

EARTHQUAKE

Iran reports -- a great earthquake disaster. In one town, the entire population - - virtually wiped out. Fourteen hundred and fifty out of fifteen hundred - - killed, when the buildings came crashing down, every building. That's an indication of how devastating shocks were.

It happened in the Elbruz Mountains - - a lofty range always liable to earthquakes. The Capital City of Teheran stands on a plateau, which the Elbruz mountains divide from the lowlands along the Caspian sea. The region is one of the most isolated ~~on this~~ ~~earth~~. The nearest railway and the nearest highway are fifty miles distant, and the villages can be reached only on foot or mule back - through wild mountain passes.

The total number of casualties in the villages of the Elbruz - - can only be guessed. But in that one town, a place called Toroud - - all the buildings were destroyed, and nearly all the people.

At Teheran, to-day, the Shah, ordered the Army and all relief organizations to be mobilized, for earthquake relief - - aid being rushed into that almost inaccessible mountain land.

End

DULLES

Secretary of State Dulles told a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, to-day, that the Administration has no plans for sudden moves in Korea - - which might touch off a third world war. He stated, Moreover, that [^]out Foreign Allies will be consulted in advance about any future strategy -- like a blockade of Red China, or a Major Military offensive. And ^{he} promised - - that leaders of Congress would also be consulted. The policy of the Eisenhower Administration said the Secretary of State, is to free the U S forces now pinned down in Korea - - and not to get ourselves more deeply involved in the conflict with Red China.

All this was testified at a "Secret" hearing. Profoundly secret-- or supposed to be. Secretary Dulles complained about leaks at previous Committee hearings - - information leaking out. To-day he refused to talk at all, until assured by the chairman of the Subcommittee, Senator Alexander Smith of New Jersey - - that it really would be secret.

But, as a news blackout, it was one of the shortest on record.

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Senator Smith gave an order -- no talk. But was opposed by Senator Sparkman of Alabama. Who thought the news reporters should be given some information. "The public," said he, "should know as much as can be given -- without endangering national security."

So that was how we came to get the outline I have just given you of some of the Dulles testimony.

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower had a luncheon party at the white House to-day. The guests - - ten Democratic Congressmen. Republican Legislators were there too - - in what was obviously a bid for bi-partisan support.

After it was over, Congressman McCormick^{Dem.}, of Massachusetts, said:

~~expressed the Democratic view as follows:~~

" We Democrats are only too anxious to co-operate in the interest of the Country! We will bail the President out many times, when he takes a strong position in the interest of the Country"

Looks like the luncheon was a success.

End

VATICAN

The news this afternoon clarifies the Vatican appeal for mercy - in behalf of the Condemned Atomic spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The first word of this was from the Vatican newspaper, which stated that the Papal plea had been made some time before President Eisenhower rejected the Rosenberg request for clemency. But, at the White House, the statement was - that President Eisenhower had received no such message. So maybe the Appeal had gone to President Truman, before the Eisenhower Administration took office

But in Kansas City, President Truman declared that no such plea from the Vatican had ever come to him.

The clarification comes from Catholic Authorities in Washington, who disclose the Vatican communicated with the Department of Justice in Washington, calling attention to the many appeals for mercy in behalf of the Rosenbergs. This was in December - and, apparently, the Papal Communication never went any further than the Department of Justice.

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It is emphasized that Pope Pius the Twelfth spoke, not on grounds of justice, but only in behalf of mercy. Which is not without precedent. In times past, Roman Pontiffs have asked for clemency - as in the case of the British Nurse, Edith Cavell, in the first World war. The Vatican tried to save her life, but the Kaiser's Germans were unrelenting.

Papal sources in Rome say that the Pope's move in behalf of the Rosenbergs was not made public until after Presidential rejection of their appeal for clemency - so that it might not seem that the Vatican was trying to influence public opinion in advance of the white House decision.

End



FOLLOW VATICAN

This news is followed immediately by a statement from the Rosenberg lawyer - - who says that , in view of the mercy plea from the Vatican, he will ask President Eisenhower to reconsider his decision.

Defense Attorney Emanuel Bloch, will also ask the Supreme Court to reverse its own refusal to intervene. He's trying to obtain another stay of execution - - to give time for final efforts in behalf of the Atomic Spies. Useless efforts , it would seem.

End

KOREA

IN Korea, Chinese Reds today , celebrated new year's eve - - with a series of sharp attacks all the way across²⁰ the battlefront. They accomplished little, if anything - - but they did shoot off a lot of guns. Which was in the spirit of the Chinese New Year - - a traditional time for firecrackers.

Since the ancient days of the Celestial Empire, the Chinese have had a lunar year - - figured according to the moon, They may have Communism today, but it still is Near Year^y Day -- according to the reckoning of old.

The rash of Red attacks corresponded with the arrival of Lieutenant General Maxwell Taylor. Our new Field Commander - - making his first visit to the front lines. General Taylor must have approved of the way his Army celebrated the Chinese New Year.

The Reds were able to capture three small advance posts. But these were retaken immediately - - by counterattack. Leaving the Reds just where they were at the end of their old year.

