

CHINA

L.I. - P. & G. Mar. 28, 1950 Del. Coronado

A world appeal for help is made -- in the Chinese famine. All countries are asked to ~~send~~ ^{send} aid to the starving millions in Communist China. This appeal is voiced, not by the Reds, but by Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, chief of the Nationalists on their island bastion ~~on~~ ^{at} Formosa.

R For weeks we have been having news of mass hunger on the mainland, millions in danger of perishing for the want of food, the Communists unable to cope with famine; -- and this now brings a plea from the bitter anti-red, Chang Kai Shek. "We must try every means," he says, "to keep our people on the Mainland from dying of starvation". ~~The~~

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R The Generalissimo ~~states~~ ^{declares} that the famine has been created by Soviet Russia -- Chinese food being shipped to the Soviets. Moreover, he claims ~~that~~ it is part of Communist policy that millions of people should be liquidated in China -- to pave the way for Communism. Which corresponds to a ~~my~~ grim statement made to me by Acting ~~Secretary~~ President Li -- that the Reds figured that half of the population of China

would have to be eliminated to cancel out old ways and ideas, and establish communism.

Chiang Kai Shek asks foreign friends of China, like religious organizations, to send food, and promises to help distribute it. How? It is most unlikely that the Reds ^{would} ~~will~~ allow relief supplies to come in. Chiang Kai Shek's answer is that his Nationalists will find ways to convey food to famine areas -- ~~but~~ by the sky route, for example. Planes would go over the stricken sections, and drop food.

All of which suggests a new strange turn in the cold war-- famine as a political element.

There is no doubt about the humanitarian aspects, ^{the} ~~a~~ mere matter of a work of mercy, but it is equally obvious that food ^{supplies} ~~supplies~~ delivered by the anti-Communists could have a great ~~political~~ political effect-- like air-drops of food from planes. The Reds with their regime of starvation ^{it that way} could be hit hard.

In China, famine is ^a ~~the~~ story of ancient horror, but never has the old demon figured in such fashion as might now turn out to be the case --

an element in the cold war.

Meanwhile, the Nationalists have staged another Commando raid against the mainland, landing ~~soldiers~~ ^{soldiers} ~~troops~~ at a point twenty-five miles south of Shanghai. At last reports the invading forces of Chiang Kai Shek's troops were still holding a beach-head -- as they might still be doing right now. We are not told whether it is a hit and run raid -- or, an attempt to establish ^a ~~any kind of~~ permanent beach-head.

In addition to which, the Nationalists claim to have crushed a hed attempt to invade the island of Hainan. Waves of Communist-landing-forces are said to have been wiped out.

COMMUNISM

The Senate Investigating Sub-Committee has issued subpoenas demanding that those loyalty files be produced. This [^]after President Truman today refused to let the Committee have a look at ~~these~~^a files -- especially the F B I reports on people of the State Department charged by Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin ^{with} having ^{Pro} ~~brought~~ Communist attitudes^d.

The President backs up F B I Chief J. Edgar Hoover, who told the Committee yesterday, in such strong terms, that he is utterly opposed to any disclosure of the F B I reports. The President supports the ^{J. Edgar} Hoover contentions and turns down a request put in by Committee Chairman Senator Tydings of Maryland. Whereupon the Senator announced that he had no choice but to ~~xxx~~ subpoena the files -- which he did.

President Truman, however, made one concession. Today he ordered a sweeping review of the charges that Communist sympathizers worked in the State Department. He told the loyalty board to make

a thorough examination of the records on people whom Senator McCarthy has ^{named}~~accused~~. This review is to be handed in to the President, himself -- and he today said that, when he gets it, he'll communicate further with the investigating sub-committee. Presumably he means that he will convey to them the pertinent aspects of what he learns. But -- no look at the files.

