

P. I. - P. G. Monday, May 17, 1948.

STALIN

~~Uncle Joe~~ ^{Stalin} is prepared to talk things over with

~~Uncle Sam~~ ^{us.} So he says ^{this} tonight, ~~in Moscow~~ in an "open" answer, ^{as Moscow calls it, to that} ~~to an~~ "open" letter sent him by Henry Wallace.)

Wallace read the letter at ^a ~~his~~ campaign ^{affair at} ~~meeting in~~ Madison Square Garden, New York, ~~on~~ May eleventh.

~~The Soviet Premier~~ ^{Stalin} hails the Wallace ^{letter} ~~communication~~ as the most important document of recent times. Stalin ~~says he can agree or disagree with the Wallace program,~~ but says he, "there is no statesman caring for peace and cooperation among peoples who can ignore this program".

~~Inferring his~~ -- Stalin ^{says} ~~believes~~ that the United States and Soviet Russia can come to a peaceful settlement of current problems. ^{He said he didn't} ~~And he goes on to say that he does not~~

know whether the United States government approves of Henry Wallace's program, but "As far as the government of the USSR is concerned" -- these are Stalin's words -- "It could serve as a good and fruitful basis for agreement, and the development of international ^{OPERATION.} competition." And

NIGHT SHOW
May 17, 1948.

PALESTINE SUBSTITUTE

News of the fighting in Palestine is contradictory.

The Arabs claiming ~~that~~ their forces ^{have} captured the old walled city of Jerusalem. But a pooled despatch from ~~the~~ American correspondence ^{to} in the Holy City, ^{relayed} ~~which was~~ ^{by U.S. Navy radio} ~~radioed by the United States Navy~~, says that the old city is now entirely in possession of the army of Israel. This the climax of fifty-one hours of furious fighting. ~~there.~~ A late despatch from Beirut, Syria, however, says that troops of King Abdullah's Arab Legion ~~have~~ entered the ^{Holy} city carrying the Jewish fortifications by assault.)

From Amman, Transjordan, comes a word picture of King Abdullah in jodpur riding breeches and tweed coat directing the firing of Iraqi artillery ^{men} shelling the Jewish center of Geshar in northern Palestine.

There is no direct communication from Jerusalem tonight -- the radio blacked out through a power failure.

From Tel Aviv we ^{are told} ~~learn~~ that the army of Israel has won

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strong positions inside the city, holding the Arabs at bay: and that the Stern Gang ^{is taking an active} ~~has joined up with the~~ Jewish army part in this.

^{we hear,}
The Holy City has been under bombardment all day. Arab shells bursting ^{right} in the heart of Jerusalem. ~~The~~ Arab guns on the ~~sight~~ site of the tomb of the Prophet Samuel.

(No word ~~as yet~~ ^{on} that ~~the~~ cease-fire order ^{at} ~~within~~ Jerusalem. ~~is a reality.~~ All we know ^{is} that members of the United Nations Truce Commission are ^{there, trying} ~~working~~ to bring ^{it} ~~this~~ about.) ^{And -} Risking their lives in ^{doing it.} shellfire. The Jews ^{as} said to have agreed to this ~~truce~~; but the Arabs ^{say they} ~~delaying~~, ^{must} ~~ing they have to~~ wait for authority from King Abdullah.

Meanwhile ~~From~~ Tel Aviv we ^{also} hear that (Jewish shock-troops are beseiging four thousand Arabs ^{up the coast,} in the old walled fortress of Acre.) ^{That the fighting men} The ~~seasoned soldiers~~ of Haganah have taken ~~that same~~ ^{at Acre that} hill ^{captured} which Napoleon took in 1799. ~~The~~ Bonaparte ~~little corporal~~ massed his artillery on ~~the~~ summit ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~he~~ even then was unable ~~but Napoleon was never able~~ to take the fortress with its ~~forty-foot thick walls,~~ ^{walls} ~~surrounded by a moat.~~ ^{great} ~~Will the~~

^{succeed where} Jews ~~be able to go further than Napoleon?~~ ^{Failed?} ~~The~~

^{Perhaps.} Napoleon didn't have ^{modern} fire power.
The Tel Aviv dispatch states that the Arabs in Acre
are running low on food, and ammunition; ^{and} ~~so they~~

are expected to surrender shortly.

