

LISBON L.T.-P.G. Fri. Feb. 22 - '52,

The Lisbon conference, today, wound up the final formalities in the creation of a West European Army - ~~under~~ General Eisenhower's command. This marked the end of the long effort, hampered by disputes and difficulties - ~~in~~ but now the military force of the North Atlantic Treaty organization is all set, on paper.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson hailed the action today as "a new era in the life of the west." But there's plenty of reminder that it will be months before the Army voted at Lisbon takes the form of organized regiments and guns.

FOLLOW LISBON

The latest -- Eisenhower boosters in Washington are saying they hope the Lisbon agreement will make it possible for General Ike to come home before the Republican National Convention. They so badly want him to make a few speeches -- although he said he would not campaign for the nomination.

MOSCOW

There is a late story tonight that, in Moscow, Malenkov has been made chairman of the Organization Bureau of the Russian Communist Party. Which is important for the following reason.

Hitherto, Stalin has held the two top ranking posts -- Secretary General of the Communist party and head of the Organization Bureau. But now he turns over the number two post to Malenkov who, all along, has been mentioned as a probable successor to Stalin. Molotov, the foreign minister, also has a place in the picture. But, now, the news of Stalin handing over the number two post would seem to make Malenkov the odds-on-favorite.

This comes from Soviet circles in Berlin, where they have just been informed of Malenkov's latest rise in the Soviet hierarchy.

KOREA

In Korea, more progress in the armistice negotiations. But all -- indecisive. The progress today was in minor questions, with nothing accomplished in the major points of deadlock. Which are - the position of Soviet Russia in an armistice, the construction of Red airfields and the exchange of prisoners.

In the war - a sharp victory at an island off the coast of North Korea. Nothing big, but it was violent - an invasion ~~from~~ fleet of sampans making an ~~attack~~ attack on the island of Yang-do, which was held by South Korean Marines, under the command of an American Marine Corps Lieutenant. The invasion fleet was shot up, with a sinking of sampans. Some Reds managed to get ashore on the island, but they were quickly mopped up.

We've been hearing a good deal about Chinese troops in Burma - Chinese Nationalists. There have been complaints from, both the side of the Reds, and from the Burmese government - about masses of soldiers who fled across the border to escape the Red sweep in China. They are still there, having seized a part of northern Burma.

Today, at Rangoon, an account was given by a Burmese editor, who has just returned from the Kengtung area, where the Chinese Nationalists are in control. He says they number about thirteen thousand, and that they are preparing for a drive into the province of Yunan, just over the mountains adjacent to Burma. That was the terminus of the famous airlift across the Himalayas "over the Hump". Also - the Chinese end of the Burma Road and the Lido Road. *Kunming, capital of Yunan. This Rangoon editor* says they are in control of four Burmese towns, and have a strongly held air base at Monghsat -- which is lined with barracks of the Chinese Nationalists. *That* They are well armed with American equipment - material sent to China during the second World War.

Rumor says American officers are serving in this force of Chinese anti-Communists. The Rangoon Editor declares - he did not see any Americans. But he did hear of a "major Stewart". People of the local tribes told him - that this mysterious American was aiding the preparations for an invasion of Red China.

Such is the latest in the whole strange business of Chinese Nationalists occupying by force - a section in the remote northern part of Burma, *in the wild Himalayas, the land of the Hump and home of the Kachins.*

CORONATION

It was reported in London tonight that the coronation of Queen Elizabeth The Second may be held late next August, or early September. This is headlined in Lord Beaverbrook's paper, "The Daily Express," which states that a definite decision will be made in the next three weeks. It is possible that the new Queen may prefer to be coronated next year. Which would mean the early summer of 1953.

But the "Daily Express" declares that plans are being discussed for a coronation soon - in August or September.

BASES

Congress is investigating waste, crazy spending and the squandering of money - in the construction of American air bases abroad. Today - the limelight of criticism was on flying fields in North Africa.

