

CONFERENCE

L.T. Deleo. Wed. May 4th. '55.

The British Government has decided to insist on an East-West Conference -- at the top level. That's the word from London, ^{stating} that British Foreign Minister Harold MacMillan will seek an agreement for a meeting of British Prime Minister Eden, French Premier Edgar Faure, President Eisenhower, and Soviet Premier Bulganin.

As it stands now, the program is to hold a conference at a lower level, to begin with. The foreign ministers of the Big Four -- to lay the groundwork. But the British now think -- it ^{would be better} ~~will be best~~ to start at the top. ^P Let the chiefs of state lay down broad principles for a settlement of the cold war, if possible. Then, - have their decisions - if any - worked out in detail by the foreign ministers. ^P That, we hear, is the program the British are urging. The French are believed to be in agreement, but it remains to be seen how President Eisenhower will take it. He has expressed himself, repeatedly -- as in favor of laying a lot of ground work first.

EISENHOWER - FORMOSA

Today the President was questioned on that familiar subject -- would this country intervene, if the Chinese Reds should attack those off-shore islands of Quemoy and Matsu? Once again he didn't give any specific answer of -- yes or no. ^R But he did give some comment on the question -- of how far attempts to take the small islands might be considered a move against Formosa, which, of course, we are pledged to protect.

He indicated that this might depend largely on the build-up, accompanying any such attack. If the Reds accumulated a huge war machine, assailing the off-shore islands, that might be taken as a sign -- that their real objective was Formosa.

But he still didn't say what we would do if that were the case.

RED CHINA

A week ago, the British Government made a diplomatic move ^{regarding} the Communists' offer to negotiate the Formosa question. The London government, ^{instructed its} ~~issued a~~ ^{charge d'affaire} ~~charge de affaire~~ in Peiping to have a talk with Red Premier Chou En-Lai. Asking him -- about his offer, made at the Bandung Conference. Where Chou En-Lai said he was willing to go into talks with the United States.

So what's the result of the British maneuver in Peiping? Nothing at all. A week ago the British Envoy, Humphrey Trevelyan, asked for an interview with Chou En-Lai. The request -- ignored.

(^{So announced} ~~this was stated~~ in the House of Commons, today by Foreign Undersecretary Lord John Hope. ^{But he added} ~~He said~~ that maybe, Chou En-Lai is not in the Red Capital. ~~He~~ may not yet have returned home from the Bandung Conference. His whereabouts -- unknown.)

INDO CHINA

The political ~~solution~~^{situation} in Southern Viet Nam is approaching a crisis -- with a meeting of "A National Political Assembly" tomorrow. The ~~situation~~^{Indo Chinese puzzle} -- complicated by the existence of two separate groups.

One-- The Assembly, with a large membership. The other -- a revolutionary Junta, a smaller group.

The Junta -- the more extreme and radical, demanding -- the dethronement of the Emperor Bao Dai. The Junta ~~has~~^{has} ~~already~~^{already} passed a resolution ~~on~~ tossing out the absentee monarch who lives on the French Riviera. ~~They~~^{They} also demand^{ing} -- withdrawal of all French troops from Southern Viet Nam.

Charges are being made that Communists, or near-Communists, have infiltrated the Junta. The French, we hear, have conveyed this warning to the United States.

The assembly, which meets tomorrow, is expected to be more moderate. It will be -- if Premier Diem has his way. His program is to have Bao Dai turn over his

imperial authority to the Assembly, for the purpose of calling an election in Southern Viet Nam. To decide the political future of the country. Premier Diem - to have the authority to organize the election.

The Junta, much more radical, will try to dominate the meeting of the Assembly, tomorrow. Premier Diem -- making efforts to prevent this. Today he called a large number of Assembly members ^{to} his official palace, ^{with} presenting ~~to~~ them his program, ^{and} urging them to take the more moderate course.

The latest dispatch, from Saigon saying -- that Premier Diem was winning overwhelming support among nearly 1,000 provincial officials who have been called to sit on the National Assembly. The Premier, backed by the United States, ^{today} ^{is} apparently in full control.

In the meantime the battle of Saigon has ended with a complete loss for the rebels. ^P However, we hear, that ^{one} ~~an~~ insurgent religious-political sect is moving forces to the capital to renew the struggle.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan has ordered -- a general mobilization
The latest -- in the dispute between that country and
Pakistan. ~~It~~ Quarreling -- over the possession of the
Northwest frontier province. The neighborhood of far
famed Khyber Pass.

Today the Afghan government announced that
relations with Pakistan had been deteriorating so
badly-- that Afghanistan was mobilizing its military
forces. Calling up all able bodied men, between
twenty-five and thirty-two.

Such a mobilization order in
Europe would mean that war was
virtually inevitable. In Afghanistan --
at the Khyber -- this may not be so.
But it's wild country and they have
itchy trigger fingers along that historic
frontier.

NATIONAL DEBT

Here are some facts about the national debt; from Senator Byrd of Virginia, an arch proponent of conservative government finance. He discribes the national debt in these words "equivalent to the full value of all the land, all the buildings, all the mines, all the machinery, all the livestock, everything of tangible valus - in the United States".