The large ^{Jewish city of} Tel Aviv was bombed ^{again} today by Egyptian

planes. ^{tells of} The censored Cairo dispatch ^{claiming}
extensive damage, and no ^{planes} ~~human~~ losses. ~~And here's~~

Later news! British forces in Haifa say the Jews

have been forced to retreat in some ^{parts} ~~sectors~~ of
Jerusalem; ^{that} the Arabs ^{have} captured ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{big} Barclay's

Bank building; ^{took it} from the Stern Gang. ~~Tonight,~~ Arab

~~guns are heavily shelling the Jewish section of~~
~~the city; but most of Jerusalem is in Jewish hands.~~

U.N.

The voice of Uncle Sam was heard again at Lake Success today. Warren Austin, the American Delegate, calling on the Security Council at Flushing to order a truce in Palestine. Arabs and Jews to cease fire in the next thirty-six hours; and neither side to move from its present position.

The ~~the~~ American resolution ^{to} ~~invoking~~ the emergency chapter of the United Nations charter which authorizes the use of sanctions in cases of breaches of world peace and acts of aggression. Under this section of the charter, international armed forces can be used to maintain peace if other means fail. The American resolution came after the state of Israel had asked the Security Council to order a halt to the Arab invasion of its sovereign state.

~~This time~~ ^{Today's} latest American move came as a major surprise to the ~~xxxx~~ U.N. delegates at Lake Success. How can the United Nations, which has made such a poor showing in handling the Palestine question, be expected to back up its request for a truce?

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By the use of armed strength? ^{If so} ~~And~~ where will that strength be obtained -- the men, the planes and the guns to stop the fighting in the Holy Land; ^{that's} the same old question. ~~The Delegates~~ [^] ~~said to be wondering whether Uncle Sam is ready to propose further United Nations action -- and back it up by something material if the United Nations issues a cease-fire order and the Arabs and Jews take no notice.~~

^{And,} Russia ~~supported~~ supported our proposal for an immediate truce. Gromyko urging the council to take action to stop the war without any further discussion.

RECOGNITION

(The Soviet government today recognized the state of Israel) - this according to a statement by radio Moscow picked up in London. The British foreign office says it cannot recognize Israel for the time being, because the Jewish state has not yet fulfilled the basic conditions the British hold essential for an independent state. ~~so~~ (British recognition of Israel is withheld purely for legal reasons, ~~so~~ says the London Foreign Office;) which denies that Britain is prejudiced against Israel.

ISRAEL

Today (in New York, Dr. Chaim Weizmann accepted his election as the first President of the new State of Israel.) The aged Zionist, sick in his hotel room, issuing a formal statement from his bed saying he accepts the honor in a humble spirit and that he dedicates himself to the service of the land and the people, for which he has been privileged to labor through the years.

ATOMIC

(After two years of discussion, and endless reports, the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission has given up. They say it's hopeless -- the attempt to establish international control of atomic energy.) From now on, each man for himself -- or rather each nation for itself, in the atomic energy race. With Uncle Sam way out in the lead.

Today the U.N. vote was taken on what to do -- go on discussing or give it up. The vote was nine to two. Two Soviet votes to go on arguing - and getting nowhere. Russia wanted it put up next to the Security Council when it meets in Paris.

Gromyko, insisted that atomic agreement was still possible. Only he insists that we are against agreement. He plead with the Commission to keep on talking, keep on trying to arrive at some solution. "The United Nations offers the only possibility for the control of atomic energy," said Gromyko. But the committee majority voted that it seemed futile ~~since~~ since full cooperation would have to be had by all the

powers -- to prevent an atomic armament race -- and that's what the Kremlin says it will not agree to.

So, today, (the Atomic Energy Committee adopted a report throwing all blame for the failure on Russia. Every attempt so far blocked by the Kremlin.) Russia alone to blame.

(In Washington, the White House announces that our Atomic Energy Commission has just made successful tests, of three atomic weapons. Each a weapon of new design.)

