

L.T. - K. TUES. DECEMBER 22, 1953

SUB PRISONERS

Today at Pan Mun Jom, an American major spoke to the twenty two G.I.'s who have said they prefer Communism. Major Edward Moorner of Tacoma, Washington addressing the prisoners. As the loud speaker trucks approached the compound, the G I's came out waving Communist flags and singing Communist songs. The prisoners described as cold - tense, and almost silent when Major Moorner spoke to them.

He did not plead, or appeal to emotion or politics. He simply asked the Americans to be sure their choice is free and that they know what they are doing.

According to one report, at least three of the Americans are afraid to ask for repatriation. Referring to these, Major Moorner said: "If there are any of you who have been fearful of expressing your desire to return to America, now is your opportunity. Now is the time to come forward and inform the guard →

nearest you." Then the Major added: "The Indian guards will protect you. You have nothing to ~~xxx~~ fear."

The Major also mentioned the fact that some prisoners may be afraid of what will happen to them when they get home. Because Red propaganda may have convinced them that they will be persecuted or imprisoned. In answer to this, Major Moorer pointed to the case of Corporal Edward Dickinson of Crackers Neck, Virginia. He chose to come home and is ~~xx~~ now back with his family - and in no fear that he will be punished for holding out as long as he did. "This fact," Major Moorer told the remaining G I'S, "explodes Communist charges that you and your family will be harmed if you return."

Then the Major gave them thirty minutes to choose freedom. Not a single one did so. Instead, the whole group broke into what is described as "a wild Communist demonstration". *As though hypnotised* They joined

Korean Communists in singing songs and performing

Communist dances.

American "explainers" won't have another chance to talk to them. Because the deadline set by the armistice is mid-night tonight - Korean time.

However, Genral Thimayya says that he will take steps to see that no prisoner ~~is~~ remains against his will. ^{Nehru} ~~The~~ General refuses to disclose what he has in mind. He just says that he'll do something within the next thirty days.

According to Secretary Dulles, nothing in what Mr. Eisenhower said prevents negotiations toward the control of such weapons. He said that we are just as ready to discuss that point as to negotiate concrete use of atomic energy for peace-like purposes. He also said that about the "condition" the United States to be demanding. It is not a condition that we are not to give away in advance the things we hope to discuss in the conference.

DULLES

Today, Secretary of State Dulles told the National Press Club in Washington - what he heard last night - that we are ready to discuss atomic matters with Moscow. But he added - like wise discuss control of atomic weapons, with the Kremlin. The Secretary of State was thus answering one criticism aimed at us by the Russian note. Malenkov criticising President Eisenhower because his U.N. speech did not include a ban of atomic weapons.

According to Secretary Dulles, nothing in what Mr. Eisenhower said prevents negotiations toward the control of such weapons. He said that we are just as ready to discuss that point - as to negotiate concerning use of atomic energy for peace-time purposes.

He was asked - what about the "conditions" the Kremlin seems to be demanding? To this he replied: - "We are on to that game." Then he added: "We are not going to give away in advance the things we hope to secure in the conference."

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Dulles also stated that we intend to go forward with our plans for strengthening Western Europe. Also he noted that it would be reckless for the Russians to start a war - because their satellite states are so discontented! But he made it clear that we have no intention of depending on that. We intend to continue our policy of helping other nations strengthen themselves against the threat of Soviet aggression.

DISCUSSIONS

The British government wants to hold high level talks with top officials in Washington, as soon as possible! The reason - Yes, this same Soviet note in which Malenkov agrees to negotiate regarding international use of atomic energy for peace-time purposes. London wants to hear our reaction, and wants to clarify the British position so our two nations may be in agreement before the negotiations start.

Winston Churchill is said to feel that the Soviet note may indeed be the first step toward all-important top level conferences with the Kremlin. A spokesman for the Foreign Office declares that Churchill might ask for discussions with the American government as soon as the Soviet note has been thoroughly studied.

The British attitude seems to be one of cautious optimism. Referring to Malenkov's agreement to negotiate, one Foreign Office official today remarked:
"That readiness for discussion is a welcome development."

BRADEN

The Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee heard testimony today about how reports on Communists in the government - were intercepted before they could reach the President. Spruille Braden, former Assistant Secretary of State and Ambassador to Cuba and Argentina, made the charge in a statement before the Sub-Committee.

Braden declares that during World War two, he sent warnings about Red infiltration in Latin-America - sent them to President Truman and to Secretary of State Byrnes. What happened to those reports? Braden doesn't know. "I never received any acknowledgement of my many communications regarding the dangers of Communism." That's the way he put it.

Ambassador Braden went on to say that in Nineteen Forty-Five, he became so concerned about Soviet activities in Latin-America, that he sent cables to both Pres. Truman and Secretary of State Byrnes. He urged the President to take the matter up with Stalin at the Potsdam Conference. According to Ambassador Braden,

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he urged President Truman to demand that Stalin put an end to the Red conspiracy.

The point is, in Spruille Braden's view, that the cables never arrived. Says he: "The fact which I have checked, is that Secretary Byrnes and, therefore, presumably President Truman, never received these two telegrams, specifically addressed to them on so important a topic". He added, this is a mystery which might be portentous."

Ambassador Braden added that the safety of this country is threatened by the spread of Communism throughout Latin-America. He thinks that the Caribbean Sea might have been turned into, what he calls, "A Soviet lake" - if the British had not taken action against the Reds in British Guiana!

