

LT. - K. Tue. June 8 - '54.

HONG KONG

Two British business men arrived in Hong Kong today. Which seems usual enough. Except, that they're ^a the first to return from behind the Bamboo Curtain.

When Mao Tse-Tung conquered China - a lot of British civilians were trapped. And they've been in China ever since. Then the British raised the question at Geneva. And the Chinese agreed to release twelve Britons.

Now the first two are back in Hong Kong. With them, three others who weren't discussed at Geneva. So the British are optimistic about the return of the rest.

The new development has also raised the hopes of Americans in Geneva. Because we want to negotiate for the release of more than a hundred of our citizens who are behind the Bamboo Curtain. We ^{to} are carrying on discussions with the Chinese there. No agreement yet. But the release of the British business men - makes our officials hope that we can get the Americans out too.

NEWS

Our government might intervene in Indo-China, alone, if Red China entered the war openly. So indicated by Secretary of State Dulles in his news conference.

The Secretary repeated that this country wants united action on the Indo-Chinese problem. The Secretary adding - that we will adhere to united action, as long as it's practicable. Then a reporter asked - doesn't that mean that some day united action might not be practicable.

Dulles replied - that if Mao Tse-Tung sent his troops into Indo-China -- then an entirely new situation would exist. And we might have to change our whole policy.

But Secretary Dulles declared that right now the Administration is not planning to ask Congress for authority to intervene in the war. President Eisenhower, still considering about what to do about Indo-China.

LANIER

In Paris, Premier Lanier wins a point in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Chamber, agreeing to a recess - after a bitter attack on the government policy in Indo-China.

First of all, the Defense Minister defended his policy. But he was not by bees and jeers from the Deputies.

When he sat down, Lanier asked for the recess. He said, "This moment at Geneva there is an important meeting which Bidault is attending. I therefore ask a suspension of the session - until tomorrow, when we can hear the Foreign Minister."

Then the Chamber voted with Lanier. They won't force the collapse of the government - at least until after they hear what Bidault has to say about the Geneva conference.

INDO-CHINA

A dispatch from Hanoi describes French planes blasting two Red bases only seven miles from Hanoi. The bases advanced depots for ammunition and supplies. Both, heavily guarded by mine fields and anti-tank barriers. Both, dug underground. Both key points for the expected ^{all-important} rebel offensive into the Red River Delta.

French planes dumped tons of explosives on the bases. Returning pilots, saying that black and yellow smoke rose up into the air as ammunition exploded. ~~And~~ The blasts were visible in Hanoi. French officials ~~said~~ that pictures show one base wrecked - and the other, in official terms, "one hundred percent destroyed." French ground troops moved into the one area. They found only eleven Viet Minh troops alive. With only smoking ruins left, where the base had been.

Meanwhile, French intelligence reports that the Reds have at least seven divisions for their big offensive. Four of these divisions - were the ones that conquered Dien Bien Phu. And French pilots still report hundreds of Molotov trucks speeding along the mountain roads

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from the Chinese border. The trucks, carrying supplies - and many of them are pulling heavy artillery. The Tse-Tung, reported to be sending six thousand tons of arms ^{and munitions} every month.

The French have about five divisions to meet the attack. The new supreme commander, General Ely, has arrived in Saigon. He's expected to take charge of the Hanoi defense within the next day or two.

GUATEMALA

Today, the President of Guatemala - took over special authority under an emergency set-up. Constitutional guarantees suspended, for the next thirty days. No public meetings permitted. Strict censorship of the press, radio, and mail. Private homes can be searched without a warrant. All individuals, subject to arrest without formal charges.

The action came after a special meeting of ^{the} President ~~delmas~~ and his cabinet. The decrees, announced shortly afterward. Its all blamed on what the government calls - "A subversive movement," - supported from abroad. Hoping, that the government of Guatemala - often called Red dominated, wants to prevent any anti-communist demonstrations.

BROWELL

Attorney General Brownell wants authority to force testimony from witnesses who plead the Fifth Amendment. The Attorney General, telling a House Judiciary sub-committee - that the proposal would help destroy the communist conspiracy.

Brownell said that investigators have been stopped repeatedly - by witnesses who invoke the Fifth Amendment to avert incriminating themselves. So he asks Congress to do something about it.

The Brownell proposal - witnesses to be immune from prosecution. Then, to be punished for contempt - if they still refuse to testify.

The Attorney General is opposing a plan approved by the Senate - which would give congressional committees the right to grant immunity. He thinks that power should be given to the Attorney General - to make investigations as speedy as possible.

MID-SHIPMEN

Here
In Washington, Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts says he's going to investigate the case of those three mid-shipmen whose commissions in the Navy are being held up. ~~Two-three~~, Paul Shink of Egan, Arkansas, Harold Pallack of Hartford, Connecticut, and Peter Endlowky of Jersey City, New Jersey. They passed their exams at Annapolis. And then suddenly - the Navy announced that they would not receive commissions along with the rest of their class. The reason - security investigation.

Senator Saltonstall declares that he wants a full report from the Navy about the three mid-shipmen. (Referring to their case he remarked, "It doesn't look good on the surface." Then he added, "I found it most disturbing.")

(One thing the Senator doesn't like - is the fact that the names of the men were revealed. He thinks this might hurt their careers in the Navy - even if they are cleared after a security investigation.)

Saltzman also feels that the security checks should have been made before graduation - because now the three have been humiliated by having their commissions held up, after they had qualified along with their classmates.

The Massachusetts Senator first announced that he would make the investigation a personal matter. But afterward, the Senate Republican policy committee asked him to carry it out officially - as chairman of the Senate Armed Services committee.

