

GENEVA

LT. W. Mon. May 3 - '54.

At Geneva, the word is - that Indo-China peace talks will begin, probably, by the middle of the week. At the same time, prospects for a Korea settlement look more unfavorable than ever. Following - a bitter diatribe on the side of Red China. Foreign Minister Chou en-Lai charging that the United States held, forcibly, forty-eight thousand Communist prisoners-of-war. These were, of course, captives who refused to go back to the Reds. But Communist China claims - they were held back by force.

INDO-CHINA

The Communist offensive at Dien Bien Phu turned into - a propaganda assault, today. Loud speakers, in the Red fighting line, blaring a demand at the garrison -

"Surrender or die!"

One interesting point about these

broadcasts, which took ~~place~~ the place of gunfire today, was a matter of - language. What language would you guess? ~~for the~~

~~"surrender" propaganda?~~ Well, there was quite an assortment -

French, Vietnamese, German, Arabic, Italian, and Spanish.

A regular - Tower of Babel.

LOWELL THOMAS  
BROADCAST  
1954

MAY 3 - MAY 31

~~The~~ French and Vietnamese - natural enough. That,

meant - for officers and soldiers of the French and local

Indo-Chinese forces. ~~Also - the West Africans, the Senegalese.~~

Arabic - for the Moroccans. German - for the Foreign Legion.

Which is known to consist, largely, of Teutonic soldiers of

fortune. ~~and~~ Italian and Spanish, also for the Foreign Legion.

Which includes men from Italy and Spain.

The propaganda offensive gives us a picture of the polyglot character of that garrison, which has been conducting

an epic defense. A sort of United Nations - in a way.

The response to the demand "Surrender or die" was emphatic. The French replied with advance notice - that reinforcements and supplies would be poured into the besieged fortress tonight. Fleets of planes to fly over, and drop men and material by parachute. Last night, one hundred and fifty volunteers came down into Dien Bien Phu - by the sky route.

In the mass offensive over the weekend, the Red human-sea captured four outposts - along the perimeter of the narrow space the garrison still holds. Today, soldiers of the Foreign Legion made a counter-attack, and recaptured one of the strong points.

We still hear military opinion - that Dien Bien Phu cannot hold out. But the garrison does <sup>not</sup> seem to be convinced. Anyway, the latest Red assault was transformed into a propaganda barrage, today.

One incident - a radio-telephone call, from Dien Bien Phu to Hanoi. At one end of the conversation - a

woman. No, not at Hanoi - she's in the beleaguered fortress. The only woman there - a twenty-nine year old French nurse who flew in by helicopter on March Twenty-Fifth. Her name is Genevive. She said she's in fine shap. Everything going well - after the weekend offensive by the Reds. All the wounded, receiving proper medical care. "The medical services are functioning magnificently," said Genevive.

She was cheery - with laughs and qu'ps. "The boys have invited me to stay for the siege," said Genevive over the radio-telephone. — *Like "stay for the party!"*

PETROV

The London government now confirms the story that Petrov, the Russian Secret Police official who sought asylum in Australia - has provided information about the two missing British diplomats. In the House of Commons, today, Minister of State Selwyn Lloyd declared, under questioning, that Petrov has talked - about Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean, who vanished in Nineteen Fifty-One. Believed to be - behind the Iron Curtain.

The Minister of State refrained from giving details, merely stating: "Such information about Burgess and MacLean, which has been elicited so far, is of a limited and general character. And," he added, "it is not yet certain whether it is based on Petrov's personal knowledge, or hearsay."

The newspaper accounts, in London, said that Petrov has revealed - that Burgess and MacLean are in Moscow, doing work for the Soviet Government.

In Australia, a Royal Commission has been set up to look into disclosures, made by Petrov, of a Communist espionage

ring operating in Australia. A Royal Commission, is a

sort of British version of our own kind of Congressional

*More formal, more dignified - and not on television.*  
investigating committee. The hearings will begin - ~~May~~

*And*  
Seventeenth. ~~During which~~ Petrov's information about Burgess

and MacLean will be considered.