The charge is made that, in French Morocco, as much as fifty million dollars has been "poured down the drain." Also - that a couple of million dollars' worth of material has been stolen. Stuff to be used for construction, which was not guarded properly during unloading and storage - and there was looting, wholesale. The air base project in Morocco called - a fiasco.

The military authorities explain that the flying fields were a rush emergency - when the construction was begun. They might be needed in a desperate hurry - part of a net of air bases for quick retaliation, if the Soviets made a push into western Europe.

The congressional critics declare the whole thing was bungled, flying field construction faulty, the work badly done - a fiasco.

SPEED

Congress is asked for money to finance research on speed in the air - up to nineteen hundred miles an hour, more than twice the speed of sound. The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics points out that airplanes have already flown faster than sound, and designers are thinking about far greater speeds for planes and guided missiles.

They're worried about - the heat caused by friction. Which, at Nineteen hundred miles an hour, would have a decided effect on metals. So that's what they want investigated -- heat, when the going is that fast.

Congressional investigators are ~~not~~ asking Harold Stassen about Attorney General McGrath being a millionaire. (Stassen, campaigning for the Republican nomination, declared, last night, that McGrath has made a million or more during twelve years in public office.) The committee is particularly ^{interested} ~~interested~~ in an allegation that McGrath's alleged wealth was increased in the time he has held high federal office in Washington -- first, solicitor-General, and now Attorney General.

In Washington, Congressman Monroe Redden, of North Carolina, says that ^{he and} ~~his~~ his brother received twenty-five thousand dollars each - from a North Carolina firm that obtained a loan of four hundred and sixty thousand dollars from the R.F.C. The twenty-five thousand dollars that each got was in the form of an I O W -- of which only part has been paid thus far.

The firm in question was **The Skyland Farms**, at Henderson, North Carolina. An agricultural show place, which has often been the scene of political parties, the statesmen regaling themselves at barbecues and square dances.

Congressman Redden and his brother were listed as ^{the} ~~lawyers~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ - and today the Congressman admitted that he had urged the R.F.C. loan. But he insisted that the payments made to himself and his brother were for arranging the sale of the firm - nothing to do with the loan.

MOVIES-TAXES

In Washington, there's indignation among Congressmen, who are growling threats at - movie stars. Hollywood headliners - who have discovered a way to beat the income tax. There's a loophole -- and it's a pippin.

In the new tax bill there's a provision that, under certain circumstances, people don't have to pay United States income tax on money earned in foreign countries. That clause was inserted for the benefit of a small group of technicians and engineers, who work abroad under point four - the program for aiding undeveloped areas of this earth, but movie stars have learned that this would apply to them also - if they work on pictures abroad.

Still - wouldn't they have to pay foreign income tax? That's the twister. The United States has an agreement with various foreign countries, whereby American citizens, working aboard for brief periods, do not have to pay foreign income tax. The result is that a big money Hollywood star could make

pictures for six months in Britain or Italy - without paying American income tax, or British or Italian income tax. No tax at all. The same thing goes for France for a period of a year. Live in gay paree for a year, and be immune from taxation. What could be sweeter?

Indignant Congressmen, astonished by the discovery of the loophole, are growling dire threats - if Movie stars try to use the gimmick, a new law ~~will~~ will be passed, closing the loophole. Retroactive, too --so that Hollywood financiers would have to pay up for the income tax they may have skipped.

OLYMPICS

Today the Winter Olympics honors went to - Germany. Which defeated country is competing in the Olympic games for the first time since World War Two. Today the Germans captured two gold medals - in the bobsled event, and in the figure-skating for couples. The United States came in second, in both cases, sleds and skating - and built up the American total to eighty-four and a half points. Which still is far behind Norway's hundred and one.

