

BIG FOUR

S. J. - Senseso. Wed., July 10, 1946.

July 10

A Soviet proposal for Germany was made in Paris today - Molotov suggesting a strong centralized German state. For the first time, Russian views were made known in the matter of what finally is to be done with the conquered country. Molotov rejected the French contention that Germany should be split up into various sections. British and American ideas have been somewhat along that line - favoring a federalized, not a centralized, Germany, ^R Molotov, however, comes out for a strong centralized state - and, moreover, he emphasized today that Germany should have sufficient industry to get along as a modern nation. This contradicted notions that Germany should have little or no industry and be reduced to the status of an agricultural country. Molotov in a mollifying mood, argued that Germany in the future should not be kept helpless by what he called - a spirit of revenge.

This new Soviet move followed a proposal by American Secretary of State Byrnes - a suggestion that the Big Four should start making arrangements

right away for a ~~peace~~ peace settlement with Germany.

The Byrnes idea is that Great Britain, Soviet Russia, the United States and France should each appoint a special deputy to start work on an arrangement for peace with Hitler's former Reich.

RUSSIA

Anti-American blasts in Soviet Russia reached a climax today -- with vitriolic assaults in the two top ranking Moscow newspapers, Izvestia and Pravda.

Izvestia, official organ of the Soviet Government, hurled its thunders against the United States because of the Congressional Mandate forbidding American UNRRA supplies to be sent to any country that does not admit American Representatives and newsmen to see how the supplies are being used. This applies to "white Russia" and the Ukraine, which are, like other parts of the land of the Soviets, forbidden territory, secret areas -- behind the iron wall. Izvestia charges a violation of the autonomy of UNRRA, goes on to declare that America and Great Britain too, are using food for political purposes, trying to feed their friends and starve their enemies.

The diatribe in Pravda, official organ of the Communist Party, is in the bitterest terms -- accusing the Americans and British Armies of harboring Nazi outfits in Germany. "The American and British Zones have become the shelter of notorious criminal hitlerite

followers," screams Pravda, and adds: "In these zones propaganda unfriendly to the Soviet Union is carried ^{out} quite openly and flourishes brightly under the wing of British and American occupation authorities."

The Communist newspaper makes the sweeping charge that anti-Soviet conspirators, trying to stir up war, are aided and abetted by the American and British Armies of occupation.

Meanwhile, in Germany, General McNarney today tried to find out what has happened to four Americans, who have vanished in the ~~the~~ Soviet Occupation Zone. General McNarney went right to the top and conferred with the Soviet Commander, Marshal Sokolovsky.

The Americans are a Warrant Officer and his wife, who on a trip to buy a dog wandered into the Russian Zone of Occupation in Berlin. And -- a Captain and a Lieutenant, who ~~had~~ boarded a train in the Russian Zone. Hitherto, when Americans have wandered into the Soviet Territory, the Russians have arrested them and sent them back. But now, in the present case,

the four Americans have been held for more than a week. Soviet Officers admit they've been arrested, but won't say why, or when they'll be released -- and we don't know what the Red Army Commander told General McNarney today.

Lieutenant General Derjavin had been trying to put across the same Communist propaganda -- in presenting demands in behalf of Japanese workers.

Atcheson pointed out that most of the proposed measures to aid the workers had already been put into effect by the United States -- and that the Soviet Government had distributed his Communist propaganda before the Council meeting today, which is against the usual procedure. However -- the verbiage of the proposals was filled thickly with the usual line of Communist propaganda, the kind that had been used by the Soviet Government in the past -- the usual line of Communist propaganda.

The Russian Lieutenant General replied vigorously to all of this -- except one point. He refused to give an answer to a question raised by

TOKYO COUNCIL

In Tokyo, another row broke out today between General MacArthur's Representative and the Soviet Delegate on the control council out there. George Atcheson Jr., speaking for MacArthur, charged that Russian Lieutenant General Derevyanko had been trying to put across ~~some~~ some Communist propaganda -- in presenting demands in behalf of Japanese workers.

Atcheson pointed out that most of the proposed measures to aid the workers had already been put into effect by MacArthur. Also -- that the Soviet Delegate had circulated his document eighteen hours before the council meeting today, which is against the usual procedure. Moreover -- the verbiage of the proposals was larded thickly with the usual line of Communist phraseology, the kind used for agitation. So, declared Atcheson, the real purpose of the Soviet move was Communist propaganda.

