

L. T. - W. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1953

INDO CHINA

The French report a striking victory in Indo China, where a column hit the Reds at an anchor point. A key position -- in the line the Communists have thrown across the narrow "waist line" of Indo China. The French column drove swiftly and routed the Reds in a brief battle.

This, say the French commanders, shows that the enemy sweep across the "waist line" was a fluke. And they add that they can cut through the Communist line any time they want.

Scouting parties report -- they can't/^{even}find the enemy. The Reds -- fading into the jungle.

INDIA

India denies the report of secret defense treaties with Soviet Russia and Red China. "Entirely without foundation and totally false," says the Nehru government.

This -- in answer to a British newspaper statement that India was turning to the Communist powers -- as a reply to that agreement between the United States and Pakistan, American military aide^{70 I} -- for the Moslem country.

In New Delhi today, an official spokesman for the Nehru government stated: "India has no military or defense pacts, secret or otherwise -- with Russia, China, or any other country in the world. Nor is it her intention to conclude any such pact in the near future," said the spokesman.

KASHMIR

India reports the likelihood of top level talks with Pakistan -- to settle the dispute over Kashmir. A meeting -- between Indian Prime Minister Nehru and Pakistan Prime Minister Mohamed Ali.

Conferences between lesser officials have been going on concerning what are called -- "preliminary issues," in the problem of that Himalayan land famous for the grandeur and beauty of its mountains and valleys; its lakes and flowers. The negotiators they have made -- "satisfactory progress".

And the next step -- a meeting of the Hindu and Moslem Prime Ministers. They -- to settle the larger questions in the Kashmir dispute.

MOSCOW

A dispatch from Moscow, tonight - says - diplomatic notes from the western Big Three will be delivered at the Kremlin tomorrow. Great Britain, France, and the United States, replying to the Soviet suggestion for a four-power meeting with the Foreign Ministers. All indications are that the joint reply by the western powers is favorable -- accepting the date named by Moscow, late in January.

Apparently, the Kremlin has word that the communications from London, Paris, and Washington, are already at the embassies in Moscow, waiting - to be delivered.

An art museum is open in Moscow with an exhibition of ~~prints~~ paintings. The place? -- well, that's the story:--

^ Pushkin Grafic Arts Building - which until recently was a museum dedicated entirely to gifts received by Stalin.

In Nineteen Forty Nine the Russian dictator celebrated his seventieth birthday and got so many presents -- there was a mountain of them, ^ ^ So a new institution was created -- a museum of gifts to Stalin.

Well, there have been a lot of changes since the death of the Soviet Boss, and this is one. The presents to Stalin -- moved out. The building today -- opening as an art gallery.

The Federation of British Industries goes on record in favor of a drive for trade with Iron Curtain countries. Advising its member industries to "pursue East West trade vigorously".

A spokesman for the Federation states that the Churchill government has "given its blessing" encouraging a systematic drive -- to win Communist markets.

The London Daily Mail, a Conservative newspaper says -- the British had better go ahead because the United States might get into the game. Arguing -- that an economic slump over here might incite the Americans to go after business with Soviet Russia, and other Communist countries.

However, the statement is made that Britain will keep her pledge not to sell strategic materials to Red China until a peace is made in Korea.

Today's action by the Federation of British Industries is a striking example of a trend in Europe --

an increasing demand that full trade relations be established between East and West.

estimate -- that in that same time, the Federal budget will come down to about fifty billion dollars. This year it is more than seventy-two billion.

Defense costs in the next two or three years -- to level off at an annual rate of thirty-three to thirty-five billion. This year the figure is forty nine billion for an armament and other needs of national security.

Such we are told are the figures in President Eisenhower's plan to scale down government spending.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

We've a report from Washington about administration financial plans during the next two or three years. An estimate -- that, in that space of time, the federal budget will come down to about ~~S~~ixty billion dollars. This year -- it is more than ~~S~~eventy-two billion.

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There's a Democratic revolt against that Eisenhower decision to withdraw U S troops from Korea -- taking out a couple of divisions. Senator Russell of Georgia a member of the Armed Services Committee says " some of us are entitled to know why these divisions are being withdrawn. Without knowing the facts I'd say -- this almost smacks of ~~an~~ appeasement."

In this he is joined by Senators Monroney of Oklahoma and Douglas of Illinois who think withdrawal might be a false economy, saving ~~some~~ money at the expense of national security.

Indications are -- that the military policy in Korea will be an issue in the Senate when congress reconvenes in January.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House expresses astonishment at a complaint made by ~~the~~ Southern congressmen -- who object to a plan to ease unemployment; ^{By} -- an allocation of defense contracts. The Southern claim ^{is} that this would take business away from the South -- for the benefit of New England.

Today Presidential Secretary Jim Hagerty said -- he couldn't understand the objection. Adding -- that, apparently, the southern congressmen did not get "the full story". ^{Then he added that} ~~He said~~ the placing of some ~~defense~~ defense contracts in areas ^{where there is considerable} of unemployment would not injure the South.

