

L. J. - Sunoco. Thursday, June 15, 1940.
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The French Army is withdrawing from Paris. The Nazi

legions can march into the great and famous city whenever they *like*.

In fact they are marching in at this moment.

~~like~~ ~~So says~~ French ~~message~~ message to the German Government

has just been

~~in a message~~ transmitted by the United States Ambassador to Paris.

goes this way:-

The official word ~~comes as follows:-~~ Ambassador Bullitt has

just informed the State Department in Washington that the French

military authorities gave him a communication which he in turn

sent to the American Legation at Berne, Switzerland. The

American ~~representative~~ representative there turned the communication

over to a German diplomatic official and asked him to communicate

it immediately to the German Government, which he did. The

message thus conveyed states that *officially* the French have ^{officially} declared Paris

~~to be~~ an open city, undefended, and that the general in command

had ordered his troops to march out. They are retreating to the

south.

Ambassador Bullitt himself will remain in Paris with

the American Military and Naval Attaches, will stay there as the

Germans ~~enter~~ enter. ~~But~~ Bullitt hopes he can be of help in

transferring the control of the city to the German military

command--~~and~~ doing so peaceably and without loss of life.

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Thus ends the German drive against Paris, ^{after} ~~after~~ the French had vowed that they would defend their illustrious capital stone by stone, even if they had to leave it a heap of smoking ruins. ^{So} More moderate judgment ~~xxx~~ prevailed. The French admit that by a bitter and destructive resistance in city streets they might delay the Germans a little, but the military advantage of this would not compensate for the utter devastation of the magnificent city that for so long has been a thing of splendor on earth. ^{And} ~~So~~ Paris now ceases to figure ~~xxx~~ importantly in the war news.

In fact, the metropolis on the Seine was no longer a major objective of the German drive--so Berlin reported. Nazi military officials stated that ~~xxx~~ the capture of Paris had become only an incident--that the main German strategy was to complete the defeat of the French Army, and put it out of action. The principal military incident today was not ~~xxx~~ Paris, but the city of Chalons, historic site where the ancient Romans won their last great victory, defeating Attila and the Huns. Berlin reports the capture of Chalons, which is on the River Marne, where it bends away to the south. This

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means that the German flanking drive in the East has crashed forward swiftly, threatening to cut off the French Army from the Maginot Line. In fact, it's doubtful what General Weygand intends to do--keep in touch with that impregnable Maginot Line, or let it be isolated.

He may withdraw ~~with~~ his army into Central France, and try to keep ~~it~~ up resistance there. Germany claims that the French Army cannot retreat intact, that it is breaking up, and cannot hold together as a fighting force. The French say that their retiring line is still intact, no real break-through, ^{though} ~~XXXXXXXX~~ the Nazi armored columns are driving deep wedges.

Tonight, the French government admits the desperate situation to the full. A spokesman of the war office in the temporary capital at Tours made ^{following} ~~these~~ candid tragic statements, as ~~XXXXXXXX~~ summarized by the United Press dispatch:-

The French troops are nearing exhaustion. They've fought continuously for eight days - eight days of desperate combat. It has been impossible to draw troops from other sectors and relieve the men who have been under continuous fire. French units have only been able to extricate themselves by desperate counter-attacks, and even then ~~xxx~~ many detachments have been

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unable to withdraw. The losses of French army equipment have been so great that infantry ~~xxxx~~ forces now face attacks by German tank and armored units without support of armored units of their own. Human flesh against war material of steel and fire, The French are outnumbered ~~xx xxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ three to one, and their ~~xxxx~~ worn-out soldiers are thus outnumbered by fresh troops. The Germans are incessantly throwing new divisions into action. The military spokesman declared that exhausted French soldiers are now fighting German units that have been at the Front for only two or three days. He said it was impossible for the French to make an effective counter-attack.

A later French dispatch declares that German motorized units are pouring across the line of the Seine. They are said to have ~~xxxx~~ penetrated as far as Evereaux, which represents an advance of many miles.

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Yet France is determined to fight on. The council

of ministers of the French government met at ~~Tous~~^{Tous} today,

and decided - to continue the battle. The dispatch

adds that this decision was reached after a British promise

of what is described as "immediate and massive aid." The

dispatch continues this way:- "It was stated that there was

no question of abandoning the ~~fix~~ fight - this as a result

of the British pledge."