All of which may bring to a crisis a question that has long existed between the White House and Congress. Other Presidents have had that same problem -- whether or not to let Congress have secrets of various kinds. President Truman has, all along, been plagued by demands for ~~him~~ loyalty secrets. Yesterday Attorney General McGrath told the Senators that, under the law, the White House does not have to hand over ~~in~~ such material -- and argued that the courts have sustained this position. Congress however, has never ~~relinq~~ relinquished its own contention - that the national legislature has a right to obtain any

and all information in the possession of the government, should the occasion demand.

Meanwhile, there is another threat of a suit for libel against Senator McCarthy. This time it is Haldore Hanson of the State Department whom the Senator accused^s of having Communist proclivities. Today Hanson, a former newspaper man, resorted to vivid phraseology in ~~ix~~ denying that he has any sympathy with doctrines of the Reds. He said the word "Communist" is what he called - "the nastiest in the language". So he says he'll go to the courts against McCarthy, echoing a similar threat made by lawyers for Owen ~~to~~ Lattimore whom the Wisconsin Senator named as a top Soviet spy. →

The latest -- Republican leader Senator Wherry of Nebraska urges the Senate to cite President Truman for contempt of Congress. That is, if the President ~~refuses~~ to obey the subpoena issued today -- as he is virtually ^{certain} ~~said~~ to do. Well, a lot of people have been cited for contempt of Congress - and it would be odd to see the President of the United States in that same predicament.

In The State Department, ^{Secretary} Acheson, tonight made a move to pacify Republican criticism -- those bitter attacks the G O P has been making on him. He's making ready to go ~~xxx~~ to a conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three, and now appoints an advisor -- former Republican Senator John Sherman of Kentucky. Secretary Acheson took this action after consultations with Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, Republican foreign policy chief. It all being a new emphasis on the by-partisan foreign policy.

ADD COMMUNISM

The latest -- a dispatch from Pakistan where
Owen Lattimore made a statement today. He has been
serving with a United Nations^S mission at Kabuk, in
Afghanistan, and now has journeyed back thru
Khyber Pasa and home to answer the charges against
him. Today ~~H~~ he called those charges "complete
moonshine" and "pure hallucinations."

ARCTIC

Here is an interesting question: What is the most hardy, tenacious, form of life, the toughest? Dr. George Llano of the Smithsonian Institution nominates -- the Arctic lichens, flowerless plants that grow ^{Polar} on mountains. The Doctor is just back from a botanical expedition to northern Alaska, where he camped in Anatuuvuk Pass, together with six Killick Indians, wolf hunters of the mountains that fringe the Arctic shore. You'd think he'd find no living thing on top of those frozen peaks, but he found plants ~~and~~ -- those lichens.

One species ~~of them~~ provides a ~~real~~ rare oddity of plant distribution. Those lichens of Anatuuvuk Pass are found no where else ~~is~~ on this continent -- except on the top of a few mountains in North Carolina. On the other hand, they are quite common in Japan. So how do you explain that [^] strange distribution of ^{these} plants -- that ^{rank as} ~~range among the~~ toughest of living things?

WEATHER

EXTRA

The big storm centering in the middle ~~part~~ of the continent, turned into a cold wave today. South Dakota reports twelve people missing in a blizzard, while in Kansas the dust subsided -- and chilly temperatures prevail. In other places, floods ~~and~~ in New York City a dense fog that today caused a liner to ram the Ambrose Lightship. Plenty of damage but no casualties.

BASEBALL

Well, today is the day for that old time cry -- play ball. The opening of the season, the beginning of the pennant race -- the teams playing their first games in the summer-long battle for -- the flag.

