

PALESTINE

L.I. - V. + G. Thursday, Dec. 23, 1948.

(In Palestine, war has broken out again, a Jewish offensive launched in the Negeb.) Israel tells the United Nations that Egypt has refused to agree to the peace negotiations ordered by the Security Council. Hence Israel has reserved -- "freedom of action".

In practice, the meaning is a Jewish assault by land, sea and air against Egyptian ~~and~~ positions in the Negeb. Right now the rainy season is on, and the southern desert is -- mud. Wet conditions have slowed up the Jewish advance -- which, however, is continuing.

## INDONESIA

The action of the Netherlands in Indonesia was assailed scathingly today before the Security Council of the United Nations -- Australia speaking. The Australian statement compares the Dutch attack on the Indonesian republic with -- what Hitler did to the Netherlands in Nineteen Forty.

Australia is not represented on the ~~Security~~ Security Council; but a representative of the southern continent was given permission to speak. He denounced the Dutch action in these words: - "a clearcut deliberate violation of the charter of the United Nations." And he added: "If the Council faces up to it, the consequences will be expulsion from the United Nations." All of which was echoed by Soviet Russia, assailing the Netherlands.

Out East, there were demonstrations today against Dutch consulates -- at Delhi in India, Rangoon in Burma.

In ~~Java~~ Java the mop-up by Dutch forces goes on - - though they report stronger resistance by the Indonesians.

## CHINA

News from China states that the Nationalist Government has approached one of the big powers for mediation, asking for help in arranging peace talks with the Communists. The whole thing is reported in guarded and cryptic fashion.

We are told that the suggestion came from one of the Four Big Power Embassies in Nanking. ~~The~~ Rumor says -- the Soviet Embassy. The suggestion, ~~was~~ that the Chinese Government should approach another one of the Big Four Powers -- asking for diplomatic help in contacting the Communists.

As for the identity of this other big power, we are not told. But we do remember recent reports ~~and~~ about American Officials in connection with negotiations between the Nationalists and the Reds. There were American denials at the time, and today's word from Nanking states that the big power, when approached, answered -- no, refusing to take a hand in arranging a meeting with Chinese leaders.

This rather mysterious account was the main

theme of talk in Nanking today; ~~and~~ overshadowed <sup>ing the</sup>  
news from the war front.

The war news however, was nothing much --  
fighting having bogged down on <sup>the</sup> military front  
north of Nanking.

General Itagaki, who was sentenced  
for torturing and starving prisoners of war in the  
East Indies. The others were defunct, including  
Yogo. In the prison chapel, the Pearl Harbor  
freedom fighters joined others in shouting "Banzai" and then  
went to the gallows.

In their last hours, each of the War Lords  
composed a poem -- according to Japanese tradition.  
These they handed to the Buddhist Monk. That did  
Yogo write. In the short terse form of Japanese  
verse, his poem reads:

Farewell to all,  
For today I cross the earthly mountains,  
and gladly go  
to the folds of Buddha.  
Thus departed the Chief of the War Lords, who

## TOJO

From Tokyo comes word about the last hours of the Japanese War Lords who were hanged. The story is told by the Buddhist Monk who gave them the last rites of the ancient religion of the Far East. He says that only one of the seven expressed repentance -- General Itagaki, who was condemned for torturing and starving prisoners of war in the East Indies. The others were defiant, including Tojo. In the prison chapel, the Pearl Harbor Premier joined others in shouting "Banzai" and then went to the gallows.

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— ° —

Farewell to all,

For today I cross the earthly mountains,

And gladly go

To the folds of Buddha.

— ° —

Thus departed the Chief of the War Lords, who

set the Pacific aflame with war, and brought their own country to utter defeat.

confidence against Premier Yoshida - whereupon the Premier immediately dissolved the Diet. *All of which*  
was a few national elections, which will be held, probably, toward the end of January.

This political upheaval followed scandals involving members of the Diet. Former Premier Yoshida was charged with accepting a bribe, and put in jail. Even more sensational was the case of the former Minister of Finance, Iwasawa, who got into the headlines when he was accused of embezzling and trying to raise a ranch member of the Diet. *Yasuda* *was* *one* *of* *the* *best* *in* *Tokyo*.

It appears that the former Finance Minister was drinking Saki, Japanese rice wine - and the lady *Emiko* *politician*, herself admitted, that she too had a couple of cups of *Saki* *whereupon*, in the lobby of the Japanese Parliament, Iwasawa made demonstrations of violent affection - and the lady made an appeal.

