

L.T. K. - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1953

SUB EXPLOSION

What caused the explosion aboard the aircraft carrier Leyte as she lay in Boston harbor? According to fire chief Sampson, a workman's torch apparently ignited a gasoline tank. The tank was torn apart - and touched off one of the boilers. Then a series of explosions - with fire whipping through the great ship.

The commanding officer of the Leyte, Captain Ahroom, says there will have to be a court of inquiry. He tells of what he calls outstanding demonstrations of courage. Men going through armoured hatches to rescue fellow sailors."

At least thirty known dead. More than forty injured. And an unknown number trapped below decks. Civilian disaster workers swarmed aboard to help. And a helicopter has been taking off the dead and injured.

SUB PRISONERS

Today, there was a curious mix-up at Pan Mun Jom. When the Red "Explainers" turned up for the processing, they expected to deal with North Koreans. Yesterday, the North Korean prisoners rebelled - simply refused to come out for their interviews. So the Reds expected to deal with them today.

But the neutral nations repatriation commission had put the Chinese on the schedule for today. And so the situation was - North Korean "Explainers"; and Chinese prisoners. After some discussion with members of the repatriation Commission, the Reds refused to make the change. They went on a kind of "sit down strike" -- refused to go through with the interviews. Of the five hundred Chinese previously examined, only ten agreed to go back to China. And today the Peiping radio produced its explanation. According to the radio, what it calls "American secret agents" are responsible for the resistance of the prisoners. The radio charges are that "secret agents" threatened death to any Chinese insisting on going back. That's the Communist explanation for the fact - that the enormous majority of prisoners are resisting all attempts to send them back across the border, behind the Iron Curtain.

EAST GERMANY

From East Germany, more reports of purges within the Communist party. This time it's Else Zaisser, education minister. Her own department accuses her of "serious errors" and "ideological misunderstandings" - meaning that she does not counteract enemy propaganda.

Recently her husband, William Zaisser, was fired from his job as State Security minister, and dropped from the politburo, on charges of plotting against the Red regime.

ITALIAN TRIAL

In Novara, Italy, two Americans are going on trial, ~~in~~ absentia; - meaning that they won't be there; but, the court will go on with the trial anyhow.

The accused are Aldo Icardi of Pittsburgh, and Carl Lodolce (lo-dol-chay) of Rochester, New York. Icardi and Lodolce are accused of murder - the murder of an American Major during World War Two.

At that time, both men were in the army. They belonged to a team of agents operating behind Nazi lines, in the final months of the war. Their commanding officer, Major William Holohan. After the war, Icardi and Lodolce came back to this country, and were discharged from the Army. But Major Holohan never came back. And then, four years ago, one of the Italian carabinieri found the major's body in Lake Orta.

Investigation showed that Major Holohan had been shot. And the Italian authorities charged that he was murdered by

ITALIAN TRIAL - 2

Italy requested their extradition; but the request was turned down by our Federal court. So neither is in Novara to stand trial.

The trial of Icardi and Lodolce, a curious twister for international law. They have been accused in both Italy and America of being involved in the murder of Major Holohan. But they can't be extradited to Italy to stand trial. They can't be tried in this country, for a crime committed in Italy. And they can't be court-martialed by the Army - because they are now civilians.

LEVY

From Chicago, comes the story of Joseph Levy - who made a practice of sending expensive gifts to important people in Washington. He didn't know any of them personally. But he sent the gifts to President Eisenhower, the 1st lady, and various top officials in the capital.

The point is, that Joseph Levy is a professional in the art of passing phony checks. The gifts a part of his system. He'd go to a store, and order something to be sent to the President - shaving lotion, whiskey; or perfume to Mrs. Eisenhower. Or cigars and pipes to some Senator. Then he'd hand over a check in payment, depending on the name of the recipient to get the check through. He always enclosed a personal card, signed "Leon".

In one case he sent a set of golf clubs to Vice President Nixon. With them a note that read:
"Dick, beat the bos! Leon."

Well, with that kind of card, you couldn't expect a salesman to be too suspicious. That's how Joseph Levy used to get change back from checks that bounced when they were presented at the bank.

The Chicago dispatch states that Joseph Levy is now accused of using the mails to defraud. And the police declare that he has made many thousands of dollars through passing bad checks. His career has now hit a snag and he'll no doubt go to jail -- because of those gifts to the President and other notables.

PEACE CONFERENCE

Mao Tse Tung wants peace in Korea - but Russia opposes it. At least, that's the way it appears, according to ~~diplomatic~~ officials in Washington. ^{Our State Dept. people} ~~The officials declare~~

~~say~~ that the Chinese Reds need peace in order to build up their ~~shaky~~ economy. But the Soviet union is opposed, because the Kremlin hopes eventually to dominate the entire Korean peninsula. Malenkov, intending to hold that peninsula - which is like a pistol pointed at Japan.

American officials add that we accepted the Chinese proposal for a preliminary meeting at Pan Mun Jom - because we wanted the Russians left out, at least for the moment.

Our government believes that a Pan Mun Jom meeting might produce agreement on ^{where and when to} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{hold the full scale} peace conference.