You baseball fans in the East must think I'm entirely off the beam, [^]a couple of weeks ahead of the beam. But out here, on the Coast, the baseball season begins earlier, and today was the big day. Here ^{at Del} ~~in~~

^{Coronado} San Diego there is nothing but rip-snorting optimism the bets being that the Padres are most likely to win this year's championship of the Pacific Coast League. The local team, whose major league connection is with the Cleveland Indians, has a glittering assortment of new players heavy with the stick and fast on the bases. The pitching may not be too hot, but the Padres expect to win the pennant by slugging and speeding ~~around the bases.~~

All of which may not be of ^{much interest} ~~such interest~~ to the major league fans East of the Mississippi - but I'm down here ^{at} ~~in~~ the southern tip of California,

covering the news -- and San Diego is one of the *hottest* baseball towns. The reason is not far to seek. It's a great naval base, and they tell me that a large part of the new increase in population consists of sailors who served here during the war, and have come back as civilians. The Navy angle is illustrated by the fact that the battery tonight will be Mayor Harley Knox and Admiral W. D. Baker -- the mayor and the Admiral starting the game, ~~with the first pitch~~, after which the regular battery will take over, as the ^{Padres} ~~Mariners~~ begin the ^{in a game} season with Lefty O'Doul's San Francisco Seals.

~~Well, sailors can be rip snorting baseball fans and that's one reason why the rooting is so loud -- loud enough to inject the casual visitor.~~
All of which is
~~So, that's~~ why for the time being, I'm a San Diego fan, not to mention the fact that the Padres do inspire a romantic vision of old. ~~See~~ Imagine the Spanish Friars of the missions, in their monkish gowns, hitting the ball and running the bases -- their brown robes flying. *Can you imagine that Nelson?*

NORTH IRELAND

The Premier of North Ireland Sir Basil Brooke, together with Lady Brooke, left Belfast today bound for a tour of the United States and Canada - and Sir Basil is taking along four armed guards. Seems a lot of precaution and protection, but the North Irish Premier ~~seems to be~~^{is} afraid that in Canada or the United States he might encounter Irish nationalists not at all in favor of partition -- the separation of north and south Ireland. Today, Sir Basil and Lady Brooke said goodbye to the American Consul at Belfast, and Sir Basil remarked: "Some of your countrymen might not like ~~to~~ this visit. But everybody is entitled to say what he wants. The United States is a free country."

So it is Sir Basil, and four armed guards would seem to be hardly necessary -- even though New York's mayor O'Dwyer, a county Mayo man said he would not receive the North Irish Premier at City Hall.

BANKER

The town of Westphalia, Michigan is rallying behind the local banker who is so short in his accounts that the discrepancy may come to three hundred thousand dollars -- according to bank examiners. Robert Bohr admits that his financial dealings were highly irregular. He says he loaned money to everybody all around the place -- because he couldn't bear to turn them down. They were old friends and he was sure they would pay back unauthorized loans.

So the local people agree with him on that, and are standing behind him -- saying that he was always a good friend to everybody. But what they can't understand is the figure named by the bank examiners -- three hundred thousand dollars. They explain that, if the shortage were that much, it would mean that every man woman and child in the small town had received an unauthorized loan of five hundred dollars each.

2 1/2 *Does your banker treat you that way? ^{Nelson} unable to resist you whenever you ask for a loan?*

PLANE

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The survivor of the air disaster in Canada today says -- that one motor of the plane exploded, which seems to explain the crash that took the lives of American Ambassador to Canada Lawrence Steinhardt, together with those of four members of his diplomatic staff at Ottawa. The pilot himself was an Air Force flier attached to the Embassy. They had just taken off, bound for Washington when the mishap occurred twelve miles south of Ottawa. The ~~xxxx~~ lone survivor, a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force, was able to bail out, and give the explanation: "The port engine blew up" says he. *R* Ambassador Steinhardt, veteran of the diplomatic service, was noted for the hot spots he had occupied. He was American Ambassador to Moscow when the Second World War broke out. Later he was transferred to Turkey, and was there during ~~one of~~ *an early* ~~the first~~ crisis of the cold war, produced by Soviet ambitions in the direction of Turkey. He went on to Czechoslovakia where he was American ambassador when the Communists seized power. So, after all that, it must have seemed like a paradise of

tranquility to be American Ambassador in Canada.
But Fate had to intervene with another of ^{its} ~~those~~
ironies.