SERGEANT

About that Moscow story of the twenty-one year old American Sergeant who was seduced from his post at the American Embassy by a Soviet woman spy. The State Department tells us more today. Sergeant James McMillan of Boulder, Colorado, said to have been lured away by a Mrs. Dunaeva Biconish. The U.S. State Department terms her a trained Soviet Agent. At any rate James McMillan says he's ready to spend the rest of his life behind the Iron Curtain -- with his Muscovite Mata-Hari.

Today, Washington revealed that he is the second American G I in Moscow to fall for this dame. Previously, she lured and married a Sergeant John Biconish who somehow escaped the wiles of the Soviet Siren, and is back home now -- ~~stx~~ studying at the Army Ground School at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Jim McMillan, the latest victim of the Red circe, is the son of a professional soldier, Colonel James McMillan. The news of his desertion we are told today, comes as a shock to his family. Patricia, his

younger sister, a sophomore at Radcliffe College, steadfastly refuses to believe that her brother John would stay in Moscow. "John's an Army man," she says. "He's indoctrinated in the professional soldier's code of loyalty." So ~~he~~ she's sure he will come home.

If McMillan does return to the United States, says the Army, he faces a court-martial on charges of desertion; ~~But~~, Uncle Sam will not ask the Soviets for the return of their missing soldier. ~~They~~ ^{Washington will} leave him to the woman of his choice.

Well, what can we do to prevent boy-meeting-girl in Moscow? How can we block the way of a man with a maid; that runs its course even though the maid is a Soviet-citizen?

Congressman J. M. Combs of Texas came up with a solution today. "Why not ~~we~~ send married men only," says the Texas Congressman. ^{And he added:-} ~~and~~ send Maw along to keep an eye on Paw. ~~he says~~. "Maw has intuition and suspicion. She knows what's going on, and she keeps Paw right in line," ^{says} the former Texas Judge, ^{Then he} adding ^{ed.} ~~with~~

~~cryptic wisdom:~~ "It works pretty well in this country,
so it ought to work in Moscow."

~~sending Max along to Moscow, and
elsewhere -- to keep an eye on Max -- a security measure
which Congressman Cohns thinks will work better than all
our counter-intelligence in foreign capitals. I wonder
what American husbands have to say about that.~~

ANTARCTICA

The news of the world nowadays takes notice, more and more, of the news from the southernmost part of the world - Antarctica. So here's the latest about politics on the south polar continent. Politics among the penguins, you might think. But no - we've been hearing about international rivalry between the British and South Americans. The latest - a tense situation.

I have this from Commander Finn Ronnie, who has just returned from an expedition that made a series of discoveries in Antarctica. He tells me that when his expedition arrived on the polar shore last year, they found the British firmly established. There are eight British stations on the Antarctica land mass, while the Chileans and Argentinians have two. We, ourselves, have none. We send expeditions to explore, but do not establish anything permanent.

Finn Ronnie says that the Britishers were very frosty - at first. They took an aloof and forbidding British attitude toward the American expedition. ~~At~~

near the ~~that~~ *where the Americans landed* point, there were half a dozen of them living in a

shack, stationed the year round in the bleak polar ice and cold - and all they had to eat was seal meat and pemican, dried beef ground up with suet.

"We were able to give them some fresh meat", Finn Ronnie told me.

"What kind?" I asked.

"Well", he replied, "all we had was what we got at a U. S. Navy submarine station in Panama -- some hundreds of pounds of filet.mignon."

So that's what the British got from the American explorers. Instead of seal meat and pemican -- filet mignon. All of which thawed out that frosty British reserve, and thereafter they were cordial and friendly.

They were not rough, tough characters - not at all. Finn Ronnie tells me that the eight British Antarctic stations are held mostly by Oxford and Cambridge men, doing their bit for Britain in the old British bulldog way - hanging on to their south polar positions with a bulldog grip.

But why? Well, there is interest in Antarctic weather observation - but that's not the reason for international rivalry. The news, some little while back, pictured the President of Chile as announcing the discovery of Antarctic uranium - material for atomic bombs. But Finn Ronne told me there was nothing in that, just a Latin-American dream. He says that the scientists on his expedition were well equipped with Geiger Counters for detecting radio activity. They did a lot of geological exploration, but their Geiger Counters never once detected any hint of the radiation that would signify the presence of uranium.

