

LT.-P.G. Fri. May 29 - '53

The Reds reject the secret armistice proposal.

So we hear

~~XXXX from~~

~~Secretary~~

He

~~XXXX says~~

He declares that, when the compromise was handed to the Communists at Panmunjom, they promptly called it - "inconceivable."

According to the South Korean delegate, the Reds balked at a provision - that, if all else failed, the United Nations be given custody of the prisoners who don't want to go home. The retort of the Communists was - that the U.N., itself, is a belligerent. While our side had already agreed that prisoners would be placed in charge of neutral countries. The whole thing seems to be getting into the ~~real~~ realm of fantasy - because the neutral countries proposed by the Reds are themselves members of the U.N., which is now called a belligerent - by the Communists.

All this, however, comes from the South Korean delegate, who is bitter - and expresses all the angry opposition of the South Koreans to the compromise proposal.

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FOLLOW KOREA-TRUCE

In Washington, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee <sup>states</sup> ~~declares~~ that, if the truce negotiations break down, he might favor policies advocated by General Douglas MacArthur. Senator Wiley of Wisconsin says the present situation reminds him of the MacArthur maxim, "There's only one answer in war, and that's victory."

The policy that General MacArthur has long advocated has been to bomb and blockade Red China. Saying - it would knock that Red country out of the war.

<sup>Korean</sup>  
The/war-front is aflame tonight - violent battles  
in two sectors.

On the Western front, the gateway to Seoul, the Reds hurled more than eight thousand soldiers - met by American and Turkish defenders. Tonight's dispatch says the Communists advanced like "Zombies", plodding on through their own artillery fire, and through a U.N. barrage. They dropped all over the place, but reinforcements were poured in - and <sup>the</sup> Turkish units were hard pressed. Americans counter-attacked to aid them, but were driven back. At last reports, the situation was described as "extremely critical."

The other sector of Red assault was farther to the east, where the Communists assailed lines held by the British. Some - green troops of the Duke of Wellington Regiment, recently arrived in Korea. Others - veterans of the Black Watch. There was heavy fighting, and the British report they "inflicted a crushing defeat" on the Communist enemy.

FRANCE

In Paris, Pierre Mendes-France is making an attempt to form a new government. President Auriol has designated him as Premier, if he can line up a majority in the National Assembly.

He says he won't confer or dicker with Party leaders for support. He'll present a program to the National Assembly - take it or leave it. Pierre Mendes-France is a conservative financial expert, and his program is one of economy and sound finance. Cut spending - and pay as you go. That, he believes, is the only proper program for the French government - and Paris doubts that he'll be able to line up enough support. The National Assembly - not so enthusiastic for financial austerity in government.

However, Pierre Mendes-France ~~is~~ advocates immediate negotiations to stop the war in Indo-China -- and that, they say, will appeal to the powerful Socialist Party in the French legislature.



## ITALY

In Italy, our Ambassadress is being assailed by both the Left Wing and the Right. Mrs. Clare Booth Luce - having annoyed both the Communists and neo-Fascists. They're blazing away at a statement she made in a formal speech - intimating that if Italy should ever go Communist, or Fascist, there would be no more American aid. This is taken to be a bit of advice for Italian voters in the forthcoming election. The Reds and neo-Fascists are shouting - the Ambassadress is campaigning for the moderate Christian Democrats, the Party headed by Premier de Gasperi.

The Christian Democratic papers are keeping silent. When they printed accounts of the Clare Booth Luce address - they omitted that part. Not wanting to give Italian voters the impression that the envoy from the United States was meddling in their political affairs.

## DULLES

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles came home today, accompanied by Mutual Security Director Harold Stassen - after the trip they made in the Near and Middle East. So what has the Secretary of State to say? Nothing for the public, not at the moment. He told newsmen he'd make a statement later. But, at the moment, he had to hurry. "I want to rush to see the President," said he.

Later, emerging from the White House, he said his journey and mission had laid a foundation for new friendship with the countries of the near and Middle East.

President Eisenhower declares that his plan to reorganize the Defense Department will not give any single military leader too much power. He proposes to increase the authority of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and apprehension has been expressed in Congress. Statements that this might bring about a Prussian-style general staff, with too much power at the top. But the President, writing to Congressman Arends of Illinois, points out that the President is the Commander-in-Chief. Also, that Congress exercises authority over the military command - through its control of the money, the appropriation of funds.

( "With such a panoply of civilian authority," writes the President, "there appears to be no reasonable ground for concern that any military person would be able to function in an arbitrary and violent manner." )

## MEMORIAL DAY

In some respects, Memorial Day at Duluth, Minnesota, is the most noteworthy of all. Because of Duluth is the home town of the last surviving Union veteran of the Civil War. Albert Wollson, one-hundred-and-six years old - who enlisted as a drummer-boy those many years ago.

He's the guest of honor at the Duluth celebration, and Honorary Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day parade. The last of the Boys in Blue who marched off to war, when Lincoln was President. Life this week has pictures of the few survivors of both the Blue and the Grey.

**GREEN.** All well over a 100 years old.



## ROSENBERGS

The date for the execution of the Rosenbergs has been set for June Fifteenth. So decreed by Federal Judge Irving Kaufman, who presided over the conviction of the two atomic spies. It's the fourth time he has named a day for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to go to the electric chair. Each time, a delay was granted - to put in an appeal. Their lawyer says he'll make still another appeal.

