

KOREA C.T.-P.H. Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1949.

Korean Reds announce that they will release the two American captives they've been holding - two Marshall Plan officials, Albert Willis of Brooklyn, and Alfred Meschter of Kinderhook, New York.

This announcement comes over the Korean Red radio, and makes only one condition. It states that the representative of the American Embassy in southern Korea must be at a point on the border of the Communist zone, when the two officials are handed over. And the American diplomatic representative must have, what the news dispatch calls - "Power of attorney" to accept the delivery of the prisoners. Just why he would need a power of attorney I don't know, but that's what the dispatch says.

(Anyway, it looks as if our dispute with Red Korea, because of the seizure of the two Americans, was at an end. They were made prisoners when the Korean crew of a ship on which they were traveling, mutinied and took the vessel to a Red port. The United States Government made a number of protests, and asked

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~~Soviet Russia to intervene. Maybe Moscow did.~~

At the same time, another incident, the case of Consul General Angus Ward, seems to be coming to its final end. The latest news pictures the Consul General on a long railroad trip from Mukden, in Red Manchuria, to the coast, making his way out of Communist territory. After having been tried by a Red court and ordered expelled, Angus Ward was detained for long days by difficulties of travel, but now seems to be on his way out.

CHINA

The Acting President of China arrived in San Francisco this evening - Li-Tung-Jen, who took the place of Chan Kai Shek, when the Generalissimo retired, more or less. Acting President Li is on his way to New York for medical treatment, but the word is he ~~wkm~~ will also try to line up American help for the collapsing nationalist regime in China.

YUGOSLAVIA

The big Red trial in Yugoslavia has ended, and the conclusion is rather tame and anti-climatic. The proceedings were notable as the first instance of Soviet spies put on trial in a Communist country - the realm of revolting Red Marshal Tito. The defendants, former White Russians accused of entering the service of Moscow espionage, made confessions - as is customary in Red trials. But their confessions were lukewarm - not up to the usual standards of self-accusation and fervor.

Today, moreover, the Yugoslav prosecutor did not ask for the death sentence. He didn't shout for the execution of any of the eleven prisoners. And he actually asked for leniency in the case of the four youngest of the defendants. The sentences, still to be pronounced, will consist of prison sentences at most. Which certainly is a mild and tame conclusion for a Red trial - and would seem to indicate that the regime of Tito is not up to the standards of blood-curdling fury set by political trials in Soviet Russia and the faithful satellites.

SUB LEAD ITALY

A late story from Italy tonight tells of a new sweep in the peasant invasion of landed estates. As many as thirty thousand have moved in, and establishing themselves as - squatters. Fifty-two arrests were reported today, as the police reported themselves helpless in the face of the ~~the~~ seizure of land on all sides.

~~The news today pictures this agrarian movement as extending from southern Italy on up to Rome spreading to etc.~~

ITALY

The news from Italy has been picturing a rising crisis over the question of land reform. Disturbances in southern Italy, with peasants, led by Communists, taking over the estates of big land owners; squatters have been evicted by the police, half a dozen people killed.

The news today pictures this agrarian movement as extending up to Rome - spreading to ancient Latium, which gave its name to all the Latin peoples. There, too, the peasants are seizing land, but the whole thing is less violent, and actually has a sort of picnic atmosphere.

The news dispatch from Rome tells how land-hungry farmers have staged processions and marched on big estates, led by the Red flag of Communism. There, they marked off the fields, dividing the land among themselves - then sitting down with sausage and red wine, picnic lunches.

Yesterday squatters near Rome were chased away by the police, but today they were back again.

Picnic spirit - but stubborn.

(The government of Premier De Gasperi has a program of land reform - everybody recognizing that the big estates must be divided among the peasants. But it's a thorny problem, and there have been delays - which have made the poorer country people impatient. The Communists have taken advantage of this, and are stirring up agrarian discontent.)

All of which has brought about something of a paradox in Communist affairs. The Reds have been losing out among the masses of industrial workers in northern Italy, the factory section. In northern Italy, moreover, there's not much land problem, few big estates, mostly small farmers who own their fields. So the Reds have switched to southern Italy, almost entirely agricultural - supposed to be strongly anti-Communist. But there that land question gives the Reds their chance.

Well, it all goes back to the spectacular history of the past - pointing to the profound

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difference between the northern and southern halves of the Italian peninsula.

During the Middle Ages, northern and central Italy was an aggregation of states. Those famous names - Florence, Milan, Genoa, Venice, and a dozen others. There was no feudal system of great land owners. That was checked. The nobles of the castles were defeated by the cities. But southern Italy and Sicily were conquered by the Normans - something like the Norman conquest of England. A feudal system of great nobles and land owners was set up and lasted on down through the centuries - big estates continuing until today.

All a turbulent pageant of history, which has a peculiar effect in this modern world - twisting the course of Communism in Italy, and giving us that picture from the neighborhood of Rome today. Bands of peasants invading landed estates, staking out claims and having picnics.

INDONESIA

There were scenes of tumult in the capital of the Netherlands today, crowds shouting - "Down with parliament!" The uproar of protest came as the Dutch parliament opened a debate on the treaty to grant independence to Indonesia, the vast Dutch Empire in the east.

After much discussion, the government of Queen Juliana made an agreement with leaders of the Indonesian Republic to bring to an end the state of insurrection in Java - Indonesia to become a voluntary member of a sort of Dutch Commonwealth. But apparently a lot of people in Holland don't like the idea of losing that fabulously rich empire, conquered by Holland centuries ago - with the tiny nation in Europe ruling over vast lands and millions of people in the islands of southern Asia.