The British are ^{calling up a million men} ~~mustering all the forces they can~~

to help the French. But so short is equipment that they ~~are~~ ^{are}

talking of forming broomstick brigades - train troops with

broomsticks because of the lack of rifles. And even rifles

seem to be ~~fix~~ obsolete in the war of automatic ~~z~~ weapons

tanks and bombing planes.

RUMOR

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There's no truth in the story that the State Department has word that ~~xxxxxx~~ France is considering negotiations, overtures for a separate peace. The denial is issued by the State Department, and reaffirmed by the White House. ^{The} President's secretary, Steve Early, used the following strong words:-

"I am lacking in decent language to deny that story."

The report was printed in the Chicago Tribune, which stated that Ambassador Bullitt had phoned Washington saying that certain members of the French Government were in favor of calling off the war. "The Tribune story," said the White House secretary today, "was denied last night steadily from five P.M. on. The Tribune," he added, "disregarded the denial and continued ~~xxxx~~ publication of an erroneous story--knowing that it was erroneous," ~~xxx~~ said Steve Early. That is rather strongly put, but it's mild and tame compared to the statement that followed:- "This leads me to wonder," said the Presidential secretary, "whether all the news published in the United States is published from an American patriotic point of view or a foreign point of view."

Now, Steve, what kind of foreign point of view could the Chicago Tribune have? It certainly wouldn't be pro-Ally to

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print a report that France might make peace. So, is the Chicago Tribune pro-German, Nazi? No doubt, the Tribune believed the story to be true--in spite of official denials. And what is it unpatriotic for an American newspaper to print? Well, the war spirit is with us.

SPEECH

Today in Paris it was revealed that Premier Reynaud sent an appeal for help to President Roosevelt, ~~sent it~~ last Monday. That was the very ~~same~~ day ~~that~~ President Roosevelt made his stab-in-the-back address, in which he promised full material aid to the Allies.

This immediately raised the supposition -- that the President's promise was a response to the French appeal.

Paris discloses that the French Premier cabled to the American President the following:- "I beg you publicly to declare ^{the} United States ⁱⁿ accord with the Allies -- and moral and material aid by all possible means, except the dispatch of an expeditionary corps." ~~In other words, all possible aid short of war.~~ That's exactly what the President promised.

Moreover, the request and the promise tally ~~even~~ to the point of identical words. Paris comment today pointed out that Premier Reynaud in communicating with President Roosevelt used the phrase "stab in the back", actually the translation

I have here says -- hit in the back. Word for word it reads
~~as follows:~~ "At the moment I speak to you," said the Premier
~~to the President,~~ "another dictatorship has hit France in the
back."

Today in Washington the White House declared that
the President's promise was not made in response to the
Premier's appeal. White House Secretary ~~Steve~~ Early said
it was all ^{pure} a coincidence. ~~These are his words: "anticipatory~~
~~and pure coincidences.~~ This, ^{and he} he showed, ^{it} was proved by the
time-table of events. The Reynaud appeal was put on the
cable at Paris at six-ten P.M. Eastern Standard Time on Monday.
President Roosevelt began his speech at Charlottesville five
minutes later -- six-fifteen P.M. Eastern Standard Time. The
Premier's cable was not completely in the hands of the State
Department until eleven-thirty P.M. ~~Actually~~ President
Roosevelt did ^{not} get it until the next morning. ^{So he} ~~He~~ had
already made the promise before he got the appeal.

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~~These matters of timing, however, are not so very important -- for the Presidential Secretary made the additional statement today that the Reynaud cable was merely a formal expression of ~~xxx~~ previous informal appeals. He said that our Ambassador Kennedy in London and our Ambassador Bullitt at Paris had been transmitting similar calls for help all along.~~

Even the identity of the "hit in the back" and "stab in the back" figures of speech don't mean anything much. It has already been pointed out that the British Minister of Information, Alfred Duff Cooper, had previously charged Italy with stabbing France in the back. Moreover, today our own stormy commentator, General Hugh Johnson, points out that he himself had predicted that Mussolini would administer the stab, and then -- well, plenty of less important people were expressing themselves in those same words.

