaded the American zone of Germany and were fifteen miles on our side of the border. They opened fire on two Thunder jets, scored hits on one -- the pilot bailing out safely. He's Warren Brown of Henderson, ~~xx~~ Colorado, a veteran of the Korean war. The second U.S. plane was not damaged, and returned to its base. A spokesman for the Air Force in Germany states that the two American fighters were on a routine patrol above Bavaria when the MIGS flew suddenly across the Czechoslovakian border and made ^{an} ~~the~~ unprovoked attack. The U.S. High Commissioner in Germany, ^{Dr.} James M. Conant, former President of Harvard, calls the attack a grave incident. In Washington the State Department announces the

American Embassy in Prague has been ordered to deliver "the strongest possible protest" to the Red government in Czechoslovakia. 

~~This appears to be a wanton provocation and
no wonder the Secretary of State takes a serious
view of it.~~

ADD TO THE PLANE STORY

A late dispatch from Washington says American diplomatic officials are the more concerned about this, because the incident occurred so soon after the change of regime in Soviet Russia -- from ~~mm~~ Stalin to Malenkov.

DENMARK

Red Poland has grabbed six Danish fishing vessels, ^{and} is holding them - in retaliation. Polish Communists are angry because the Danes have not returned that Russian jet plane, the MIG in which a Polish Air Officer escaped from behind the Iron Curtain. Taking refuge in Free Denmark. ~~It is~~ The first MIG, in good flying condition, ~~which~~ the West has been able to get a-hold-of; -- and experts are studying it. All -- to the great indignation of the Polish Reds.

The six Danish fishing vessels were caught in a storm in the Baltic - so violent they had to take refuge in the nearest harbor, which was Danzig, now held by the Reds. First, the Danish ~~fig~~ fishing boats were ordered out - but then that was changed. Today, the Communists announced that the boats are being held - in retaliation for the jet plane.

CHINA

News from Moscow indicates that Red China has fallen in line with the new regime in Moscow. At least -- on the face of things. ^{There} ~~It~~ has been wonder about how Mao Tse Tung, who considers himself quite a top Communist, would take to Stalin's present successor -- Malenkov. Some have supposed that the Boss Chinese Red would consider himself above the new Moscow Premier. But tonight, we hear that Pravda publishes a statement from Mao Tse Tung in which the leader of Communist China proclaims the Soviet Communist party under Malenkov to be the leaders of the Communist world.

AMMUNITION

In Washington, today, the Secretary of Defense, Charles E. Wilson, told a congressional committee - that the Armed Forces in Korea have enough ammunition as of right now. Enough, that is, for what he calls "present scale" operations. There is little action on the Korean war front, the troops have plenty ammunition for that. Moreover, said the Secretary of Defense, they will soon have enough for what he called "a more active type of operation", which might be a hint - that our commanders over there might have ideas of stepping up the war.

Secretary Wilson gave this testimony to the committee in the presence of General Van Fleet, former Eighth Army commander, who has testified that there was a shortage of ammunition all the time ~~while~~ he was in charge of the Korean war. Also - there still are shortages. In a way, the Secretary of Defense contradicted the General -on that point.

The hearing, today, was in secret. But Secretary Wilson handed the newsmen a written statement

giving his version of the ammunition story. He told of large recent increases in production.

In the meantime, the Louisville Times quoted an artillery officer recently come from Korea. Who declares that ammunition has been wasted in the production of "shows" for visiting dignitaries. There has been complaint before about front-line fireworks - put on for the benefit of V I P S - and now the statement -- ammunition wasted there.

EXPLOSION

Today's Navy report of a warship explosion off Korea - pictures the courage of a ^{(cameraman} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ determined to get the picture. Two men were killed, one of them Thomas McGraw of Theresa, New York, a photographer airman.

The accident happened aboard the Carrier Oriskany. When a fighter-bomber returned from a mission - and had a bomb still hanging under its wing. The release mechanism had failed over the target, and the bomb hung there. So that was the state of affairs, as the fighter bomber came in for landing. Luck was bad, and the bomb got loose, as the plane came on the deck. Cameraman McGraw had his camera focused on the scene, and his film shows the bomb bouncing on the deck, exploding. The film was okay, but the cameraman lost his life.

The plane was engulfed in flames and exploding ammunition. The pilot was knocked unconscious - not a chance for him to get out, not of his own accord. But airman Richard Donovan of

Emmettsburg, Iowa, plunged into the blaze and dragged out Lieutenant Edwin Kummer of Rochester, New York. Thanks to that brave exploit, the pilot suffered only minor injuries.

TAXES

Republican Congressman Reed of New York keeps hammering away at tax reduction. Today he said that April Fifteenth was the deadline. Unless the Republican leaders agree to an earlier date, he will bring his ~~xxx~~ tax cut before Congress - April Fifteenth. The reason - if there isn't action by then, the bill can't be effective by July First. It would have to be ~~in~~ effective by then, or there couldn't be a reduction of taxes on income for Nineteen Fifty-Three. As the chairman of the Congressional Committee dealing with taxes, Congressman Reed is battling for a ten percent cut.

HAWAII

The House, this afternoon, passed the bill to admit Hawaii to the Union, as the Forty-Ninth State. The Democrats tried to side-track the measure ^{claiming} ~~sinking~~ that Hawaii should not be admitted into the Union unless Alaska was. Hawaii is normally Republican, Alaska is normally Democratic.

The Bill was carried by a vote of 274 to 138 and now goes to the Senate.

