

PALESTINE

P.J. - P. & S. Thursday, Feb. 26, 1948.

A battle on the Mount of Olives!

~~Adjoining~~ <sup>A part of</sup> the Mount of Olives -- really a part of it -- is a summit called Mount Scopus. There Hadassah, an organization of Jewish women in America, erected a million-dollar hospital, and nearby is the Hebrew University.

The Arabs launched an attack at midnight. First they cut all telephone communications. Then they started a heavy barrage of gunfire. Under the protection of the barrage, they advanced in three columns. The forces of Haganah were ready for them, inside the settlement building on Mount Scopus, and drove them back. Then the men of Haganah charged, and drove off the attackers.

At four ~~xxxxxxx~~ <sup>in the</sup> morning, the Arabs rallied, attacked again, and again were driven off -- with heavy losses, we are told.

Just a skirmish. But it took place on the historic Mount of Olives, just above the Garden of Gethsemane.

At Lake Success, Secretary General Trygve Lie

issued a statement today that if nothing is done to put an end to chaos in Palestine, world confidence in the United Nations will evaporate. He added that the U.N. is responsible for the future of the Holy Land, and must have, and exercise, full sovereignty the day the British clear out -- that day is May Fifteenth.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Communist juggernaut rolls on Czechoslovakia. The Red Premier is firing everybody who belongs to the opposition -- both from Government jobs and in industry. Even honorary societies are being purged.

The first target of the Reds <sup>today</sup> was the Ministry of Education; then the Ministry of Posts, and the Ministry of Domestic Trade. Railroad officials, hospital directors, school teachers, all losing their jobs unless they are Communists.

To show the absurd extremes they go to -- just as in Moscow, they are even changing the personnel of sports teams -- hockey players, fencers and so on. And, they are taking over the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Three National Socialist members of Parliament are under arrest tonight with warrants out for more. Any deputy who does not vote for Gottwald to be ousted.

Along with the purge, the Reds have proclaimed a two-day national festival. The people not only have to take their medicine, but they have to pretend to be happy about it.



One story reports that President Benes issued his approval of all this, under duress, and in order to avoid bloodshed. He is said to be seriously ill. ~~According~~ Another story is that he is preparing to escape from the country.

Today when the Boston Globe made an attempt to speak to President Benes by transAtlantic telephone, a ~~man~~ voice in Prague informed the Boston paper that Benes was unable to talk, but that a Mr. Klinger would speak for him.

Klinger, when he came to the phone, said he was head of the Information Bureau of the Foreign Office. When the Globe asked for his first name, he made no reply, except that he had been in the Foreign Office for many years.

TheGlobe then asked forJan Mazaryk, only to learn that the son of the liberator has a bad cold, unable to talk on the telephone.

Klinger insisted that life in Czechoslovakia is completely normal, quite.



A call to the Czechoslovak Embassy in Washington brought word that nobody at the Embassy had ever heard of Klinger.

A spokesman of the British Foreign Office today hinted that John Bull may decline to recognize the Red regime at Prague. However, as former Ambassador Hugh Gibson remarked to me: If you refuse to recognize a foreign government because you don't like it, you merely deprive yourself of an observation post within that country.

A precedent was set today when Britain and France and the U.S.A. issued a joint statement deploring what has happened at Prague.

GREECE

Secretary <sup>of State</sup> Marshall today asked Congress to appropriate another two-hundred-and-seventy-five million dollars to help Greece and Turkey. The money ~~is~~ to be spent entirely for military purposes.