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MacArthur's Representative. The question -- why is Soviet Russia so eagerly concerned with the freedom of Japanese workers and unions, when Russian workers and unions have no freedom at all

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ATKINSON

The last few days ~~has~~ have brought a notable contribution to the immense amount written about Soviet Russia. Brooks Atkinson, Moscow correspondent of the New York Times, ~~has~~ returned ^{ing} home *after a year in Moscow has* ~~and~~ published three articles, giving some sharp analysis of that perilous question - what are the Soviets up to? Will the present bad relations drift eventually into war? His view of the prospects 'may be summarized *in one sentence of 2 phrases: -* ~~spies~~ hostility without war, peace without friendship.

His own experience and observation in Moscow have convinced him that the Soviets do not want war. They suffered too terribly in the battle of Nazi Germany. Brooks Atkinson makes point after point to show how the Soviets have backed down at one time or another - to avoid the chance of an international break-up. No, they do not want war. But friendship - that's another matter.

"In the attempt to establish workable relations with the government of the Soviet Union," he writes, "we have to abandon the familiar concepts of

friendship. Friendship, in the sense of intimate association and political compromise, is not possible".

Brooks Atkinson speaks with high praise of the friendliness of the Russian people. If it were merely a matter of the Russian masses, international amity would be no problem. The trouble lies in the official ideology and mental processes of Soviet Communism. "The most formidable impediment of amiable international relations", writes the Times correspondent, "is the basic fact that the Soviet union is a Socialist State developing and expanding in a capitalistic world. According to the Communist Party line", he goes on, "the Soviet is not secure from aggression, so long as capitalist countries, like the United States and Great Britain, also hold dominant positions in the ^World". And he points out how Soviet writers constantly picture the western democracies as centers of Fascism - bent on the destruction of Socialism.

He says Ideas along this line are set and rigid with the changless persistence of communist dogma. Brooks Atkinson notes how this totalitarian mentality affects,

for example, the world of the arts. "On the whole", he writes, "there is no vitality in the arts in Soviet Russia. They are reactionary and moribund under the dead weight of political control, and he goes on, "there is little opportunity for individual enterprise and experiment. The combination of idealism and totalitarianism has resulted in the death of new ideas," says he.

And this kind of dogmatism, at the same time, fixes the Soviet attitude toward the western democracies. Which leads Brooks Atkinson to the following summary: "All attempts to deal with the Soviet government in terms of friendship, are doomed to failure. Although we are not enemies", he adds, "we cannot be friends - and the most we can hope for is an armed peace in the next few years".

In other words, hostility without war, peace without friendship. A sombre and paradoxical prospect. *These may be the most important series of articles to appear in this country this year. They ought to be read by every American.*

O.P.A.

The Senate is shooting the O.P.A. bill all to pieces -- with amendments forbidding price restrictions on various items. The latest today was a vote to keep price controls off milk, butter and cheese. Last night restrictions were forbidden on meat, poultry and eggs. Also -- similar action had been taken in the case of cottonseed and soy ~~beans~~ beans. Which makes a total of three ~~and~~ amendments to cut down price control in the bill the Senate is considering to revive the O.P.A.

And there is more to come. Administration Leaders are admitting that there is no way to keep the Senate from killing price ceilings on petroleum and tobacco.

The question is -- what will President ~~Truman~~ Truman do? He vetoed one O.P.A. bill because it crippled the price-fixing business, and it looks as if the law the Senate is fixing up will slash the power of the revived O.P.A. even more.

Meanwhile, prices continue to spiral upward. Livestock is still pouring into the stockyards

of the Middlewest. Today a total of nearly a hundred and sixty thousand head of cattle and hogs were received at twelve of the principal live stock centers. Yet prices increased -- with two carloads of cattle at Chicago setting a new high record of twenty-three dollars per hundred pounds.

Wholesale food prices in general were today at the highest point in twenty-six years. This is reported by Dun and Bradstreet, which showed thirty-one food commodities to be nearly as high as the figure for nineteen twenty. During the period after World War ~~One~~, ~~Number One~~, the price pinnacle occurred in Nineteen Nineteen, and was less in Nineteen Twenty. So it looks as if history might be repeating itself.

The rise in prices has brought about a consumer reaction -- buyer strikes. In New York City and Philadelphia consumer groups and labor unions have sponsored drives to refuse to purchase at high figures. And there are increasing indications that labor is preparing to make new wage demands to counteract the increase in the cost of living.

