

LEAD

John Wayne - March 31-1953.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I've spent a considerable part of my life reading the news, or listening to it. But this is the first time I find myself on the other side -- telling the news. So it is an interesting novelty.

When Lowell Thomas asked me to pinch-hit for ~~me~~ <sup>him</sup> tonight, he told me -- I'd probably find the news wire a fascinating experience. Well, it's been all of that.

Lowell had to get away on a quick trip to the East, after broadcasting here in Southern California for several weeks. So that leaves me the job of passing along news -- on a day when large events appear to be in the making. That is, ~~that~~ <sup>if</sup> the Communists are in earnest about wanting a settlement in Korea.

Dispatches all day long have been telling of developments following the declaration yesterday by Chinese Premier Chou-En-Lai. The Reds have abandoned their stubborn insistence on the forcible repatriation of prisoners of war. Chou-En-Lai suggested that captives who don't want to go back to their native countries should be placed in charge of a neutral country which accords with compromise proposals made at the U.N. It's a concession to the American view -- we having refused all along to send unwilling prisoners back to the Communist overlords.

This does sound promising as a basis for new truce negotiations. But, everybody remembers how the Reds dragged on those previous armistice talks -- delaying and obstructing. Apparently -- using them as a dodge to halt the U N military -----

offensive, which was driving them back. The truce talks -- giving them a chance to dig in, and establish a strong battle front. So now the question is -- *got on lie* may not this new declaration by Chou-En-Lai be some other sort of trickery?

In Washington, the State Department and leaders in Congress are cautious and wary. They have their fingers crossed. Maybe the Reds do want a settlement in Korea -- but ~~xxxx~~ let's not jump at conclusions,

CLARK FOLLOW LEAD

In Tokyo, General Mark Clark states that the offer made by the Red Premier of China will get -- "careful and sympathetic study". He made the statement as he sent a message that had to do with a previous Communist proposal -- for the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war. He told the Communists he was sending representatives to talk about that.

The Reds, in that previous message, also suggested that the truce talks be resumed. To this, General Clark said:

The Communist negotiators played the part of impassive officials -- dead-pan. The convey of messages -- bringing a throng of reporters.

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Yes, he was willing to resume the armistice negotiations, but, as a secondary piece of business. First would come an agreement on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners. Then, if the Reds showed themselves to be sincere about that, the American representatives would go to the truce talks.

All this was reflected today, in those ~~xx~~ old truce tents at Pan-mun-jom. Once again, after being deserted for months, the neutral area was crowded. General Clark's officers -- presenting the message from the U N Commander. The Communist negotiators <sup>playing</sup> ~~played~~ the part of impassive orientals -- dead-pan. The convoy of newsmen -- bringing a throng of reporters.

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thronged with Korean kids, who had only one thing in mind -- candy. The G I's in the convoy made a habit of tossing candy at the scrambling youngsters. ~~When the truce talks were discontinued, it must have been sad for the kids.~~ <sup>The kids</sup> They didn't know about the convoy today. But they'll soon catch on if the negotiations at Pan-mun-jom continue.

...tion of these ugly incidents of several weeks ago, when Red fighters shot down a British patrol bomber and an American Thunder Jet, not counting a string of other Red aggressions in the air. That threatening week was followed by a change of Soviet attitude. General Chiuikov, Soviet Commander in Berlin, proposed a conference. The British accepted, and so the ~~truce~~ talks were on today.

This is accompanied by another move on the part of General Chiuikov -- who, today, proposed a four power peace conference, to work out a treaty with Germany. The Chiuikov suggestion was made in the form of a letter to a Communist newspaper in West Germany, and talked-up the hopes of unifying

These developments in the Far East are closely connected with events on the other side of the world -- in the City of Berlin. There, today, Soviet and British representatives were in conference -- on ways to avert clashes in the air. Their purpose is to avoid repetition of those ugly incidents of several weeks ago, when Red fighters shot down a British patrol bomber and an American Thunder Jet, not counting a string of other Red aggressions in the air. That threatening <sup>week</sup> ~~week~~ was followed by a change of Soviet attitude. General Chiukov, Russian Commander in Berlin, proposed a conference. The British accepted, and so the ~~xxxx~~ talks were on today.

This is accompanied by another move on the part of General Chiukov -- who, today, proposed a four power peace conference, to work out a treaty with Germany. The Chiukov suggestion was made in the form of a letter to a Communist newspaper in West Germany, and talked-up the notion of unifying

Germany once again. That, of course, is a common line of Soviet propaganda, ~~intended to split~~ <sup>intended to split</sup> the ~~West~~ <sup>the West</sup> Germans away from the West. But it seems to be significant that this new proposal for a peace conference comes at this very time -- when British Soviet talks are going on in Berlin, and when the Premier of Red China makes his compromise proposal in the Far East.

U.S. correspondent Harry Shapiro notes that the belief in Moscow is -- that Soviet Russia will give complete support to the suggestion that prisoners of war who don't want to go home shall be placed in charge of a neutral committee. The Russian delegation at the U.N. will back it up.