In a letter to Speaker ~~Joe~~ Martin, the Secretary <sup>of State</sup> explained that action is urgently necessary to support the Greek armed forces now in the field. He said the Communists are convinced that time will fight on their side. Their leaders have said openly and confidently that sooner or later Uncle Sam will grow tired of helping far off Mediterranean countries. ~~It~~ When that happens, the Reds will be able to take over both Greece and Turkey, by default. At present, said <sup>Gen.</sup> Marshall, both Greece and Turkey have been strengthened by the knowledge that the United States <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ willing to help them ~~to resist pressure beyond their borders.~~

~~The Secretary <sup>of State</sup> also had a closed session with several of the senior members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. What he told them about the military situation in~~

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## INDIA CONSTITUTION

Last night I spoke of the new constitution of Hindu India, and I hailed its drawing up as one of the most important stories of the day. The dawn of a new era in Asia; This new constitution, ~~you may remember, is~~ based on the fundamental rights of man, justice, liberty, <sup>fraternity - and</sup> equality, ~~and fraternity~~. Its drafting by Indian lawmakers of all castes is a breathtaking event for the three-hundred-and-thirty million people in Hindu India, and for the world. Votes for all over twenty-one, men and women - the abolition of that ancient curse of India, the caste system. ~~A liberal constitution modelled on our own - a sterling compliment to our way of life.~~

But can such a constitution be made to operate ~~thx~~ in this land of prejudice and age-old custom? Can it be made to mean anything but a collection of lofty phrases for the teeming millions who have lived



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so long in the bondage of ignorance and oppression, people separated by two hundred different languages, and thousands of castes and sub-castes? Can those three-hundred-and-thirty million people, white, yellow, brown, and black be brought together in peace and harmony by a few strokes of the pen in New Delhi, where this New constitution will soon become law?

In particular, I have been wondering if the caste system can be abolished, if those <sup>tens of</sup> millions of unfortunate untouchables can be freed from their centuries old bondage of menial work - they and their children? I have lived in India, and seen its great pageant of colorful ~~xxxxxxxx~~ splendor and unbelievable squalor, but these questions I could not answer.

~~and~~ So today I got in touch with India's Chief Envoy to this country - Ambassador Asaf Ali. His answers were <sup>indeed optimistic,</sup> ~~illuminating, and cheering.~~ He told me he believes the abolition of the caste system will

~~will~~ be far more simple than most had supposed.

Myself included. He points out that the crusade to abolish caste started with Mahatma Gandhi, and that it has already been a great success, and has broken down on the higher levels. <sup>Broken</sup>~~Broken~~ down to such an extent that in the present Cabinet at New Delhi, two of the fourteen ministers are from the lowest castes -- Sudras. descendants of a conquered race and excluded from the social system. But today one of these Sudra, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> of the Mahar <sup>sub-</sup> caste, is India's Minister for Law, Dr Ambedkar from Bombay. <sup>Dr Ambedkar</sup> Dr Kar, educated in this country, a graduate of Columbia University, presides over the committee that drew up this new Constitution for India.



Ambassador Asaf Ali <sup>added</sup> ~~said~~ that of course it would not be so easy to break down the caste system, so far as the social part of it is concerned, ~~at~~ the lower levels. <sup>He points out that</sup> ~~The~~ abolition is constitutional -- political, <sup>and</sup> the social part will take time.

The Ambassador also explained to me that although their new constitution is modelled to a great extent on ours, their President will not correspond to the American President. That is, he will <sup>merely be the</sup> ~~be an office or the~~ figure head, at the top of the State. But, the executive powers will be in the hands of the Cabinet, <sup>just</sup> as in England. ~~That is,~~ <sup>will follow</sup> ~~There will be a~~ Parliament, <sup>modelled on</sup> the British system. <sup>party</sup> ~~And~~ The majority <sup>in</sup> power will control the Cabinet and rule the country.

Ambassador Asaf Ali went on to say to me that the Constituent Assembly, now in session in New Delhi,



will consider the new constitution, immediately,

make a few changes <sup>no doubt, and then</sup> ~~and~~ adopt it, within the next

four weeks. <sup>A</sup> Fabulous India, land of extreme wealth,

and extreme squalor, of Maharajas and elephants!