## JAPAN

There was a political overturn in Japan today. The Parliament, the Diet, took a vote of no-confidence against Premier Yoshida - whereupon the Premier immediately dissolved the Diet. ~~This~~ <sup>All of which</sup> means - a New National election, which ~~will~~ <sup>is</sup> be held, probably, toward the end of January.

This political upheaval followed scandals involving members of the Diet. Former Premier Ashida was charged with accepting a bribe, and put in jail. Even more sensational, was the case of the Former Minister of Finance, Izumiyama, who got into the headlines when he was accused of embracing and trying to kiss a woman member of the Diet. ~~This~~ <sup>ing</sup> caused no end of talk in Tokyo.

It appears that the Former Finance Minister was drinking Saki, Japanese rice wine - and the Lady ~~xxxxxxx~~ Politician, herself admitted, that she too had a couple of cups of ~~saki~~ <sup>the same,</sup> Whereupon, in the lobby of the Japanese Parliament, Izumiyama made demonstrations of violent affection -- and the lady made an uproar.

That sort of thing would seem to belong in the gardens of romance, and not the arena of politics. But the Tokyo news tells us that the Saki-drinking-ardors of Izumiyama <sup>played</sup> ~~had~~ a large part in today's overturn, leading to new elections.

Lets hope that the Japanese voters, going to the polls, will cast their ballots for candidates who don't think the imperial Diet means - A Diet of Saki. And who don't mistake the lobby of Parliament for a moonlit arbor of sentimental sighs.

of the State Department.

He did identify three of the purple papers as having been stolen from his office. This he knew, because they bore his official stamp. He explained that most of the documents had been copied and handed around to other officials. But others were not, and these were officially stamped. He said: "My stamp was put on a document, when it came into my office -- and it did not leave my



## ESPIONAGE

The spy story tonight features testimony of Former Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Sayre, son in law of Woodrow Wilson. He appeared before the Committee of Un-American Activities in Washington today, and gave evidence about the -- "Pumpkin Papers."

He was asked to identify <sup>the</sup> Pumpkin Papers as having been taken from his office. Upon examining these <sup>m</sup> he said he could not answer in the case of most of them. They had been in his office, but copies had circulated in other offices of the State Department.

<sup>However</sup> ~~But~~ he did identify three of the pumpkin papers as having been stolen from his office. This he knew, because they bore his official stamp. He explained that some of the documents had been copied and handed around to other officials. But others were not, and these were officially stamped. He said; "My stamp was put on a document, when it came into my office -- and it did not leave my

office until it was taken out and burned."

On that ground he told the newsmen: "I am convinced that there was theft, improper dealing-- and that a crime of great gravity was committed."

He confirmed the contention that only four persons had access to the three documents -- himself, his woman secretary, his assistant Alger Hiss, and Hiss's own secretary.

Copies of the others might have been transmitted by other people, but those three with his own stamp were accessible to four persons only. So says the Former Assistant Secretary of State.

## ARMED FORCES

A late story tonight tells of a pay boost recommended for the Armed Services. Secretary of Defense Forrestal issues a report of a survey, a report indicating that soldiers, sailors and airmen in the services should get more money. So the recommendation is -- a hike averaging fifteen per cent. Other benefits for service men are suggested, the whole thing to cost a total of some millions of dollars a year.

Secretary Forrestal told a news conference the recommendations will be submitted to President Truman.

## RADIATION BLINDNESS

The news tonight brings a new angle into that story which could be so tragic - radiation blindness. The threat of sightless darkness for pioneers of Atomic Science.

We heard several days ago - how five American Physicists, who did early work in Atomic Research, are developing cataracts. Meaning - eventual blindness. But now the word is that their eyesight can be saved - by the use of artificial lenses. That is, the cataracts can be removed by surgery, and lenses of glass can be substituted.

The news tonight gives vivid details in the drama of those Atomic Scientists of the early days. Early days meaning - as recently as ten years ago. That's how new atomic research is, a product of the last few years.

They took what the news dispatch calls "foolhardy risks": They simply did not know the effect of radiation on the eyes. They were working with Cyclotrons, machines that split the atom. We

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recall how less than ten years ago the Nobel Prize was awarded to the Cyclotron creator - Dr. Ernest Lawrence of the University of California.