SOUTH AMERICA

The news from South America tells of crowds in Bolivia attacking the German and Italian Legations. They smashed the windows and wrecked things in general. And in Uruguay crowds of students staged a pro-Ally demonstration today, storming through the streets, and emitting loud cheers before the French Legation. In Ecuador the Government is investigating Fifth ~~xxx~~ Column activities. Germans are accused of having stirred up disturbances in the mining area.

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But the chief focus of interest is still on Brazil. Today American editorial columns took note of the pro-Fascist declaration by President Vargas. The following ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ point was made:- Everybody knows that the great majority of Latin-American countries are dictatorships, ~~and~~ always have been. ~~To be extreme, one might mention the impossibility of ~~establishing~~ establishing polling booths among the headhunters of the Upper Amazon.~~ A large part of the populations in Latin-America consist of Indians in the tribal state of culture. ~~They never heard of representative democracy.~~ As for Brazil ~~in particular~~ it has been amply in the news that President Vargas at Rio has had a Fascist kind of set-up for years.

President Roosevelt, in his "stab in the back" speech on Monday, spoke in the name of ^{all} the Americas: ~~not merely the United States.~~ In upholding the Allies, ^{and} denouncing ^{the} Nazi Germany ~~and bitterly excoriating~~ ^{and} Fascist ^s Italy - he repeatedly indicated that he was speaking for the Western Hemisphere, ~~and his tone of voice emphasized his referencess to the republics of the Americas.~~

The Vargas address was delivered the very next day, and that element of timing virtually made it a reply to the President of the United States; ~~a reply rejecting the Roosevelt pro-Ally doctrine.~~ It virtually declared ^{that} the President at Washington did not speak for the Latin-Americas, not for Brazil at any rate. ^{The} ~~in denouncing the Nazi and Fascist powers. The~~ Vargas fulmination was so Fascist in tone that it might have been written by Mussolini ^{himself,} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~In fact, one might almost suspect~~ that it was Mussolini's reply.

I'd be inclined to think there might be two angles in the matter. One, that the Fascist-minded Government of Brazil has no ~~xxxx~~ intention of going against ^{at the moment} the powers that ^{seem to} be winning in Europe; ~~no intention to support the powers that seem to be losing.~~ Secondly, that all the talk of democracy

in the Americas and the urging of democratic ideals, might be awkward for the numerous dictators of the Western Hemisphere.

If somebody were really to apply democracy to their countries--

the Latin-American dictators would go.
out of the window they [^]would go. ~~Local politics must figure~~

~~in the problem. In the case of Vargas, it's well to remember,~~

~~that Brazil has a large German and Italian population.~~

All of which emphasizes what we've been hearing--the possibility of Fifth Column doings in the Latin-Americas.

Perils for the Monroe Doctrine.

Today, in Washington the ~~XXXX~~ Rules Committee of the House of Representatives okayed the Monroe Doctrine Resolution sponsored by the President. This country ~~will~~ ^{to} not [^] permit any transfer of Western Hemisphere territory to a non-American power.

~~The Committee sent the resolution to the floor of the House--~~

~~where it's sure to pass.~~

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ITALY

On the Italian Front the principal phenomenon is vagueness and doubt. On the second day of Italy in the war, the doings of the Italians are about as ambiguous and cryptic as they were when Rome was a non-belligerent. There are stories of hundreds of thousands of Italians being brought around through Brenner Pass to fight with the Germans. But we don't know. Also stories of air raiding, and a report of a skirmish between soldiers in Africa - in which London tells of Italian troops captured and no British casualties.

Far more significant is the word from Turkey. The Turkish ~~go~~ Government has an alliance with the Allies, and is pledged to support Great Britain and France against Italy. But Turkey has made no move to join in the conflict. Instead what do we hear today? The Turks have just signed a treaty with Nazi Germany - a commercial pact. Berlin reports this with jubilation. London makes the comment that the new Turkish-Nazi trade pact is "unfortunate."

Again tonight, all along the line, the news concerning the Allies is -- just as it has been, only more so. And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.