SHRIMP BOATS

The fishing dispute in the Gulf of Mexico - will be taken to the Mexican courts. So announced today, as the owners of nine American shrimp boats, now held by the Mexican authorities, decided to engage lawyers in Mexico.

This is the latest in the long-standing ~~ix~~ dispute - over the right of American shrimp fishermen to ply their trade off the Mexican coast. The question is one of territorial waters, Mexico claiming - ten miles off shore. Although, the traditional distance has been -- a three mile limit.

Shrimp boats have been seized - and now, at Jacksonville, Florida, the owners of nine of them are prepared to go into court in Mexico. The idea being - to get a clear definition on the rights of the fisherman, a definite agreement on what's what.

MYSTERY

There's a sort of mystery in the new Eisenhower administration. The correspondents in Washington are trying to figure it out. Why is the place called - the Indian Treaty Room? That's where the presidential news conferences are being held nowadays.

Previously, the reporters used to meet the President - in the Fish Bowl. Which is what they called the room in the White House, where the news conferences were held. The shape suggested a bowl - and, I suppose, the reporters were the fish.

But the scene has been shifted over to a majestic chamber in the old State Department Building. The room, a couple of stories high, with ornate marble and metal work - the Indian Treaty Room. Sounds historic, reminiscent of the olden days of American history. Facts and agreements with Red skin tribes, concluded and signed there. That's the impression.

But United Press Correspondent Harmon Nichols inquired - which treaty or treaties? ~~result~~ Result?

blank mystery.

No member of the Eisenhower staff knew. Not so surprising - they're not long on the job. But Michael McDermott ^{doesn't know - and his} ~~didn't know~~ headquarters have been in the ^{at} building since before World War One. He just shook his head. - ~~It was~~ a mystery to him.

Inquiry was made at the Library of Congress, where they know all about Red Skins and treaties. But they couldn't find any record that the Indian Treaty room ever had anything to do with Indians.

So that leaves a mystery. ^{I wonder whether} ~~although, maybe~~

some amateur fancier of American history ~~might~~ know something about ~~it~~ the answer? Unimportant? Yes - but, it now is just about the No. 1 room in this country. So we ought to know why it's called The Indian Treaty room.

WEATHER

Texas is talking of - a million dollar rain.

The sky opened today, and a deluge of water fell -- much of it on land that has not produced a good crop since Nineteen Forty-One, too dry. It's been raining in Texas all the way from El Paso to Shreveport.

Although - the downpour missed the Rio Grande Valley, which needs rain. But, even in spite of that slip-up, the weatherman has helped the crops in Texas to the tune of Millions of Dollars. The rain ~~is~~ soaking more than ten million acres of dry fields in the western part of ^{Texas.} ~~the state.~~

BOOK DEALER

Chicago comes up with an extraordinary story of a prosperous book dealer, who turns out to be an escaped German prisoner of war. For years Phil Brick has been running a flourishing book business, and he now turns out to be Reinhold Pabel, one time a soldier in a German Pancer Division, who escaped from a prison camp in this country eight years ago.

Pabel served in this Pancer Division in Italy, where he was captured. He was brought over here, and sent to a P O W camp in Illinois, shortly afterward, he escaped by wriggling under a barbed wire fence. He hitch-hiked to Peoria, where he caught a bus to Chicago. There, the fugitive got a job as a dishwasher. But soon got a better job as clerk in a bookstore. He was well-fitted for that - a graduate of Muenster University in Germany, well educated in languages, knowing not only English but also Russian~~d~~ and Persian.

So he worked in the book store, did all right, saving enough money to open a shop of his own. Which he stocked with fifty volumes. Today, his book store has a stock of fifty thousand.

He married an American girl, they had a son. His wife says it doesn't matter to her - that he is a former soldier in the German Pancer Division, an escaped prisoner of war. But it does matter to the Immigration authorities -- in ^{to} whose custody he has been handed by the F B I. His case now awaits disposition.

POKER

The State Legislature, out here in California, is facing a fight - on the subject of the ancient and renowned game of poker. Today, the Assembly took up a bill to outlaw the dealing of five cards, after which you can - draw. In other words, a ban on draw poker. Presumably, this would not apply to stud - and, anyway, it would have nothing to do with friendly games, the kind you play at home.

The target is - commercial poker parlors, which are operated in various parts of California.

Here's late word:- the bill has passed the Assmebly - but it faces, they say, tough going in the State Senate. The opponents are legislators from out in the cow country, who argue that professional tables for draw poker are an institution going back to the days of the Gold Rush. They think a few of them should be allowed - for the miners and cattlemen who cherish the tradition of drawing to a pair. Or, maybe, to an inside straight. Ivory Girl - what do you say about it?

CATALINA

Southern California is having a large argument on the subject of Catalina - that island paradise off the coast. There was an uproar, when the Navy announced plans to lease the western end of Catalina - for defense purposes. Which would curtail private navigation, to some degree - on the ground^s of security.

The Southern California sport-fishing Association made a protest - saying that fishing and yachting would be prevented off Catalina.

The complaint was answered today by Phil Wrigley, President of the Santa Catalina Company. The Wrigleys have long owned the island. He says the Navy lease would not make much difference to fishermen and yachtsmen - ~~only~~ a few coves of the island would be ~~under~~ secrecy - and Catalina has plenty of other bays and convenient places for boats.

On the other hand, Mayor ~~Fletcher~~ Bowron of Los Angeles declares he has assurance from the Navy - that Catalina will not be used, if another

suitable location can be found, for what the Navy
has in mind.