HILLMAN

The death of Sidney Hillman raises the immediate question -- who will succeed him. The importance of the question measures the influence attained by the one-time immigrant of Lithuania, who rose so high as a union leader and a director of union influence in politics -- head of the political action committee of the C.I.O.

The leading surmise tonight is that Sidney Hillman will be succeeded by R.J. Thomas, Vice-President of the Auto Workers Union -- who was beaten for the Presidency of that labor organization by Walter Reuther some months ago. R.J. Thomas was a close associate of Hillman's in the P.A.C. and has the friendship of C.I.O. President Philip Murray. The ~~best possible~~ ^{conjecture} guess is that he will take Hillman's place -- as the political action committee prepares to take a strenuous part in the ^{coming} congressional elections, ~~campaign~~.

LUSTIG

A court in New York ^{today} sentenced ~~today~~ Henry Lustig, the millionaire owner of the chain of Longchamps restaurants. Lustig, together with several others, was tried and found guilty of evading the income taxes to the tune of ^{nearly 3} ~~over \$3~~ million dollars. The sentence on the big time restaurant man is ^{four} ~~two~~ years in prison and a fine of a hundred and fifteen thousand dollars. Lesser defendants drew shorter prison terms - in the headline income tax case, ~~of recent months.~~

GUATEMALA

There is a new international clash -- Guatemala threatening to sever diplomatic relations with Great Britain. You'd think we were having enough global trouble, without having Guatemala chip in with a bit of Central American disturbance. But there's an old quarrel over British Honduras. Britain acquired ~~that bit~~ *of the tropics* ~~bits of land~~ from Guatemala in eighteen fifty-nine.

In return, Britain promised by treaty to build an important highway -- which was never done. So Guatemala wants to get back British Honduras -- with the British offering to submit the matter to the International Court of Justice.

All of which doesn't suit the Guatemalans *at all.*

And now the President of that Central American country, makes the threat -- to break relations. He puts the matter in festive terms, saying: "We cannot go on drinking champagne with an empire that retains territory that is ours". So they're not going to drink any more ~~champagne~~ champagne.

To all this the British comment was made today by a spokesman of the Foreign office. He said: *how* "Very extraordinary."

ARMY CHOW

Our improved peace-time army is going in, not only for atomic science, but also for improved cooking - better chow. This should arouse the ~~xxxxxx~~ appreciation of a few million former G I's who gave so much time and energy to the business of cursing the chow and threatening the life of the Army cook.

The head of the new food service branch of the quartermaster's corps announces that six hundred and twenty-nine officers and men were sent today to nine cooking schools. They ~~will~~^{are to} learn the refinements ~~of~~^{Kuoo} the culinary art, and become military chefs. The head of the food service branch explains that, during the war, the G I's got the best of foodstuffs -- but oh how badly it was cooked. Now all that's to be changed. The idea being to have ~~the first class~~^{all those prize} steaks and chops, vegetables and pies, prepared by real artists. ~~with the~~ ~~peas and pears~~. So maybe the G I's of peace time will reverse the old Army custom - and start praising the company cooks to the high heavens. *I wonder!*

The new culinary artists of the army are to get better pay^{too} and they^{will} be more carefully selected. The standards for intelligence have been raised. Maybe you ~~might~~ think it doesn't take ~~so much~~ genius to operate a skillet in an Army camp. ^{Weed,} the head of the food service branch^{of the Army} states: ~~xxxx~~ "Intelligence is one of the most important requirements for a good cook". If you can turn out a good ~~in~~ meal, you're brilliant. Which may surprise some of the housewives who have been operating a kitchen in good style these many years, and never suspected themselves of having a superior intellect.

The Army does not stint itself in placing a good cook in high esteem. Maybe it's an echo of the wartime chorus of G I squawks that persuaded the head of the food service to make the following philosophic pronouncement today: "When a fellow feels good and gets his stomach full, he is a more efficient soldier. And, in my opinion", he continues, "a cook - in the Army orⁱⁿ civilian life - is the most important man today".

Well, we hear a lot about the importance of this and that in saving the world, and now we find that the real salvation is - a good cook. ~~to pass the~~

~~potatoes, Hugh.~~ And now Hugh, what's cooking ~~when you are~~ in your kitchen.