The Kremlin is also demanding participation of neutral nations in that peace conference. Because the Russians hope to attend - as neutrals. We have objected to the presence of neutrals, because we want to make it clear

that the Russians were not neutral during the fighting - that they helped the Reds. As one American official put it, "if they come in under the present set-up they will be unhappy, being on the belligerent side."

However, Washington announces that we may modify our objections to the neutral nations - because if the conference breaks down, we want the blame to be placed on the Communists. That is, we may meet their demands, and then let them show the world whether or not they are sincere about coming to an agreement.

JOHNSTON

Eric Johnston, on his way to the Middle East. The former Economic Stabilizer will investigate conditions in the Jordan River Valley. His appointment, announced in a statement from President Eisenhower. The President says that Johnston will try to bring about better relations between Israel and the Arab nations, and ~~will~~ seek their cooperation in exploiting the Jordan ~~River~~ Valley. The exploitation, to be along the lines of T.V.A. The Eisenhower statement adds that Johnston will have the President's full support, and wide powers, in dealing with the nations of the Middle East.

STEVENSON

Attorney General Brownell orders a grand jury investigation of Warren Stevenson. The jury, to investigate whether or not Stevenson is guilty ~~is~~ of perjury.

Stevenson is accused of being a "four percenter" - meaning that he offered to help a firm get a better contract with the Navy, with four percent as his fee. Stevenson is a former Republican official of the District of Columbia.

He testified before a house armed services sub-committee, ^{and} now the ~~is~~ Attorney General wants a grand jury to find out whether the witness committed perjury.

Stevenson's testimony conflicted with that of Stanley Bishop. According to Stevenson, Bishop informed him of the actual figures bid by firms seeking the contract. But Bishop declares that he did no more than tell Stevenson that the Navy contract was about to be awarded. During the hearings, Congressman Hardy of Virginia called Stevenson "one of the biggest liars that I have ever listened to."

Senator Wiley of Wisconsin charges that the Kremlin is training thousands of agents - to be sent into Latin-America. According to ^{the Senator,} ~~Wiley,~~ the Reds are being instructed at a Soviet school in Prague - ~~what the Senator terms~~ "a school of revolution". The Senator adds that most of the students are from ~~Communist parties, and~~ what he terms, "left wing intellectual groups" in Latin America.

So he calls on this country for ^{(more cooperation} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ with our neighbors to the ~~xxx~~ south - to prevent the Reds from seizing power.

MIG

A dispatch from Tokyo reveals that experts of the Air Force have put that Russian MIG through a series of tests. It's the one delivered to us by a North Korean pilot. No one has claimed ownership of the plane, so it's still in ^{the} possession of our Air Force.

The Tokyo dispatch reveals that experts were sent out to Okinawa - to put the MIG through its paces. Among the experts, famed jet pilot, Major Charles Yeager. The commander of our Far East Air Forces, General Weyland, states that ~~ix~~ five pilots flew the plane. Some of the tests were just around the field flights. Other tests, simulated combat with out sabre jets. General Weyland says that a lot of valuable information has been obtained by our pilots. The General describes the MIG as a "light airplane with a big engine", He adds that the test pilots regard it as inferior to our F-86. The Major defect of the Russian plane - it's lack of automatic controls. The pilot has to make too many

adjustments by hand - which distracts attention during combat flying. Moreover, the MIG has a low maximum speed as compared with out planes. It's also uncomfortable to fly - the heating and ventilating systems poor. And the cockpit so small, that a big man has difficulty flying the plane.

Tallyrand came back - with a stunning surprise.

Napoleon offering to sell -- the entire Louisiana Territory, the western half of the Mississippi Valley.

The price - fifteen million dollars. Actually, with payment of interest, the total came to twenty seven million. About four cents an acre - for nine hundred thousand square miles. Which now make - seventeen American states.

The secret of the surprise was a thing our envoys didn't know - but Napoleon did. He was about to go to war with England again - and, in the face of the British fleet, he couldn't hold New Orleans and the Louisiana territory.

This weekend, the signing of the treaty will be reenacted, by President Eisenhower - who, in all propriety, should play the part of his ~~predecessor~~ own predecessor, James Monroe. And -- by French Ambassador Bonnet, impersonating the diplomatic official who signed for Napoleon. Quite a gala week-end in New Orleans, Mike.

RETAKE

New Orleans is all set - for a weekend climax.

Celebrating - the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. Parades and hoopla -- with tens of thousands of out of town visitors, ~~in attendance~~. President Eisenhower will be there - together with the Ambassadors from thirty-five countries! Stressing - the diplomatic aspect! The Louisiana Purchase - having been one of the greatest, and one of the oddest, of diplomatic events.

President Thomas Jefferson, in that year of eighteen hundred and three, had not the slightest notion of buying the vast Louisiana Territory from Napoleon. He ^{just} wanted to purchase _{- as a port,} New Orleans. The negotiations were handled by Robert Livingston, U S Minister to Paris - and a special envoy, James Monroe, later to become President.

They went into conference with Tallyrand, Napoleon's Wiley Minister of Foreign Affairs. ~~Would Napoleon~~ ~~Want Napoleon~~ ~~Want Napoleon~~ sell New Orleans? ~~Tallyrand~~

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