But the parliament of the Netherlands ^{is} going ahead, and will probably put through the bill for Indonesian independence. While ^{the} crowds today shouted - "Down with Parliament!"

ATOMIC

The Congressional spy hunters announce that they ^{are}~~are~~ going to question former Vice-President Wallace on the charge that he cleared wartime shipments of atomic materials to Soviet Russia - going over the head^s of the atom bomb project. Wallace denies the whole thing, and General Groves says he had no contacts with the former Vice President on the subject of atomic shipments to the Soviets. However, the committee is going to question both.

Meanwhile, top atomic scientists belittle the importance of the admission made yesterday by the State Department - that some atomic material was sent to Russia. Chief among the scientists to speak up today is Dr. Harold Urey, so prominent in the development of the bomb. He joins^s others in saying that the shipment described was of no consequence - fourteen hundred pounds of unrefined uranium, twenty-five pounds of uranium metal, and a thousand grams of heavy water. He says the quantities were so small that they wouldn't do the Soviets any good.

But the charges continue, with a new story from former Air Force Major George Racey Jordan, who yesterday told of scores of suitcases crammed with atomic information flown to the Soviets via Alaska. Today he said they were after Radar secrets as well, and told of an American C-47 turned over to the Russians, showing up with elaborate Radar equipment. The major was then lend-lease expediter at Great Falls, Montana - a keypoint along the lend-lease line via Alaska. He says he was suspicious of the equipment, and consulted with the security officer at Wright Field - who told him to rip out the Radar. Jordan says he did so - and also did the same in the case of several other Radar equipped planes on their way to Russia.

But there was one that got by him - a Radar equipped C-47 flown by a Russian general. Today, at a conference, he said "The general got in, took off and flew right over my head to Moscow. He didn't land at Great Falls." The supposition being that the

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**general, knowing of the Radar being ripped out in
Montana, simply by-passed that point.**

OAK RIDGE

The labor trouble at Oak Ridge has turned into a full fledged strike, threatening to tie up construction at the nation's great atomic plant. The walkout was begun by union members on building jobs, and today spread to other building workers, including employees in the atomic laboratory, one hundred of whom walked out.

The strike is against companies carrying out contracts - the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission being an innocent bystander on the sidelines. But the proverbial innocent bystander can often get deep into difficulty.

The dispute began over a question of the employment of non-union workers in the construction of a gas pipeline - which is intended to bring fuel for the atomic ovens. This is of key importance for the vast atomic plant - those atomic ovens. Today the construction of the pipeline was affected, and so was the building of what they call - a "gaseous diffusion plant." Gaseous diffusion is a method for extracting

U-235, the explosive material for the bomb. Other projects tied up are housing and a school for the increasing host of workers employed in - atom city.

There have been previous threats of strikes at Oak Ridge, but this is the first real walkout - and eyes turned immediately to President Truman. He may take a serious view of the threat of a tie-up at the Oak Ridge atom city, the capital of atomic development in this country.

LEWIS

John L. Lewis has signed up with one group of coal companies - the first contract in his current series of labor disputes. We are not told just what the companies are, but they are said to include Kentucky independents.

Announcing the contract tonight, Lewis declares that the mine workers union wins an increase for its welfare fund - a hike of fifteen cents per ton of coal. Under the old contract, the industry paid twenty cents a ton on all coal mined. That now is raised to thirty-five cents.

In addition to the hike for the welfare fund, there's a boost of pay. Under this contract, the miners get an increase of ninety-five cents a day in basic wage rates, which means that they will earn at least fifteen dollars a day. The agreement is for a five-day week - the miners now being on a three-day week, on orders from the union.

Lewis does not mention what is called - the "Willing and able" clause. This provision in the

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previous contract, specified that the miners would work, if "willing and able." Which was a loophole that enabled Lewis to put through what amounted to whole or partial strikes - in spite of a contract. The miners, presumably, not being "willing or able." The word is that this controversial clause is included in the contract which John L. Lewis announces tonight - an agreement with one group of coal companies.

DOCTOR

Step up, folks, and meet the doctor of the year. You'll get a special welcome, if any of you happen to be - dead beats or scalwags.

Today in Washington, the American Medical Association bestowed its award for - the nation's outstanding practitioner. The honor goes to Dr. Andy Hall of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, a small town doctor, eighty-five years old. So the newsmen started to investigate the medical career of Dr. Andy, as everybody calls him out there in Illinois.

He told them how he began practice in Mt. Vernon, sixty years ago, picking that area because there were only eight doctors in the surrounding country. Moving in as a competitor, he asked them to send him any patients they didn't happen to want. "I don't expect you to send me any of your good patients," he told them. "but if you have any dead beats and scalawags - let me have them, and maybe I can build up a practice."

They did, and Dr. Andy not only built up a

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practice, but seven years later he was elected mayor - by those dead beats and scalawags. So you can understand what I mean when I say that you'll get a fairly cool reception from Dr. Andy - if you happen to be completely respectable and a model citizen.

Dr. Andy was asked today for his opinion of - socialized medicine. He gave it in what might be called theological terms. "There are only two places," he said, "where socialism might work. One is in heaven, where Socialism is not needed, and the other is hell, where they already have Socialism."

In other words, the doctor prefers dead beats and scalawags.

Nelson - do you know any scalawags? I've generally figured that I myself am one.