AGRICULTURE

President Eisenhower - suffers a setback in his agriculture program. The President had proposed lower price supports. But today, the House Agriculture Committee voted to continue high supports for another year. The vote, twenty-one to eight.

Farm leaders in the House predict that Congress will uphold the committee. Which means that Mr. Eisenhower will have to decide whether or not to veto the high price supports. The vote - very tough in an election year.

HEARING (Prosper's Story)

There was a fencing match ^{here} in Washington today. Verbal fencing, that is - in the cross-examination of Roy Cohn. The hearing, of course, wouldn't be complete, nowadays - without a McCarthy - Symington clash. Which occurred ^{again today} in the usual style. Charge and counter-charge between the two Senators. But mostly, it was - Cohn taking ^{the} hammering. Questioned - by Army Counsel Welch and his assistant, ~~THE~~ St. Clair.

It was ^a fencing match between experts, with over-cut and thrust - in the courtroom game. Which means, mostly - the lawyer thrusting at the witness. (The witness - trying to parry, as best he can. One of the features of our legal system - the advantage that a cross-examining lawyer has over a witness, frequently an unhappy witness.) But Roy Cohn, the excessively bright young man, is known as an able, clever lawyer. He knows all about cross-examination - the art of cutting a witness to shreds. Today, ^{again} he was on the receiving end.

(Nothing much was disclosed that could be considered new.) ~~The~~
^{today}
The chief interest being - the verbal sword play. Army Counsel Welch, for

example, making a pass - summoned the spirit of Christmas and Santa Claus. He asked Cohn to think back to last Christmas, with all its pleasant amenities, Christmas tree and all. How did he regard Bob Stevens then? Cohn said he thought the Army Secretary a kind of courteous gentleman, and still does. All - in the Christmas spirit.

But then Welch changed the mood, and went over to the sardonic. ²⁰ How could Cohn, at that time, think so well of Stevens - when, according to Cohn, the Army Secretary and Army Council John Adams had made that alleged suggestion - that the McCarthy committee should let the army alone and investigate the Navy and Air Force. Offering - to provide plenty of dirt. Welch said that would make both of them rats, traitors.

Cohn said - he didn't think so at all. They were just trying to take the heat off the Army, and distribute the investigation. But Welch kept harping on - rat and traitor. With Cohn now put in the position of defending - Stevens and Adams. Senator McCarthy chimed in, also coming to the defense of the two officials whom he and Cohn have accused. McCarthy, in fact, noted the oddity - that he was now speaking as their defender.

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Quite a reversal - with the battlers on the two sides changing places.

It was all in the tricks of cross-examination - that verbal fencing bout.

STEVENS

During the graduation exercises at West Point today - Secretary of the Army Stevens flatly declared that he did not intend to resign.

The secretary made the key speech during the ceremonies. He did not refer directly to his dispute with Senator McCarthy. But he took the opportunity to defend the Army - against the charge of "coddling communists." The Secretary declaring flatly, that the Army is, what he termed "the first line of defense against communism."

Referring to his official position, Stevens remarked that he has found the going pretty tough at times. Then he added - "I have not for a moment regretted that I undertook it - nor once considered turning back."

In other words, he's not going to let his dispute with the Wisconsin Senator drive him to resign as Secretary of the Army.

WINNIPEG

The biggest fire in the history of Winnipeg - under control after eleven hours. The blaze began in the Time Building of that Canadian city. A sixty mile an hour wind / whipped the flames across to neighboring buildings. The Time Building collapsed - showering flaming debris over the block.

(Every available fireman and policeman in the city - rushed to the scene. Scores of persons evacuated from nearby buildings. And for eleven hours, the firemen fought the flames.)

The damage - many buildings completely destroyed. The cost - estimated at five million dollars.

SOLAR BEAT

The man who discovered the solar beat of Cheops - may not work on the rest of the excavation. Kamal El Malakh made the great find last month, while he was working on the tomb of Cheops. But today he threatened to resign from his post as archeologist. Because the government has named a committee of five men to supervise the excavation.

Malakh is one of the five. But he says that he'll have to face personal rivalry - and obstruction by the other officials. He turned the atmosphere "intolerable," and added, "I cannot work under such conditions - and am planning to resign."

Well, the learned ^{young} archeologist ^{and architect} seems to be in the midst of one of the oldest situations in the history of scholarship. Jealousy among professors - and this time the professors of archeology. So the discoverer may not even be around - when the "solar beat" of Cheops is brought to the surface.

HILLARY

At long last - word from Sir Edmund Hillary. The conqueror of Mt. Everest is high up on the slopes of Mt. Makalu, in the Himalayas. There have been conflicting reports about his health,

Well, today a runner arrived in Joghani - on the India-Nepal border. The runner, carrying a telegram to the British High Commissioner in New Delhi. In the telegram, Hillary states that he's in excellent health. And adds, he's sorry about the concern everyone had felt for him.

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His runner says that Hillary suffered an attack of malaria - not pneumonia. The New Zealand bee-keeper, attacked by that disease as he was climbing up toward the peak of Makalu. He had reached Camp Number 4 when he got feverish, began to shiver, and suffered from general weakness. So his companions advised him to go back down.

Three others went along with him. Hillary, trying to walk - and at the same time, supported by the others as they crossed the icy slopes. They got back to their base camp - and then the monsoon broke. Torrents of water drenching the camp.

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They're still moving down. And it's expected they'll be in Joghani within two weeks.

Meanwhile, Mike, while we enjoy the heat here at sea level, I in Washington, and you in New York, the six other members of this British expedition are still attempting to reach the icy summit of Mt. Everest's neighbor, unlinked K2.

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