

The State Department responds to that New Year's greeting from Soviet Premier Malenkov. A spokesman in Washington stating: "The United States and its friends will look forward, with interest, to the practical application of these latest Soviet assertions."

Well, the Soviet assertions were full of cordiality and friendship. Malenkov wishing the United States a happy New Year in these words: "From all my heart, I wish the American people happiness and a peaceful life." <sup>Adding: -</sup> "The first thing to desire is a betterment of relations between our countries," ~~says he.~~

This was in answer to questions wired to the Kremlin by Kingsbury Smith, Paris correspondent of the International News Service.

Today's declaration from the State Department points out how Malenkov can implement his good wishes. By coming to an agreement on such matters as the unification of Germany, arrangements for a Korean peace conference, and an <sup>end</sup> ~~end~~ <sup>^</sup> ~~end~~ to Red aggression in Indo China.

SOVIET NEW YEAR

Moscow celebrated the New Year with a whole series of greetings to western countries. The Red radio broadcasting friendly messages to Great Britain, France, and just about everybody else on this side of the Iron Curtain.

In Berlin - a thing without precedent. The Russian chief in the divided German capital said "Happy New Year" to the commanders of Great Britain, France, and the United States. The first time the Soviets ever sent them their best wishes for the New Year.

## GERMAN PRISONERS

The Russians handed over eight-hundred-and-six former German soldiers today - the latest event in a fast operation. In September, the Russians began returning German prisoners captured in World War Two. They have been doing so ever since - more than twelve thousand in all. In the last several days - nearly three thousand. Eight hundred and six - today. The oldest prisoner of war - seventy~~two~~three years of age.

Well, it's a mighty late date for sending home captives taken a dozen or so years ago. The belief is that the Russians want to return all their German ~~prisoners~~ prisoners of war - before the conference of foreign ministers goes into session.

NOTE

The western diplomatic note sent to the Kremlin is exactly what we heard last night → in anticipation.

Delivered formally today, the communications from Great Britain and France and the United States agree to the Soviet proposal concerning the conference of the Foreign Ministers.

We'd prefer January Fourth for the date, but will accept January twenty-Fifth.

INDO CHINA

The news from Indo China tells <sup>of impending</sup> ~~of a~~ military crisis

- at a French outpost. The Reds - concentrating to capture that position. The place - deep in enemy territory. A strong point - seized by a paratrooper ~~invasion~~.

More than a month ago, French soldiers of the sky came down behind the Communist lines, and fortified a position. Which is now the Red Objective. The French - seeking to relieve the paratrooper strong point.

PRISONER

News men, today, had a brief interview with Private Claude Batchelor, the G I who had refused repatriation - and changed his mind suddenly on the New Year.

He says he wanted to return to freedom a month ago, but was afraid that other American prisoners - would ~~shoot~~ kill him. There's "rule by dagger", says he.

He explains that he changed his mind because of letters from his Japanese wife, who wrote to him from Tokyo. But he didn't get up the nerve to do anything until last night - when the pro-Communist Americans held a celebration for New Year's Eve.

Batchelor says the party left him "sleepless". Then after several restless hours, he went to the gate of the compound and told an Indian guard - he wanted to go. The soldier from Kermit, Texas, adds that at the New Year's party another American cried out: "I want to go home." But he thinks that more than one feels the same way about

it. However, Indian General Thimayya, says Batchelor told him - that none of the Americans were being held by force.

Later in Seoul, the newsmen had a more extended interview with Batchelor. He said he had never become a Communist, <sup>b</sup> but only a "peace fighter." Which is, of course, the familiar expression of Red propaganda.

"I wanted to stay behind" he added, "and help in the fight against American aggression." But he's changed his mind about that, *adding:*

~~Explaining.~~ } "I do not think the Americans are aggressors now."

He was asked about the fact ~~that~~ that he was one of the ~~Anti~~ Americans who roared the Communist anthem, "the internationale" when American "explainers" tried to make an "explanation", by loud speaker on Decembe tw se cond. *at*  
*this* ~~But~~ he wouldn't answer, wouldn't say why he joined in that Communist demonstration.

Altogether, he seemed "exceedingly confused."  
Constantly using Red propaganda phrases <sup>such as</sup> "peace fighter" and



"American aggressors." And <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ was considerably tangled <sup>up too,</sup>  
when he tried to explain a statement he made in a letter to  
his Japanese wife. In which he said: "I myself, have the  
ideas ~~as~~ of a Communist, and I know they are right."

It's a little difficult to make sense out of the  
talk of this American soldier, who joined the enemy - until  
he had a sudden change of mind.

## ITALY

News from sunny Italy - not so sunny. The peninsula is in the grip of a cold wave - a bitter winter storm sweeping from the Apennines, all the way to Sicily. Mountain villages marooned by huge drifts of snow - after three days of blizzard. Help is being rushed - one town in a desperate crisis.

The severity of the cold wave is shown by the fact that a man was ~~is~~ frozen to death in Sicily, island of orange groves.

## HAREM

From the City of Rabat, in Morocco - a dispatch that might come out of old sinister tales of the oriental harem. The Arabian nights, - ~~xxxxxx~~ but the seamy side of life in the days of Sheherezade.

A Moslem widow has entered a suit under Islamic law, claiming damages for the death of her husband. She says that he was a Nubian guard in the Harem of Sidi Mohammed - the sultan who is now in exile in Corsica. ~~Having been~~ deposed - and sent out of Morocco by French authorities.