## TURKEY

Turkey had a weekend election. The result - an overwhelming victory for President Celal Bayar. The voters of Turkey picked a new parliament. President Bayar's party winning five hundred and fourteen seats out of five-hundred-and-forty-one. Carrying - sixty out of sixty-four provinces of Turkey. <sup>P</sup> Under the Turkish Constitution, <sup>the</sup> ~~A~~ parliament elects the president - who, thereupon, names a premier. So it's a foregone conclusion that President Bayar will be chosen for another term, and he'll appoint his colleague, Abnan Enderes to stay on as Premier.

## HYDROGEN BOMB

London says - that Britain is developing a new kind of hydrogen bomb. Simpler to make, and cheaper - than the type developed by the United States. The statement was published in the London Daily Express today, which said - that British scientists have devised, what the newspaper calls - a "revolutionary idea in nuclear physics." Which was tried out last autumn at the great proving ground in northern Australia.

*P* The Daily Express adds that President Eisenhower has been informed - that Britain has made an exceptional advance in the realm of the hydrogen bomb. Which, the paper claims, is the reason why the President has been urging a fuller exchange of atomic information between the United States and Great Britain.

Today, British atomic officials were queried about the ~~newspaper~~ newspaper story, but said in effect - "no comment."

ATOMIC

A dispatch from Honolulu states that the Atomic Energy Commission is making a contract with the University of Honolulu, for scientific research on the following subject - "radioactive isotopes and tuna." <sup>P</sup> Which, of course, goes back to ~~that of~~ the Japanese tuna fishermen who were showered with radioactive ash - from the hydrogen bomb test, ~~in the~~ ~~Pacific~~. Their catch of tuna - radioactive. Japan having a scare - afraid that the atomic explosions may contaminate the fish in the Pacific, and ruin <sup>the</sup> tuna fishing industry. Which is -- important for Japan.

So now - a scientific study to be made of the whole question - "radioactive isotopes and the tuna." Research to be

conducted - on Coconut Island, <sup>a small islet</sup> in the <sup>a</sup> Hawaiian <sup>(archipelago)</sup> ~~archipelago~~. <sup>Just across the island of Oahu from Honolulu.</sup> ~~That bit of tropical paradise is owned by a number of wealthy~~

~~Americans, including Edward Pawley, one time special adviser~~

~~to former President Truman. But Coconut Island is also the~~

<sup>That's the</sup> site of a marine laboratory - run by the University of Hawaii.)

~~So that's where the scientific work will be done. They say -~~

it's the only place in the world where numbers of tuna could  
be kept alive during long periods for study - by the marine  
biologists.

At Albany, New York, the State Land Board has before it - an astonishing claim. A claim - to mineral rights. That ultra-modern mineral - uranium. An amateur mining prospector has filed uranium claims on land - covering two-thirds of a National Guard Camp. Thirteen hundred and sixty acres - including the swimming pool, and the gunnery range.

Edward Chalmers, of Glenville, Connecticut, is a manufacturer of fishing reels. But he hunts uranium - in his leisure time. He says that, with his trusty Geiger counter, he found uranium at Camp Smith - near Peeksville, New York.

An official, today, stated - "Nobody, that I know of, gave him permission to enter the camp." National Guard officers wonder - how he ever made his uranium explorations on the gunnery range. Which is in frequent use for shooting -- with rifles, machine guns, cannon.

However, under state law, the fishing reel manufacturer is entitled to stake the claims, if he can show -

he really found uranium. Which question is now before the State Land Board.

It is considered - entirely possible. But it is, apparently, the first claim to the discovery of radioactive metals ever filed in New York State.

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court finds that Jackson County, Texas, has been violating the Constitution - by keeping American citizens of Mexican ancestors off juries. Which reverses the murder conviction of Pete Hernandez, found guilty of killing another Mexican-American, Joe Espinoza. It seems that, in Jackson County, no one with a Spanish name has served on a jury in twenty-five years.

And the Supreme Court orders - a new trial for Hernandez.

