

C.J. - Sumner. Friday, Dec. 21, 1945.

CONFERENCE

At Moscow, the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three held their sixth plenary session this afternoon -- while Stalin was celebrating his sixty-sixth birthday. About the birthday -- we have some information, a statement that the Stalin celebration was quite a homelike affair. But, as for the conference -- blackout. No news is being issued -- no official news.

We do have something unofficial, which is attributed to British Quarters in Moscow. This tells us that American Secretary of State Byrnes and British Foreign Secretary Bevin have used frank and even blunt language with Soviet Foreign Commissar Molotov. They have cautioned Molotov on Russian tactics in Iran -- strong-arm tactics.

This applies, of course to the situation in the northern part of Iran, which is under ~~Naxist~~ Soviet control. There a new government has been set up in opposition to the regime at Teheran -- with loud Iranian charges that the Soviets want to take over the

northern part of the country -- by means of a puppet government.

Byrnes and Bevin are said to have complained about that -- and also about the Balkans, where Communist regimes have been installed. Power politics, they complained.

Molotov is no one to be intimidated by blunt language. He knows how to play at that game himself. And we hear that when Byrnes and Bevin pointed fingers of reproof at him, he pointed a finger right back -- and talked about such places as Java, with the Indonesian revolt, and Siam, where the British are supposed to be making demands. Molotov asked; ~~then~~ "How about the Atlantic charter in those places?" And he intimated that as for strong arm power politics -- the Soviets aren't the only ones.

Byrnes and Bevin are also said to have made a reference to Russian newspapers, pointing out to Molotov that nothing can be published in the land of the ~~the~~ Soviets without the consent of the Government,

and that anything that Russian Journalism says or does is regarded as being directed by Headquarters. This of course refers to the current outbreak in the Russian newspapers on the subject of Turkey -- the journalistic demand that Turkey should give Russia a slice of territory on the Black Sea.

U.N.O.

The question is still undecided -- what part of the United States is to get the United Nations' in London today, there was a hot discussion before the sub-committee of the U.N.O. that is making the choice. In the argument Britain objected to San Francisco -- because of distance. It's two thousand miles farther from Europe than a site on the American East Coast would be. Australia argued in favor of San Francisco, as nearer to Australia.

The boys appear to be concerned mostly about how far they'll have to travel. The decision was put off, the vote not to be taken until tomorrow. Then we'll find out what American City will get the U.N.O.

TOKYO

A late story from Tokyo tells us that General MacArthur has now handed to the Japs all the principal orders that he is going to give them. That is -- the General has completed the list of commands he deems necessary to make Japan a democracy. If they are carried out faithfully, the country will be liberalized according to western ideas -- and he intends to ~~xxxx~~ see that his mandates are carried out. These statements were made today by an official MacArthur spokesman.

Meanwhile, the Japs, themselves, are going to have trials of war criminals. This was announced today by Premier Shidehara, who said his cabinet plans what he calls "A peoples' trial." Tokyo states that an agreement has been reached with the Americans, whereby the Japanese war trials will be held separately from the Allied proceedings against war criminals, which have begun at Yokohama.

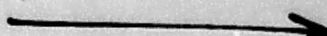
JAP. SCHOOLS

From Tokyo we have word of a complete revision of Jap schoolbooks. This ~~is~~ in accordance with General MacArthur's order abolishing State Shintoism -- the cult of the Divine Emperor. The Japs will be allowed to worship whatever they please, the Emperor included -- but Shintoistic Imperialism will no longer be supported by the Government and inculcated in the schools. Yet the existing Jap schoolbooks are full of it -- hence the need of a complete revision.

Today the Chief of the School Bureau of the Tokyo Ministry of Education, stated: "Our ethics, civics, and history text books are full of references to Japan as a divine country, and to the Japanese as a superior race -- which I consider ridiculous," ^{said he.} ~~He added~~ So they've got to get up a new set of textbooks all along the line.