So no wonder the Senator says: "I think no one can deny that we are mortgaged to the hilt".

At a meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce in Washington, Senator Byrd praised President Eisenhower for his efforts to balance the buget. But he criticized the administration's multi-billion dollar program highway and school construction. He called this "Federal paternalism".

NAVY -- ATOMIC

Senator Jackson charges -- the Navy is lagging in the development of an atomic surface vessel. The Navy has, of course, the atomic submarine, the Nautilus. But what about a warship on the surface - driven by nuclear power? The Merchant Marine, as announced by President Eisenhower, is constructing an atomic freight and passenger ship. But Senator Jackson says the Navy is - "lagging behind."

The senator from Washington, who is a member of both the Atomic Energy Commission and the Armed Services Commission, ~~declares~~ ^{says that} "Atomic power is encountering the same kind of reluctance in the Navy that occurred with the introduction of aircraft carriers." Which refers back to the time - when they believed in battleships.

"We entered the Second World War," says the Senator, "with too many battleships and not enough carriers. The same," he adds, "may happen on atomic powered ships if the Navy does not step up its program."

Admiral Carney, Chief of Naval Operations,
replies - that the Navy is planning large surface
warships, with atomic power. He ~~says~~ ^{and} that, in ten years,
~~we'll~~ ^{we'll} ~~the Navy will~~ have atomic warships of many kinds.

ATOMIC EXPLOSION

The Atomic Explosion on the Nevada Desert is still scheduled for tomorrow morning. But they are giving it only a 50-50 chance. The weather prediction such -- that the prospect is -- maybe yes, maybe no.

VACCINE

From the White House, the statement -- that President Eisenhower would consider having the Federal Government buy ^{the} entire available supply of the Salk anti-polio vaccine. -- and have the drug distributed free ^{that is} if it were evident -- that children were being [^] deprived of the vaccine, for money reasons.

The subject came up, first, in today's White House News Conference, President Eisenhower stating -- the Government is determined that no child shall be denied ~~the~~ protection from polio because of inability to pay. But it was not clear how this determination might be carried out. So later, the news reporters took the question to the White House. And ~~they~~ got an answer. Presidential Secretary Jim Haggerty ^{issuing} ~~issued~~ the following statement:

"If a situation ever develops in this country where children were deprived of the vaccine, because of inability to pay -- the President would immediately ask Congress for authority to permit the Secretary of

Health, Education, and Welfare to buy the entire output of the vaccine. Other ~~than~~ than that already allotted to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis."

The statement goes on to say: "The Department, in turn, would be in a position to distribute, free of cost to the states, their allotted share of the vaccine over an emergency period."

at his news conference, *today,* President Eisenhower *spoke* ~~declared~~ against federal controls of the distribution *- at the present time.* of the anti-polio drug. He said he has been studying demands that the Government should take over. But he is convinced that the present voluntary priority system is the best. The method now in operation -- the quickest and fairest way to get the vaccine to the children.



VACCINE - SUPPLIES

The production of the Salk anti-polio vaccine is lagging. Supplies, today, were nearly 7 million doses less than had been anticipated a week ago. 17 million doses had been anticipated by now. The actual figure - 10,500,000.

So stated by the Public Health Service in Washington. Part of the explanation being -- the withdrawal of vaccine produced by the Cutter Laboratories in California.

FIRST DADY

President Eisenhower, today, gave a report on the health of the First Lady. He told his news conference that Mrs. Eisenhower has had a very serious virus infection this spring. Although, basicly, she is ^a ~~xx~~ sound, healthy person.

The respiratory ailment, said the President, is all the more perplexing -- because Mrs. Eisenhower has an allergy to certain drugs, which are normal in the treatment of the kind of virus infection that she has. He said the doctors are having a real problem in restoring the First Lady to her usual health.

CHANNEL SWIMMERS

At the old city of Dover, in England, they are getting ready - for a big anniversary year. It was just eighty years ago, back in 1875 - that Mathew Webb swam the English Channel, that was the first time. The first channel swim. And it led on to innumerable other attempts down the years. For some - success, for others - failure. But in every case - the swimmers found it a brutal task. Beating their way against the chilly tide and currents.

Diver makes a profession of collaborating with channel swimmers. Providing boats and boatmen, trainers and equipment, including - supplies of the heavy grease the swimmers use to protect themselves from the cold.

The prediction has been, recently, that channel swimming is finished as a sport. Too many have performed the exploit - so tough and trying. But the Dover people just laugh. Today a local veteran said "Back in 1875,

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people were saying - there wasn't any reason to swim the channel any more. Not - after Mathew Webb did it. But hundreds have been trying it ever since.

The Channel Swimming Association announces - it has notifications , already, from thirty prospective channel swimmers. And more are expected - bu the time the season comes around. Beginning in early July - when the water warms up enough to keeo the swimmers from freezing to death.

One entrant - Florence Chadwick, of California. The former stenographer - who of course has already made the channel swim - setting records. She says that this time she will try to beat her way across the treacherous water, both ways, non-stop. Hoping to set - a somen's record each way.