Braden thinks that our State Department is still affected by Communist influence - because too many diplomats are, what he terms, "newcomers of dubious antecedents and ideologies."

The Braden statement is the latest charge to come out of the Senate investigation of the case of Harry Dexter White.

FRENCH PRESIDENT

France still has no President! The legislators at Versailles were scheduled to try tonight for the eleventh time. But ~~the~~ deadlock is so serious, that the next ballot has been postponed until tomorrow.

Premier Laniel, lead on the tenth. But, his lead had slipped. There seemed no chance that he could gather quite enough votes to make the absolute majority demanded by the Constitution.

Today Laniel withdrew from the race. After the Socialists charged that his obstinacy was preventing the election of a President.

Meanwhile, one group of politicians has asked the incumbent, Vincent Auriol, to stay on. But Auriol says he's tired - wants to retire and go fishing! An attempt has been made to get the elder statesman of France, Edouard Herriot into the race. But Herriot is over eighty and his doctors have advised him against accepting.

So the deadlock goes on. With many Frenchmen afraid that the crisis could undermine the Fourth Republic.

REPUBLICANS

A group of leading Republicans pledge their support to President Eisenhower's new legislative program. The President to tell the nation what he had in mind after the holidays. But already twelve G.O.P. Congressmen step up with the word that they'll back the chief executive.

Representative Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania speaking for the group, referred to the discussions between the President and leaders in Congress. Congressman Scott stated that these twelve Republicans are in complete agreement with the President.

What about the Democrats? Well, Senator Kefauver of Tennessee says that the President must confer with Democratic leaders if he wants to be sure that his legislative program will get through Congress. Kefauver's point is that if Mr. Eisenhower wants bi-partisan support - then he ought to allow bi-partisan consultation beforehand.

This Kefauver statement is in agreement with what Pres. Eisenhower has already said when he announced

that he will consult with Democratic leaders ~~later one~~ - with emphasis on a bi-partisan approach to foreign policy.

MOSSADEGH

In Teheran, students again rioting against the government. A demonstration against the three-year sentence imposed on Mossadegh. The violence, led by members of the Communist Party, as usual - began on the grounds of Teheran University.

Groups of demonstrators began to fan through the streets of the city. But Premier Zahedi special police rushed the students and they quickly scattered. With twenty arrested.

The Iran authorities say Mossadegh has appealed. And Premier Zahedi will set up a special court to hear the appeal. Mossadegh's prosecutor states that he, too, will appeal against the lightness of the sentence. The prosecutor had demanded death. Now he'll ask the special court to increase the sentence - Mossadegh to ask for a reduction.

PARTIES

In Washington, employees of the government will not have one of their traditional Christmas celebrations - the Office Party where liquor flows like water. The Eisenhower Administration ~~is~~ enforcing an old law against the use of intoxicating beverages in federal buildings. Under the Democrats, the law was frequently winked at. But the G.O.P. says - the law is the law. And so - no hard liquor at Christmas parties.

The final comment on this is an announcement from the State Department Correspondents' Association. The Association deciding to cancel its usual press room party. A party for reporters! - well, it just wouldn't be the real thing without Scotch and martinis, and the rest of the drinks that are always on hand. So, the Association decided to call the whole thing off.

Some federal agencies have been holding ~~fest~~ festivities anyway. But without liquor. And the rumor is that the shindigs are not quite as gay as they used to be - because no one can get very high on coffee.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This ^{of course} is the season of Christmas cards. Always welcome, and sometimes they're - ingenious, as we all know.

This morning, I found a Christmas card in the shape of a small book. From a publisher, who is also an author - Wilfred Funk.

The Christmas-Card-Book giving a reminder - that, if we have plenty to complain about, the human race always has had the same.

Are you fed up with the income tax? Well, ancient records show a citizen trying to chisel his income tax, four thousand years ago!

Or, does the threat of inflation bother you? If so, think of ancient Egypt - where, at one time, the currency was so debased that a man could get a million dollar mortgage on a five hundred dollar home.

Juvenile delinquency? Parents don't raise their children right? The Roman historian, Tacitus, wrote as follows: "Nowadays, parents make no effort to train their little ones.

They grow up in an atmosphere of laxity and pertness."

You think municipal affairs are on the blink?

The town is going to pot? Well, listen to the Roman writer,

Petronius, who has a character say: "This town is going

downhill, like a calf's tail - backward."

All of which leads Wilfred Funk to the Biblical conclusion - that there's nothing new under the sun.

Wise philosophy in the Christmas cards.

And here's something modern on the same subject.

JUDGE FOLLOW CHRISTMAS CARDS

We all know that many people like to send rather personal ones - the kind made up in a novel way. I do myself, and Judge Glen Morris, of Oklahoma City, is one. This year the Judge decided to send his greetings in the form of subpoenas! Mock subpoenas, in which the recipient is ordered to appear before friends and relatives on December Twenty-Fifth.

So the Judge sent out his personal Christmas greetings - those pretended subpoenas. And what happened? Well, first of all, one man came to his office - to protest against appearing in court on Christmas Day. Then a woman called up to complain. Sh said her husband had promised to drive her to her mother's for Christmas. And why should he have to go to court on Christmas Day?

You can see what happened! Some of the Judges' friends didn't read his full Christmas greeting. Didn't get beyond the words, "appear on the Twenty-Fifth Day of December" They thought they had received real subpoenas. And they didn't like it a bit.

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Mike - that sort of sounds as though they had
a guilty feeling - or they'd have caught on!