They never guessed the effect of high speed neutrons. Which are used in splitting the atom. We are told of Atomic Scientists who looked into beams of neutrons - staring right into the radiation. They didn't know that neutrons have a destructive effect on cells in the human eye - the cells that make up the outer surface of the eyeball, the natural lens. The effect was not immediate - it was gradual. The full destructive effect does not show up until six to ten years afterward.

So already five of the Atomic Pioneers have cataracts - threatened with blindness. But here's the angle of hope. The Atomic Radiation affects some kinds of cell, but not others. For example, while the lens of the eye is damaged - the rest of the eyeball, like the retina, is made of cells that resist the Atomic radiation. So do the nerve cells, and the cells of the brain.

But suppose this were not the case. Suppose that all those other cells were damaged by the rays. Imagine what would have happened to the Physicists who stared into the beams of high speed neutrons. Eyes, nerves, brain, might have gone. Something to remind us of the risks taken by the modern wizards who delve into the unknown, the secrets of nature, with unknown perils.

But that sort of Abymal tragedy did not happen. Only the lens of the eyes affected, cataracts developing eventually - and the blindness can be averted by the use of artificial lenses.

Today's information, emanating from the Biology and Medicine Division of the Atomic Energy Commission, reminds us that some time ago Ty Cobb underwent a successful operation for cataracts. After his retirement from the game, that pladin of baseball players, was threatened with blindness - his sight saved by surgery. So Ty Cobb is now cited as an example of hope in the case of the Pioneers of Atomic Science.

## RESCUE

The Navy to the rescue of The Air Force.

In Washington tonight it was announced that The Saipan is leaving Forwalk, Virginia, tomorrow, with helicopters aboard. This time Naval and Marine flyers will see if they can rescue the eleven man marooned on the Greenland ice-cap.

Tonight winds up to a hundred miles an hour, and more, are blowing across that lofty seven thousand foot ice plateau. The Air Force has assembled quite a variety of rescue craft both in Greenland, and Labrador. A four-engine C-54, gliders, two helicopters, and a four engine transport plane equipped with skis and rockets for an assisted take-off.

So far the winds have been too strong. With huge snowdrifts piling up.

The men have moved from their igloo --

made of blocks of ice, into a plywood house  
dropped in sections, by parachute, and assembled  
on the ice. They say they are warm and comfortable.  
All set for the winter. But with no desire to stay  
there!

The latest: The Air Force hopes to have  
another go at it tomorrow. Then if they don't succeed  
they'll drop a Christmas tree and eleven turkey  
dinners, plus Christmas gifts from home.

When will the Navy arrive? The Saipan  
hopes to be off Greenland by next Wednesday.



## TRUMAN

President Truman is observing the Yuletide Season; - which, is okay. But you can overdo things, even in celebrating Christmas. Too much can be too much. A news dispatch from Independence, Missouri, states that the President slept late today - a thing unheard of in the case of that ~~prince of~~ <sup>peerless</sup> early risers, Harry Truman. This morning he lolled in bed, and didn't get up - until eight o'clock. Which certainly would seem to be carrying things too far.

Ordinarily, the President is up at about six a.m., and takes his morning constitutional, walking a couple of brisk miles. He is through with that well before seven, and then buckles down to work.

But today - sad to relate, Christmas comes but once a year, and a lot can be forgiven. A fellow <sup>should be</sup> ~~is~~ allowed to sleep a bit longer. ~~But~~ **Imagine** - not getting up until eight!

However, upon arising - the President did

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strike out for his two-mile walk - striding through the streets of Independence for a strenuous twenty-five minutes. After that he drove to Kansas City, where he has a hotel room for a temporary office. - <sup>There he</sup> ~~and~~ plunged into official business, ~~there.~~

That is to be applauded - but, as for that sleepyhead business of not getting up until eight A. M., <sup>Nelson,</sup> ~~think we~~ <sup>we</sup> should send the President a message, reminding him of the old saying "Early to bed, early to rise," and so on?

## MOOSE

In Pocatello, Idaho, tonight they are talking about a moose. A big fellow who doesn't like automobiles.

Last night Lynn Carter of Idaho Falls, pulled up on the road to Pocatello when he saw a giant moose in his headlights. But the moose didn't. Instead, he lowered his horns and charged. The moose won.

Car damaged. Moose evidently ~~was~~ ready for more.

Anyhow he charged a second auto. And then ambled off,

to tell the story of his two victories to any other

moose that would listen, I suppose. — While we

listen to another Moose — you are a moose — or an Elk — or something arnt you Nelson.