Diplomatic observers in Moscow regard the offer as another link in a chain of recent events. They were inclined to put a lot of faith in the peaceful statements that Stalin made shortly before he died -- and in the proposals then taken

## MOSCOW FOLLOW BERLIN

Of course, the real center for all these developments is -- Moscow. From Berlin to Korea the decision would seem to lie in the Kremlin. So what have we from Moscow today? Well, a dispatch from the Soviet capital states that the Chou-En-Lai proposal was given number one position on the front pages of the Moscow newspapers today. It was ~~played~~ <sup>played</sup> up with all possible prominence.

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MOSCOW FOLLOW BERLIN - 2

All this comes to a climax in a dispatch by his successor, Malenkov. Now, they are described as being more optimistic than ever -- thinking that the Chinese Red statement and the British-Soviet talks in Berlin might be steps toward an end of the cold war.

... of Canada. Chen-De-Lai repeats his declaration concerning the voluntary repatriation of prisoners of war, not to be sent back against their will. The cablegram appears to a formal submission of the proposal to the U.S. So now, this latest development is up for consideration at a high level of world diplomacy.

## U N FOLLOW MOSCOW

All this comes to a climax in a dispatch from the U N. This afternoon, the Chou-En-Lai proposal was placed before the world organization. It came in the form of a cablegram sent by the Chinese Premier, and addressed to the President of the General Assembly, Lester Pearson, of Canada. Chou-En-Lai repeats his declaration conceding the voluntary repatriation of prisoners of war, not to be sent back against their will. The cablegram amounts to a formal submission of the proposal to the U.N. So now, this newest development is up for consideration at a high level of world diplomacy.

The U N has finally picked a Secretary General -- to succeed Trygve Lie. That is a certainty, following a decision made by the Big Five today, the countries that have the veto, including, of course, Soviet Russia. Hitherto, the Moscow delegation had blocked every attempt to name a Security General. But, the big boys got together behind the scenes, and came to an agreement.

They selected a Swedish diplomat, an economist in the cabinet at Stockholm. His name -- Dag Hammarskjöld. He's agreeable to both east and west, so he is virtually in.

## ATOMIC

Today's explosion on the Nevada Desert brings a series of contradictory descriptions. The flash was visible seven hundred miles away. At Moscow, Idaho, five hundred miles to the North, it was brilliant. This would seem to indicate an A-bomb of a larger sort.

But, the newsmen, a mere thirty miles away, describe it as ~~an~~ the feeblest of the blasts in Nevada thus far.

(They were on top of Mount Charleston, the best observation point available when the tests are secret -- and the one today was covered by tight security. We are only told that the nuclear device was exploded on top of a steel tower.

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the familiar mushroom shape didn't last long -- soon blown away by the wind.

That would seem to indicate the smallest atomic device touched off ~~in~~ so far. But, on the other hand, scientists at the control point, ten miles away, say the shock they felt was the most violent of any in the present experiments. ~~This, they think, may have been caused by ~~the~~ atmospheric conditions.~~

~~In any case,~~ the evidence is contradictory -- indicating both large and small. Perhaps it was one of the smaller atomic devices with an especial kind of power.

## MISSILES

The Navy announces that the Submarine Tunny has joined the fleet -- which might not sound important. The Tunny is one of the older subs, the type of World War Two. But that rather aged undersea craft has been remodelled -- to launch a new type of guided missile called -- "The Regulus".

It's named, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I suppose, after the ancient Roman General who has been a school book hero for ages. Regulus ~~who~~ was captured by the Carthagenians and incurred a frightful death in the cause of his country.

This modern "Regulus" is the latest of atomic missiles to be announced by the Navy, which states that it can be launched against land targets from ships. (It flies, we hear, at the speed of sound, and has a range of two hundred miles. So now, the Regulus is carried by the Tunny and the Navy has its first guided missile submarine in active service.)

## TIDELANDS

(The Tidelands oil bill went through a series of tests in the House of Representatives today, and won a series of victories. Amendments of one sort or another were voted down, including one that virtually tells the story. A substitute bill was introduced giving the Federal Government ownership of off-shore oil. That was rejected by a vote of eighty-two to twenty-eight, which would seem to assure the passage of the bill to give the states the possession of Tidelands oil within their historic boundaries, -- In most cases -- the three mile limit. The House will probably pass it -- tomorrow.)

YOUNG

In Washington, a Federal Grand Jury hands down a verdict of guilty against -- E. Merle Young, convicted of -- perjury, on four counts. Merle Young is a former examiner of the Reconstruction finance Corporation, who figured prominently in the great mink coat scandals two years ago, when it was learned that wives of high government officials had got expensive minks from people mixed up in government business. (In a Congressional Investigation, Young swore that he had nothing to do with an R.F.C. loan of Ten Million Dollars to the Lustron Corporation. He also made statements about the sources of his income. These were alleged to be false and) now he's convicted <sup>of perjury</sup> and faces what could be a long prison sentence. A grim echo of the scandal of minks.

CLOSE

This takes us to the end of our news round-up. This is John Wayne, substituting for Lowell Thomas -- and now turning over the program to the Ivory Girl.