The widow says her husband got into a romantic affair with one of the concubines ~~of~~ in the harem, and the Sultan discovered it. Whereupon he ordered the Nubian harem guard to be given one hundred lashes each day for ten days. On the third day, <sup>—</sup> after three hundred lashes, <sup>—</sup> the guard succumbed.

Sounds like an evil legend. But its of court record in Morocco - a tale of the harem.

## HONORS

All who know London will remark the striking contrast in the two knighthoods bestowed by Queen Elizabeth - in a New Year's list of honors. We now have - Sir Jacob and Sir George.

Sir Jacob - that sculptor who won world fame with huge grotesque statues during years of bitter controversy. Some people hated the very name of Epstein. Others - enthusiastic.

*Jacob Epstein*  
was born in New York, the ~~lower~~ lower East Side, and won success in England. He might have seemed destined to be Jake Epstein. But now, at seventy-three, the former East sider is - Sir Jacob.

Sir George is altogether different - never hated, never the subject of controversy. George Robey - the beloved ~~of~~ English Music Hall comedian, <sup>during and</sup> after the first ~~WW~~ World War. Those who saw him twenty odd years

ago will never forget his amiable slap-stick drollery. *The one and only George Robey.*  
Now, at eighty-four Sir George.

## ABOMINABLE SNOW MAN

A dispatch from India gives an explanation of the "abominable snowman" of the Himalayas. This comes from a learned Lama, who journeyed down into India from Tibet.

He tells of a weird shrine at the monastery of Riboche. Another - at the Sakya monastery. Shrines - ~~are~~ dedicated "to all living ~~things~~ beings." Which sounds typically Buddhist. In each - an exhibit of the creatures of earth. Something like a natural history museum in the West - where they display stuffed animals.

The learned Lama declares that, at both Riboche and Sakya, there are examples of the "abominable snowman." He says - it's an ape, a tall ape with a flat skull, and hair an inch thick.

Not "abominable" at all. But - "friendly". Only dangerous to human beings if molested and attacked. But the Himalayan mountaineers are terrified by that ape of the snow and ice, and give it a fearful reputation.

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN - 2

This account from the learned Lama tallies with opinions of some explorers who have been saying that the "abominable snowman" is an ape of the Himalayas.

NEW YORK CITY

In New York, the New York administration assumed office today - Mayor Robert Wagner sworn in. The atmosphere - auspicious.

During the election campaign, Wagner was attacked, because he had the backing of Tammany. But the appointments he has made have won general ~~and~~ approval. So he's being congratulated - even by his former opponents.

Today, Mayor Wagner said - he takes office with "deep humility". Well, a sardonic philosopher might remark - there's so much humility now-a-days, it would be a relief to find someone arrogant and proud.



MYSTERY STORY

Today, Erle Stanley Gardner should be consulting - Perry Mason. The writer of mystery stories should be asking the help of his own fictional detective.

Erle Stanley Gardner has informed the Sheriff at San Diego, California, that his mountain cabin was robbed; an insolent thief stealing a whole series of ~~articles~~<sup>things</sup> including ~~the~~<sup>his</sup> typewriter. That's the most provoking part.

The typewriter on which Erle Stanley Gardner has pounded ~~out~~<sup>those</sup> clever crime solutions, achieved by Perry Mason.

Today, the author presented a clue, making a deduction, saying: "The robber must have gone in without an automobile, since there are no tracks in the road."

He should tell that to ~~pp~~ Perry Mason - who, no doubt would say: "That's obvious."

## FOOTBALL

Today brought - an astounding play in football when a player on the bench - dashed into the game, and tackled an opposing player who was on a touchdown run.

It happened in the Cotton Bowl Game. Dallas, Texas. Rice Institute playing - the University of Alabama. In the second period, the Rice half back Dick Moegle, broke loose for a ninety-five yard run. He was in the clear, strides ahead of the ~~near~~ nearest Alabama player, on his way to a touchdown - when the astonishing thing happened.

On the Alabama bench, nearby, full back Tommy Lewis, lost all self control. When he saw Moegle, on his way, he just couldn't endure it. He jumped into the game, and tackled the runner so hard - Moegle was knocked unconscious.

Officials immediately awarded a touchdown to Rice, saying Moegle had a good chance to score. If - he hadn't been tackled from the bench.

Tommy Lewis, when he realized what he had done,

went back to the bench and hid his face in his hands.

Moegle, when he recovered consciousness, went over to him,

put an arm around him and shook hands with him. Rice won twenty-eight to six. Moegle scoring two other touchdowns.

The chief official says: "I think Lewis simply lost his head in the heat of the ~~huhxxxx~~ battle."

Well, he may have lost his head, but he found a place in football history. <sup>Making a</sup> ~~The~~ tackle from the bench is as odd, in a way, as Roy Riegal's famous wrong way run in the Rose Bowl game in Nineteen Twenty Six. When he got confused and made a dash almost to his own goal line - and was only stopped when a team mate tackled him.

More serious football history was made this New Year, when Oklahoma scored an upset over Maryland in the Orange Bowl Game. Beating Maryland seven to nothing.

Oklahoma - making two magnificent defensive stands in the first half - when Maryland seemed sure to score. Then - striking back - with the only touchdown of the game.

The upset is the more striking - because the sports writers of the nation had voted Maryland the mythical championship, *and everybody.* over Notre Dame. The Irish had an undefeated season, but were tied in one game. Maryland - unbeaten and untied. Only to be defeated now by Oklahoma. Which lost a game with Notre Dame at the beginning of the season. So who's the champion? The sports writers will have to puzzle that out.

But the real high light, on this New Year's Day of Bowl Games ~~was~~ *Harry,* was that tackle from the bench in the Cotton Bowl!