FARM

Farm prices rose during the month ending December Fiftieth. The Department of Agriculture tells us that prices for crops and livestock increased one per cent; followed four straight months of decline.

The Department adds, however, that this month's increase was accompanied by a slight rise in the costs the farmers have to pay. Not much, a mere one third of one percent. But it offsets by one third the hike in the prices a farmer gets.

MONEY

A San Francisco grand jury has acted in the case of two photographers who amazed people in taverns - by lighting cigarettes with - five and ten dollar bills. They seemed to have a contempt for cash - and well they might.

The two photographers, by way of experiment reproduced five and ten dollar bills with a lithographic camera. Apparently, as a joke.

They also tossed some of the fake money into waste baskets. Where astonished people picked up the green backs and spent them. The ~~phat~~ phony money so good - it passed.

It may have been a stunt, but the Grand Jury was not amused. Today - indicting the two experimenting photographers on charges of counterfeiting.

In New York -- the headline wedding about which there has been so much and such peculiar publicity. Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth five and ten heiress married to Porfirio Rubirosa the ex-Dominican diplomat.

The nuptial ceremony was performed in style at the Dominican consulate, which might seem surprising -- after the news a couple of weeks ago that Porfirio had been fired from his diplomatic job in Paris. Because -- of improper conduct. Porfirio having been involved in scandals of divorce.

The couple didn't bother to take out a marriage license -- on the ground that the consulate was foreign territory. Which however was not admitted by the city or the State Department in Washington. So the word is that the marriage is not legal in New York State.

The bride was ~~as~~ wistful in speaking about this latest wedding of hers. "No one," she sighed, "will ever believe he loves me -- for me alone!" Which refers to the

fortune she inherited from her grand father founded ^{it} of the Woolworth five and ten, a fortune estimated at Forty Five Million bucks.

Barbara Hutton was married four times before. Once she became a princess, another time a Countess, and her matrimonial adventures had financial angles connected with those Forty-Five Woolworth millions.

Rubirosa is also experienced in matrimony. He started out with a good match, marrying a daughter of Trujillo, the dictator of his island country. Another of his wives was Doris Duke of the Duke tobacco fortune called the "richest woman in the world". Now -- the Woolworth ~~next~~ heiress, the second richest woman. Not so bad Porfirio, not so bad.

~~She~~ says she's not interested in the Woolworth money -- that he has a fortune of his own. However the gossip does not agree about this financial status. Some say he has a large income from Dominican sugar plantations.

Others insist -- that his sugar plantations are a myth.

Anyway, Barbara Hutton's lament: "no one will ever believe he loves me -- for me alone!"

There's testimony on that point from Zsa Zsa Gabor, the beautiful Hungarian performer in movies, television, and night clubs. She declares -- Porfirio really loves her -- saying -- which she displays a black eye, a beaut. She explains ~~she~~ that Porfirio gave her the shiner -- when she turned him down. And that -- the Woolworth heiress is ~~he~~ getting him on the rebound. The black eye, as a proof of affection, makes it a sort of ~~romantic~~ romantic equation. He married the one, and gives a black eye ^{to the other} -- so, which one does he love?

FOREST FIRES

Redskins on the war path -- against the Los Angeles forest fire. Bands of Indians -- battling the flames on the outskirts of the metropolis of Southern California.

The Indians - Apaches from New Mexico, descendants of the warriors of Geronimo who terrorized the old wild west. On their New Mexico reservation the Apaches are trained as fire fighters. They know the ways of the forest - are expert at setting backfires.

At Albuquerque, New Mexico the U.S. Forestry Service announces that an Apache fire fighting band was sent; together with other Indians, like the Zunis -- also trained as blaze battlers. Two hundred and eighty in all bound for Los Angeles.

There the two storms of raging fire continue to sweep on and on. One on Mt. Wilson which overlooks Los Angeles. Site of the famous astronomical observatory. Also millions of dollars worth of television

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installation threatened with destruction. But these are saved, at least for the home being. That forest fire checked -- by a shift of the wind.

The other sweep of the flames is on Mt. Baldy just East of Mt. Wilson. Baldy famous as a ski area. There last night the fire fanned out of control and was at a crisis today.

GOLF

Here's one for Gene Sarazen, Fabulous Joe Kirkwood, Tony Manero, Charlie de Stefano, George Farrier, Bill Goldbeck, Dudley Roberts, ^{Ben Hogan} Robert Trent Jones, Bill Mitchell of Danvers, and other famous golfers to match - if they can: From up in Maine a report of a mammoth golf shot -- twenty nine hundred yards, about a mile and a half. Sounds like Paul Bunyan -- teeing off.

The shot was made by Alanson Curtis of Forest Hills, New York, on a winter vacation in Maine. He went out with a local citizen, Charles Reid of the town of Unity for a bit of winter golf at the Lakeview Country Club.

Curtis took a swing at the ball which went sailing over the green and landed on the ice of Lake Windermere. And, on the slick frozen surface - it just kept on rolling. The two golfers gaped in amazement as the ball went all the way to the other side of the lake for a twenty-nine hundred yard shot - a mile and a half. Harry - what do you think about that?