Now to have justice and liberty for all! - <sup>We hope.</sup> ~~and~~

~~light for the ancient dim light of Asia!~~

~~Constitutional government to replace the age-old~~

~~bondage for more than three hundred million people!~~

## HONDURAS

It looks as though Latin American countries have declared this an open season for attacks on British possessions. Argentina and Chile claiming the Falkland Islands, and now Guatemala is reported eyeing British Honduras. One of His Majesty's men-o-war<sup>is</sup> reported on its way, under forced draught, heading for Belize, the capital of Honduras. H.M.S. Sheffield, a nine-thousand-ton cruiser, on a visit of courtesy to Cartagena, Colombia, received orders to steam for Belize, and now is on her way -- just in case.

British Honduras is bounded on one side by Mexico, on another by the Bay of Honduras, and on the third side by Guatemala. A strip of land eight-thousand-six-hundred square miles, valuable because of its timber, sugar cane, bananas and ~~xxx~~ cocoanuts. The country was first settled by shipwrecked British buccaneers as long ago as Sixteen Thirty-eight. <sup>In</sup> Eighteen Fifty-eight the Republic of Guatemala formally ceded it to Queen Victoria.

Guatemalans today say that's void ~~xx~~ because the British failed to carry out their part of the bargain; a

clause in that Eighteen Fifty-eight treaty by which the British agreed to build a highway between Belize and Guatemala. This they have not done. So Guatemala has denounced the treaty.

The Ninth Pan-American Conference is due to open at Bogota next month, and Guatemala has served notice that its delegation will introduce a motion calling for the elimination of all European colonies in the New World, on the ground that they are out of date and contrary to the principles of ~~Amxi~~ American International Law and the ideals of freedom and independence among American peoples.



TROMAN

( From Washington today comes a story that powerful labor leaders are considering how to approach President Truman to ask him not to seek the nomination. )

Governor Tuck of Virginia today took action which, if the Virginia General Assembly agrees to it, may cost Mr. Truman the electoral vote of Virginia. He asked the legislature to take the names of the candidate for president and vice-president off the ballot. If done, that would transfer the voting power of ~~the~~ Virginia to a party convention, which would choose eleven electors who would not be obliged to vote for Mr. Truman even if the party nominates him.

Legislators in other Southern states are considering similar action. The State Chairman in Alabama is asking that delegates be chosen to the Democratic National Convention who will be instructed to ~~tx~~ walk out if anything objectionable to the South is put in the Party platform.

*Washington Post - 1/10/48*

## GARNER

Many people probably remember an episode of nine or ten years ago, when John L. Lewis, the boss of the miners, called Vice President John Garner a "labor-baiting, poker-playing, whiskey-drinking, evil old man." The Vice President never made any reply or comment on the abuse. But privately he seemed much pleased. Regarded that, from Lewis, as a compliment.

Bascomb Timmons in Colliers, also tells us that Garner did not want the nomination for the presidency in Nineteen Forty even though polls at the time did show that his nomination would be popular. From the time those polls appeared, says Garner, President Roosevelt quit inviting him to the White House, and the ex-Vice President is sure it was for that reason.

Jack Garner was dead set against a third term for F.D.R. He wanted Cordell Hull or his fellow Texan, Jesse Jones, or Jim Farley. He puts Jesse Jones at the top

of the list of administrative officials he ever saw in Washington. He admired particularly Jones's ability to rise above red tape, <sup>without</sup> ~~although~~ never violating the law.

There's one particularly timely comment ~~in this~~ ~~installment~~ about Garner, in view of the <sup>present</sup> Southern indignation against ~~the~~ <sup>Truman</sup> President. Even if there are quarrels within the ranks, says Garner, almost any president can have a renomination if he really wants it. After all, thousands of well paid job-holders depend on him to hold their jobs, and heads of party machines can oppose him only at their own peril.

~~So says Texas Jack:~~  
Garner adds one significant fact: "In these days of federal aid and subsidies, it is easy to put relief, farm benefits and other government hand-outs in places where they will do the most political good."