"Teaching the Japanese that they are a chosen people will be abolished," declared the Chief of the School Bureau. He said the Japanese children will be taught to respect the Emperor, just as children in other

countries are taught to respect the heads of their governments. "But," He insisted, "The practice of worshipping the Emperor as a God will be abolished."

What about the Sun Goddess? She is supposed to be the ancestor of the Imperial Dynasty of Japan, and has been the central figure of Japanese mythology. The worship of the Sun Goddess will likewise be abolished -- so far as the schools are concerned. So says the Chief of the School Bureaus. 

ADD JAP SCHOOLS

Along with this comes word of the discovery that military training is still going on in some Jap schools. Wooden rifles, swords and bayonets have been found - imitation weapons to train boys as soldiers. And propaganda textbooks and maps are still in use - glorifying Jap militarism. This discovery has led to an investigation ~~by~~ by the American military authorities - all such paraphernalia of Jap imperialism to be destroyed.

MACARTHUR

There have been reports that General MacArthur may be superseded. The control of part of Japan to be given to Soviet Russia. MacArthur has denied a story picturing him as saying that, if control is shared with the Soviets, he'll resign. He explains that, as a military commander, he has nothing to do with such high decisions of international policy.

Today we have a shrewd bit of appraisal of the status the Supreme Commander now enjoys among the people of Japan. In Tokyo, there is a common saying nowadays that - if Japan were a republic, and if MacArthur were to run for President, he would be elected by a landslide vote. The conquering general of the enemy is now a popular favorite. How do you account for that? One reason given goes into the peculiar mentality of the Japs.

We have the analysis from Far Eastern Manager of the United Press, Miles Vaughn, who writes as follows: "The mass of the Japanese people, reared in the tradition of Asiatic military brutality, had

~~was~~ expected that the victorious American troops would come ashore on the Japanese home islands to loot, rape and pillage. When the Americans, he goes on, "showed ~~an~~ exemplary discipline, and offered Japanese children chocolate bars rather than bayonets, the people gave MacArthur credit. A leader whose followers were good men, must be great and good himself".

The Japs figured that out from what they knew about their own army. *Of course we know, - it's common knowledge -* ~~has been told by people familiar with the Far East~~ that the behavior ~~or~~ misbehaviour of the Jap soldiers depended largely on the character of their commander. If their commander was a brute, their own conduct was likely to be brutal and atrocious. When savage outrages were committed, Japanese troops were likely to be reflecting the type of leadership they had. So how would the Japanese people explain the unexpected good behavior of the American invaders? Not knowing the ways of American soldiers, they would attribute it to the personal qualities of the American commander -- his superior

virtue and benevolence.

All of which is confirmed in the Japanese mind by the striking appearance of General MacArthur whose good looks never ^{did} hurt him anywhere. ^{And, apparently he} ~~he~~ impresses the oriental mind as being the very figure of a great and magnanimous ~~an~~ warrior! - That MacArthur sense of dramatics not doing any harm either!

Moreover, they note in him great ^{courage.} ~~XXXXX~~
The General rides around through the Tokyo streets without guards or attendants - whereas the Japanese ~~an~~ tradition is for prominent persons, dignitaries and such, to go about with a parade of armed escorts.

That's the background for the talk in Tokyo that, if MacArthur were to run for President of Japan, he would be elected by a landslide.

PATTON

The death of General Patton brings to mind inevitably the trite, old story of the soldier who comes home from the wars and many perils, and is killed by a fall down the stairs. General Patton, boldest of our Commanders in battle, met fatality in the form of an automobile accident and a broken neck. It looked as if he might survive the injury, but today ^{he} succumbed finally to what the doctors' report calls - a pulmonary condition. That is -- a congestion of the lungs, which affected his heart. This after so many perils in battle.

In France, an exploding shell from a giant railway gun just missed Patton's Headquarters. Another time his Headquarters was destroyed by artillery fire -- But, just by luck, the General wasn't there.