HEARING

The hearing today got into a long wrangle about a press release, which the Army drafted last October. Senator McCarthy claims the release indicated that the Sub-Committee was dropping the investigation at Fort Monmouth. So he rejected that version. There were two versions, and the argument went weaving around these. The proceedings marked - by a sharp clash between Senator McCarthy and Army counsellor John G. Adams. Who was a witness - for a brief while today.

Most of the time, though, Army Secretary Stevens was a witness - as he has been, day after day. Senator McCarthy was cross-questioning him, and the process does not seem near an end.

~~This morning, the counsel for the Army, Joseph Welsh, proposed that the hearings, from now on, be limited to two witnesses - Stevens and McCarthy. Welsh - to cross-examine McCarthy. But the Senator rejected that, saying - he'll have to call other witnesses. He couldn't say - how many. Which promises to *lengthen it out* drive the whole business along. While the impatient Senators on the Committee - try to hurry things along.)~~

ROBBERY

New Orleans reports a fantastic robbery - and a big one. Five bandits - dressed in gay costumes, Mardi Gras style. Getting away with - one-hundred-and-eighty-five thousand dollars worth of loot.

Early this morning, dressed in that harlequin way, they seized a night watchman at a supermarket, and held him prisoner. Then they broke into the building, and went to work on a massive safe, eight feet high. Using - acetylene torches, for a job that took three-and-a-half hours. During which period the five bandits, in their <sup>Carnival!</sup> ~~harlequin~~ costume, took time out to drink soda pop which they procured, by putting nickels into a vending machine in the store.

Cutting their way into the safe, they took one-hundred-and-eighty-five thousand dollars' worth of cash, checks, watches and jewelry. The supermarket having - a jewelry section.

Today, the police issued a statewide alarm - for the bandits and the stolen car, in which they escaped.)

## PULITZER PRIZES

The annual Pulitzer Prizes were awarded today in New York. The most interesting - the award for biography. Which goes to Charles Lindberg, for his own story of that flight of years ago. When the young aviator, utterly unknown, went winging across the Atlantic to Paris, and became a world celebrity overnight. The Lindbergh book, called "The Spirit of St. Louis", is a masterpiece of its kind, with its creation of intense interest, sustained during an account of long hours high above the Atlantic.

## QUEEN

Today's report on the royal tour should feature - Prince Charles. The reception, the Queen and her husband and their two children got, at Malta, was of a kind to delight the heart - of a small boy. The Maltese said it - with firecrackers. Their ancient custom is to celebrate religious festivals, Saints' days, and so on - the way we Americans observe the Fourth of July. And that's how they greeted the royal party, today.

Over the weekend, at Tobruk, in Libya - the Queen and the Duke had met their children, in a fond reunion.

Then, on to Malta - for thundering salutes of booming cannon, the big firecrackers. Squadrons of jet planes roared overhead. While, on shore, a huge crowd broke into a pandemonium of cheering - and firecrackers. Enough to make the five year old boy jump with glee.

Later, as the Queen and the Duke drove through the streets, they were nearly blown up - by firecrackers. Which, exploded all around, and under - the royal automobile.

QUEEN

Prince Charles and his little sister remained aboard the yacht, Britannia. Which, in a way, was a pity. The five year old heir to the crown would have enjoyed - the continuation of the fireworks.

## HEROINE

And now - the mystery of the unknown heroine. Who is Miss Nellie J. Parker? Does she really exist? Or - is she a myth, a dream?

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission awarded her a medal - for a brave rescue. Saying - that last May, she saved a fifteen year old girl from drowning. The heroine is described as a twenty-three year old school teacher. Her address - Nellie J. Parker, Route One, Concord, North Carolina.

But, at Concord - they never heard of a Nellie J. Parker. She never lived there, never taught school there. And neither the town officials nor the local post office people, can suggest any information. Nor, apparently, can the Carnegie Commission - which awarded the medal. They have nothing more than the data sent in to them. So, Harry, I wonder who knows anything about - the mysterious heroine?