~~The weather has been unseasonably warm for Norway, and the track for the bob-sledding was wet and slushy. But Andreas Ostler, the German inn-keeper, piloted his four-man-sled in record-breaking ~~xxxx~~ style, then, at night, a German pair, Ria and Paul Falk, danced their way to the figure skating gold medal.~~

TANKER

The stern of the broken tanker, Fort Mercer, reached harbor at Newport, Rhode Island, today - and the thirteen sailors were still aboard. The towing job was a tough one, with new heavy gales blowing along the New England coast. Added ~~xxx~~ ordeal for the doughty thirteen - who had already gone through the terror of shipwreck in the violent storm last ~~xx~~ Monday.

But, having reached port, nine of them said they would still stick to the remaining half of their ship - during the rest of the towing voyage ~~xxxx~~ to New York. Of the remaining four, two are ill. Another - more than seventy years old.

They all went ashore today, nine declaring *their home at sea that* they'd return to ~~the~~ stern of the Fort Mercer, *the* tanker that *broke* in two.

BARGAINS

News from Washington tells of wild scenes at the birthday sale. In the National Capital, today, the merchants put on their annual carnival of bargains, a feature celebrating Washington's birthday.

Crowds waited outside all night, and business began this morning with a frantic rush. By Noon, the stores were a bedlam -- stormed by bargain hunters. At the counters, women stampeded for fourteen cent shoes, eighty-eight cent slips, one dollar evening gowns, five dollar fur coats, nine dollar washing machines, ninety-nine cent typewriters. Crowds of men went after thirty-nine cent shirts, six cent neckties, five dollar tropical suits.

Seems like an odd way to celebrate Washington's birthday. (But then - the father of his country was known ~~xx~~ to be a prudent house-holder, with a keen eye for a bargain.)

ROBBER

At Middleton, Tennessee, there's a bank robber moaning tonight that he bungled the job. In holding up the bank, he went about it in such a way, the people were able to get out - and reveal what was going on. Which was a bad mistake - because the village had already had three previous attempts to rob the bank, and the folks were tired of it.

The result was that just about everybody grabbed a gun - firearms being not so uncommon in Tennessee. They still go armed in Tennessee! Tough people those Tennesseans! So, when the robber emerged from the bank there was shooting all over the place.

He tried to use one man as a hostage. And he was wounded slightly in the fusillade.

The robber tried to shoot it out, and the local people say it was like the battle of Shiloh, which during the Civil War, was fought in that neighborhood. Everybody with rifles, shotguns, pistols, everybody shooting. And ever since then telling the story over and over and over again to the grandchildren.

The bandit ran, and jumped a truck - in a hail of bullets. But the driver wrecked the truck, and ducked to cover - with hot lead flying all around. The robber tried to take it on the run again -- but he had been hit several times, and wounded seriously. Moreover, the people were still after him, still shooting - everybody shooting -- and he gave up.

Tonight, in a hospital, he was moaning about the bungled robbery.

SNOW

At a town in Wisconsin there are - thirty crazy kids. High School pupils from Georgia - sent to Maniwotoc, Wisconsin, under a program of exchanging students between north and south. So what has driven them crazy?

Snow - the frosty white of snowflakes. At the Wisconsin town, they've been having a blizzard, and the whole place is covered with six inches of snow. And most of those high school pupils, from Macon, Georgia, never saw snow before.

Today, Mrs. Rex Johns, wife of the principal of the local Wisconsin high school, says: "They've simply gone ^crazy over the snow. They walk in it, when they don't have to. They go out and shovel snow, whenever they get a chance." The folks at Maniwotoc are astonished not to mention delighted -- kids eager to shovel snow.

But the biggest thrill of all is coming for those young snow worshippers. A trip has been arranged for the thirty Georgia kids to go to a winter

sports resort in the mountains, where they'll be introduced to sledding and skiing -- in an orgy of snow.

Just as millions of other folks in our mountains both East and West are having an orgy of snow, Nelson, Let's join the orgy.