Meanwhile, **T**he Rosenbergs, in the death-house at SingSing, have been informed that they might receive clemency if they will tell about Soviet spy rings in this country, with which they were accused of having worked.

KIDNAP

At Vinita, Oklahoma, an automobile stopped at a filling station, today, for gas. A young woman at the wheel - a man beside her. She paid for the gas, and they drove on. Whereupon the filling station attendant noticed a dollar bill the girl had given him. On it, a hand-written message, saying: "I've been forced at gunpoint. Help."

The astonished attendant called the police, giving a description of the automobile. The cops located the car, and found - Jean Morey, twenty years old, of South Bend, Indiana. With her, Dwight Robert Baney, a veteran of Korea. She told the story - he had kidnapped her to marry her.

She said - he proposed. Her answer was - No. Later, he asked her to drive him to a bus station in her car. She agreed. When they got going, he drew a pistol - and told her to keep driving. She did - all the way to Oklahoma.

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Today, Baney told the police - "I was taking her to California, to marry her."

The local police chief is not so stern about the

veteran of Korea. "He's sort of mixed up - in love, or something," says Chief Vernon Glenn.

Same old story - in love or something.



PLANE

A new record, set today - for commercial airliners.

A four-engine Douglas - winging, non-stop, from Santa Monica, California, to Paris. Time - twenty hours and thirty-one minutes.

It was no stunt, but a business flight, delivering the California-built plane to France. A French crew flew the Douglas, via the Great Circle - by way of Winnipeg, Hudson's Bay, and southern Greenland.



## DENMARK

That British Coronation fever seems to have affected Denmark. Where the voters have decided - they'll have a queen. Naming a princess - as the heir to the throne.

King Frederick the Ninth has three daughters, no sons - and, hitherto, Denmark has had a law of male succession. The next in line ~~of succession~~ - Prince Knud, brother of the King. But a constitutional amendment was placed before the people <sup>- to permit a princess</sup> ~~to abolish the law of male succession. Permit a princess~~ to ascend the throne. The election was held yesterday, the figures in today - amendment carried. ~~So that~~ <sup>So</sup> ~~make~~ thirteen year old Princess Margrethe <sup>is in line to</sup> ~~the heir. She to~~ succeed her father, ~~on the throne of Denmark.~~

Well, Denmark has had a queen before - in times gone by. Tomorrow, in fact, is the anniversary of a sovereign who reigned six hundred years ago. Her name, too, was Margrethe, Just as England had Elizabeth the First, and now there's Elizabeth the Second. ~~That old time Danish Queen~~ ~~reigned over Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The three~~

But later, in Denmark, the law was changed - male succession,  
until today. The Danes voting - to have a queen again.

## CORONATION-STONE

There was an alarm - when outside Westminster Abbey, a hole was found in the wooden wall of a stand, a hole through which somebody might get into the Abbey unobserved. Which led to the fear for the stone of Scone - the Scots might make off with it again.

Commander Hugh Young went to the Abbey to supervise precautions. He is in charge of Scotland Yard's famous criminal investigation division. The CID - so well-known in detective stories.

They're safe-guarding that "Stone of Destiny" which Edward the Eighth of England took from Scotland centuries ago. On Tuesday, the Queen will be crowned sitting above the stone of Scone.



MRS. COCHRAN

Today, I had a quick response to something I said last night - <sup>when</sup> ~~as~~ I told about Mrs. Louis Cochran. The lady from Houston, Texas - who, needing a hotel reservation, cabled Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace. And, lo and behold, got a reply, signed by Sir Allen Lascelles, Secretary to Her Majesty. Saying - a reservation had been made at a London hotel. So Mrs. Cochran started out, bound for the Coronation. But, when she got to New York, she was told of a dispatch from London stating that Buckingham Palace knew nothing about her cablegram, or the message she had received in reply.

It sounded like a bad break for the lady from Texas. So I suggested - that maybe she could stay at a house I had rented in London for the Coronation. I can't get away for the gala event, so there's the house in London - unoccupied.

Well, Mrs. Cochran takes me up on that. Today, I was in communication with her, and she turns out to be a lively gay person - delightfully breezy-like Texas. charming lady from Houston./Her father, a well known physician. She's a thirty-nine year old widow - her husband killed in an



explosion twelve years ago. She's a working girl in Houston, and says: "I love to travel; and usually on the spur of the moment." So it was on the spur-of-the-moment that she cabled Queen Elizabeth. Whereupon she got into what seems to be a mix-up, and that house in London seemed just the thing to solve her problem! So I cabled my friend, Rene MacColl, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of the London Daily Express, from whom I rented the London house, and told him about the vivacious Mrs. Cochran of Houston Texas, who will be there tomorrow. She took a plane this afternoon from New York. And by the way, there were representatives of a number of London's leading hotels on hand, each inviting her to be their guest, but instead of accepting, or going to Kensington Palace, she announced that she preferred my suggestion. I hope Rene MacCall does also! So, the Texas gal is off to see the coronation. I hope she enjoys it.

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Really sees it: and will give us a report. She promised me she would try to come in on this program, by short wave from London, on Coronation Day. If everything works out okay, Nelson, we'll hear from the lady from Texas, who cabled the Queen.