On ^{another} ~~any~~ occasion he was in a jeep, ~~one day~~ when a large calibre German shell landed ten feet away -- but it was a dud. "If it had gone off, I wouldn't be here," The General said later.

His most hair-raising escape was during the

final days of the war, when he was flying in a tiny liaison plane near Nuremberg. A German fighter came swooping to the attack -- and what chance has a mere unarmed liaison plane against the blazing guns of a fighter? It looked like sure death for America's number one Commander of armored forces. But ^{you}~~the~~ Patton's pilot made a skillful dive to the ground, and went skimming over the field. The Nazi Fighter Plane, swooping down in pursuit, couldn't get out of its dive, and crashed in flames.

After escapes like that, it had to be something so commonplace as a mere automobile accident in peacetime that finally caught up with General George S. Patton, one of the great military figures in American history.

HOUSING

In handling the housing shortage, the government is going to give first chance to veterans. This was announced in Washington today. The plan will be worked by means of priorities - priority in building materials to be allowed to veterans constructing homes or to other builders who will give veterans first chance to buy or rent. This will apply to houses that will sell for not more than ten thousand dollars or rent for not more than eighty dollars a month.

It is estimated that four hundred thousand homes will be built in Nineteen Forty-six, next year, under the federal program of priorities, and the choice will be given to veterans - to build - buy or rent.

STRIKE

Here's late news in the General Motors strike. The Fact-Finding Board has just given the company and the Union one week, until December Twenty-Eight, to figure out a settlement. They have that long to end the strike of a-hundred-and-seventy-five thousand auto workers. If there is no agreement by the 28th, the Fact-Finding Board appointed by President Truman, will begin hearings, will hold sessions to find facts.

EZRA POUND

In Washington today, Ezra Pound, the modernist poet, was found to be insane - mentally unfit to stand trial for treason. This decree was handed down by District Judge Laws, on the basis of a report by four psychiatrists.

The case of Ezra Pound has been parallel, in many ways, with that of Lord Haw Haw, who in Britain is under sentence of hanging for having broadcast Nazi propaganda in wartime. Lord Haw Haw awaits execution - and several days ago another British propagandist for the Nazis was hanged, John Amery, son of a former cabinet minister. ~~Ezra Pound~~ was accused of giving wartime broadcasts for Fascist Italy, where he had lived for many years.

He was a prominent figure in American literature, a fantastic poet, one of the originators of modernist verse, ultra aesthetic, ultra obscure. They were Greek, compounded with Chinese, to most people. But the world of poetry has rated Ezra Pound as one of the pioneers in the new forms, original

genius - highly original.

When the war ended in Europe, Ezra Pound, now sixty years old, was picked up and brought back to the United States, to stand trial for serving enemy propaganda in war - treason. There was a good deal of speculation about what would be done with him. The penalty for treason is death, but to many people ^{that} ~~it~~ seemed rather extreme to hand the flamboyant poet. Any way, Ezra Pound had broadcast under the auspices of Italian fascism, which never seemed as brutally criminal as Teutonic Nazism.

Now the question is settled, with the finding that Ezra Pound is insane. He has been committed to a mental ~~instn~~ institution for treatment.

Psychiatrists, after studying him, reported that his personality had been abnormal for many years. In other words, ^{in his days as a poet} ~~that~~ he was a bit cracked, ~~while merely a poet~~. And, more recently, his personality has, in the words of the psychiatric report, "undergone

further distortion, to the extent that he is now suffering from a paranoid state".

The doctors give the following summary of Ezra Pound: "He insists that his broadcasts were not treasonable, that all his radio ^{activities} ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ stemmed from a self-appointed mission to - 'save the ^{American} constitution! He is, "the ^rport goes on, "abnormally grandiose, is expansive and exuberant in manner, exhibiting pressure of speech, discursiveness and distractability".

To which the cynic might observe that the description given by the doctors would fit a whole lot of modern poetry.

And now Hugh a few ^{fitting} ~~closing~~ words of prose from you