On the other hand, they did find other minerals. The Finn Ronne expedition confirmed plenty of previous reports of an Antarctic wealth of coal and metals like copper. From the air they spotted what looked like mountains of copper ore.

But any such mineral wealth is of no value - not now, the shipping situation being what it is. It will

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be years before transportation develops in such fashion as to permit any exploitation of south polar mining. But that's just where the British come in - with their long range view. The old way of the British Empire - looking years ahead.

Which is why they're hanging on, with eight British Antarctic stations presenting a defiant face to South American claims. The news has related how the British sent a powerful cruiser to south polar waters. Chile responded by sending destroyers and gunboats. Finn Ronne tells me that when he left the Antarctic shore, the British and South American naval forces were down there glaring at each other - the penguins looking on with complete unconcern.

EDUCATION

Here's an odd item from Bombay, India. It's about the minister of education for the United Provinces who was haled into court today, ~~at~~ at the holy Hindu City of Benares -- and was fined five annas; ten cents in money.

And what was the charge against this high government official? What cause the police to take the Minister of Education into court like a common criminal? For not speaking Urdu! That thoughtless cabinet Minister had spoken five words in English, in public, and for each word in this now banned foreign language the Judge socked him one anna, two cents; the fine to go to the support of the Society For The Sponsoring of Local Dialects.

A strange land India! Anything can happen there.

PALESTINE

early May 17/48 bc.

The news of the fighting in Palestine is contradictory tonight. A censored dispatch from Cairo reports that Arab forces have captured the old walled city of Jerusalem -- the area which includes the most hallowed ~~squares~~^{area} in the world. But a pooled dispatch from American correspondents in Jerusalem, transmitted, by radio, by the United States Navy, reports that the old city is now entirely in possession of the Army of Israel! This ^{to} climax ~~at~~ fifty one hours of furious fighting.

When the British evacuated the old walled city, it was occupied by Arab guerrillas. Using the strong points evacuated by the British, the Jewish soldiers launched a concerted attack against the area. The Arabs repulsed the first advances, but now ~~they~~ are reported to have surrendered, with this key area in Jewish ~~in~~ hands.

There is no direct communication from the Holy City -- the radio blocked out through a power failure, only scattered information as to conditions inside the walls available. A ~~j~~ Jerusalem resident arriving

at Tel Aviv pictures the army of Israel as holding the Allenby barracks; ~~they~~ guard the approach from the south. And, what he describes as an important German building a few ~~xxx~~ yards from the Damascus Gate. He also reports that the Stern Gang have ⁵~~we~~ joined the Jewish Army, and ~~are~~ ^{is} in action *with them.*

Meanwhile, the Holy City is under bombardment, Arab shells ~~xxxx~~ bursting ~~i~~ right in the heart of Jerusalem. No word yet that the cease-fire/order has become a reality. Members of the United Nations truce commission there are working desperately to bring this about, risking their lives in the bombardment to try to get both sides to agree to a truce. The Jews ^{are} ~~said~~ to have agreed, but the Arabs say they must wait ~~for~~ for authority from King Abdullah in Amman, Trans-Jordania. But another news dispatch says that Abdullah is not at Amman. ^{That he} ~~is~~ is leading his troops, the desert king in battle dress, personally directing operations.

Three times yesterday members of the truce commission tried to make the cease-fire order

effective, but each effort met with a stalemate. Late last night the firing ceased, for a few minutes. Then it began again, the Arabs claiming that they could not reach the French consulate to arrange the final details for the truce.

The Arabs are said to be shelling the city, from the tomb of the prophet Samuel, which overlooks Jerusalem. These guns moved up from the Babel pass, through the mountains of Judeah. And there appears to be a fierce battle at Latrun, out on the coastal plain, a battle for the road to Jerusalem.

Word from the Holy City tonight is that large Arab forces are expected to attempt to storm the city. To the south of the Sea of Galilea, the Army of Haganah repulsed an attack by Syrian Army Troops, capturing armored cars and displaying tanks. The Arab Legion of King Abdullah said to be in action, in the same region pressing up towards the sacred city.