End

ISRAEL

Word from Israel is that the Government may put restrictions on the movements of Communist Members of the Jewish Parliament - - as a result of the Soviet break of Diplomatic relations . Prime Minister Ben Gurion has called a special Cabinet meeting ^{for} on Sunday - - when , we hear, measures to curb Communist legislators will be considered.

Today, Soviet Ambassador Yershov, preparing to leave the Country, met with a group of leaders of the Communist party in Israel. They called at the Red Legation - - with flowers. ^{Israelis} demonstrating their devotion to Stalin - - even in spite of the anti-Semitism in the Red Countries. All - - calculated to stir the indignation of the people of Israel.

The Soviet Ambassador conferred also , with Russian Church officials in Palestine. Which points to an odd state of affairs. From time immemorial, the Russian Orthodox Church has possessed large properties in the Holy Land, and the ownership of these has been taken over by the Soviet Government. The Orthodox Church in Russia - - subservient to the Kremlin. So now Moscow has new considerable property at stake in Israel. Which is one of the reasons ^{one of the} angles as the Russian Legation moves out - - and has to leave some kind of caretaker for that old Orthodox church property

END

POLAND

The Communist Government of Poland has imposed total control on the Polish Catholic Church. To-day the Red news agency published a decree - - that all priests ~~must pledge allegiance to the communist regime.~~ And - - all church appointments are subject to approval by the Communist Government. The naming of Bishops, for example, must be okayed by the Reds.

This brings to a new climax a long campaign against the Church in the Red satellite -- a campaign which was intensified after the elevation of Archbishop Wyszynski, the Primate of Poland, ^{He recently was} created a Cardinal - - by Pope Pius the Twelfth.

The mass of the people of Poland are intensely Catholic, and the Communists have had to proceed cautiously - - but their anti-Church policy is now being pressed.

end

O DWYER

In Mexico City , former U S Ambassador O'Dwyer announces - -
he's now a Mexican "immigrant" which is a special kind of status
in the Republic south of the Rio Grande. O'Dwyer has taken the
post of "adviser" to a Mexican law firm. If he, himself, were to
practice law down there he'd have to become a Mexican citizen.
But he won't give up his American citizenship. However, he can
act as an "adviser" by obtaining the status of "immigrant" which
seems to be something in betwix and between.

The former Ambassador indicated that he is in no hurry to
return to the United States - - where he might have to answer
embarrassing questions about crime and political corruption, when
he was Mayor of New York. He says he is, in his own words,
"flat broke," and - - is glad to be able to make some money in
Mexico City.

End

KLEIN

In Illinois there is a National Guard brigade that has long been famous. Once it was cavalry, then artillery, and in recent years anti-aircraft. Years ago it was commanded by General Dawes, before he was Vice-President.

When General MacArthur was recalled by President Truman, General Julius Klein of the 109th Illinois, took the part of his old commander - MacArthur. Whereupon Governor Stevenson fired General Klein. Now the new Illinois governor, Stratton, has reactivated the 109th and reinstated its outspoken commander. Which may have accounted for the broad smile ^{on} General Julius Klein's face today. Also the wire of congratulation he has just received from General MacArthur!

CONTROLS

The Government has taken controls off automobiles - - the manufacturers now free to produce as many cars as they think they can sell. Restrictions on steel, copper and aluminum have been lifted - - making these metals available to the automobile companies. However, the supplies on the market are limited - - and it is not believed that to-days action, abolishing controls, will have much practical effect on the manufacture of cars.

End

LINCOLN

Omaha is having a laugh, following the revelation of a Lincoln's Birthday trick. Played yesterday - by a newspaperman, a reporter on the Omaha World Herald. Who went along on the street, asking people to sign a petition. Some of them did. The joke being - that the document was a copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg address, printed in petition form.

But some refused to sign, one fellow saying - "It looks fishy to me." Others remarked, "It sounds all right - but where does it get you?"

Still another citizen looked at the Gettysburg address and grumbled: "I'm sure I signed this same thing last week. I guess it won't hurt to sign again, but I don't think these protests ever do any good."

Fortunately for the fair name of Omaha, the reporter tried to pull the stunt on three college students from Creighton University. They ~~had to laugh~~ recognizing^{ed} the Gettysburg Address, and got a hearty laugh out of it.

End

THIRTEEN

Tonight is the time to defy the malady called - triskaidekaphobia. This being - Friday the thirteenth. Some people think it's unlucky, and they suffer from - triskaidekaphobia. Which is the scientific word for - fear of number thirteen.

A blast against the old superstition is issued by the "Lucky Thirteen Club", at Meramec Cavern, Missouri. Which consists of thirteen Republican presidential electors, who cast Missouri votes for Eisenhower, following the G.O.P. victory in November. The Honorary President of the Lucky Thirteen Club is President Eisenhower.

Today the Chairman, Rudy Turilli, points out that the general is the thirteenth Republican President. Also - the name "Ike Eisenhower" has thirteen letters. So has the name of his home town - Abilene, Kansas.

Further, that a number of prominent members of the new administration have thirteen letters in their names, including Richard M. Nixon, Vice-President, who was born in Nineteen Thirteen. The list really does present a surprising

number of thirteen letter names prominent in the new administration, like Harold Stassen, Mutual Security Administrator, James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary, and several members of the Cabinet.

It seems to be the lucky number for the administration.

So, Nelson who's afraid of triskaidekaphobia?