

R.I. - Sunoco. Monday, Oct. 15, 1945.

In General MacArthur's Headquarters at Tokyo today a spokesman ~~virtually~~ admitted that <sup>the General</sup> ~~he~~ delivered the broadcast <sup>you may have heard</sup> ~~most of you heard~~ a few minutes ago, as a direct answer to <sup>all</sup> ~~the~~ criticisms, ~~that have been flung at him.~~

MacArthur is conscious of the ~~x~~ smear campaign that the Communists have worked up against him here at home. But he is more interested in putting principles into effect and carrying out his instructions, and that job he is doing

The General Staff of the Japanese Army has been completely dissolved, an important step in the prevention of any more militarism. There will be an extraordinary session of the Diet on November Tenth, to discuss the policies of Baron Shidehara's Cabinet. <sup>TR</sup> The most striking part of MacArthur's broadcast pointed out that by making use of the Emperor, he had accomplished the demobilization of the Japanese Army, seven million men, without the loss of an American life, without the firing of a shot. And then he said: "Nothing could exceed the abjectness, the humiliation, the finality of that surrender. It has been destructive on the Japanese spirit."

And he added: From swagger and arrogance, the former Japanese Military have passed to civility and fear."

~~MacArthur~~ <sup>He</sup> said further: "They are thoroughly beaten and cowed." ~~MacArthur~~ <sup>He</sup> pointed out that his occupation

forces, with a few exceptions, could be taken as a model, for all-time, as a conquering army. They have been firm without brutality, implacable but not ruthless.

From a military standpoint, MacArthur pointed out that the Japanese surrender was not achieved by any arbitrary decision of authority. It was inevitable, because strategic and tactical circumstances forced it. The Allies had scattered and defeated the Japanese Forces, had destroyed their supply lines of transportation; exhausted their equipment.

*At top of this it's*  
~~After that it is~~ interesting to ~~note~~ the words

of one of our great Admirals; ~~when he said:~~ "I hope to God we don't scrap any ships as we did after the last war."

*Adm. Halsey.*  
And he added: "I hope we've learned our lesson now, ~~and~~ ~~that is~~ to sink only enemy ships! and, we've sunk plenty of them."

So spoke Admiral Bull Halsey as his Flagship the South Dakota, steamed through the magnificent Golden Gate. He headed the Third Fleet with which he had such thrilling war history, thirteen mighty warships. Thousands lined the railings of the Golden Gate Bridge to welcome him and his men. Halsey stood on the bridge of the South Dakota, answering the greetings.

Halsey said Japan today was a hollow shell, lacking the essentials for ordinary life. As he walked and rode through Japanese cities, he watched the people, shabby, miserable and superstitious. The man in the street in Japan is a stupid animal but Halsey cannot believe he does not know he is defeated now.

The Admiral said some form of conscription

would be essential in the United States until world affairs are more settled. <sup>He also</sup> Then he added that though the Atomic Bomb was supposed to end all wars, <sup>that</sup> ~~it is~~ like all new weapons, ~~they never do~~. <sup>it won't. That</sup> The Army, and the Navy, will remain as potent and as necessary as ever before.

... today Chiang himself ...  
 ... Ambassador Hurley for the part he played in settling the internal strife in China. "The present state of negotiations," declared Chiang "was brought about by Hurley's exertions". And he added that if Hurley were in China now, the whole thing might be brought to a conclusion much sooner than expected.

Chiang Kai Shek also announced that his troops will soon relieve our garrisons in North China, whereupon the leatherstocks will be withdrawn. Further, he said he felt certain that all Soviet Forces in Manchuria will be withdrawn likewise, according to treaty stipulations.

The Generalissimo's call this at the first press conference he had held since the war ended. He said he had told so in Shanghai on July, 1945.

## CHINA

Last Thursday I remarked that our Ambassador to China, Pat Hurley, probably had played an important role in bringing together the two great parties in China, Mao Tze Tung and his Communists of the North and Chiang Kai-Shek and his people of the Kuomintang. Well, today Chiang himself publicly thanked Ambassador Hurley for the part he played in settling the internal strife in China. "The present state of negotiations," declared Chiang "was brought about by Hurley's exertions". And he added that if Pat Hurley were in China now, the whole thing might be brought to a conclusion much sooner than expected.

Chiang Kai Shek also announced that his troops will soon relieve our marines in North China, whereupon the leathernecks will be withdrawn. Furthermore, he said he felt certain that all Soviet Forces in Manchuria will be withdrawn likewise, according to treaty stipulations.

The Generalissimo ~~s~~ said this at the first press conference he has held since the war ended. He added, as he told me in Chungking in July, that he

hopes to visit the United States soon. He also will visit the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

## JAVA

In Java and other parts of the Netherland East Indies, the Nationalist Party <sup>s seem</sup> ~~is~~ determined to press <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ opportunity to be free of the Dutch. ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> Soekarno, leader of the revolt, <sup>is reported</sup> ~~appears~~ to be in hiding, and Dutch officials, <sup>so far have no</sup> ~~are unable to obtain any~~ information as to his whereabouts. <sup>His name is</sup> ~~from an Indonesian~~ Soekarno <sup>and he</sup> ~~has~~ been proclaimed President of the Indonesian ~~Republic~~ Republic.

His followers deny the Dutch claim that he has fled from Batavia in fear of arrest. They <sup>say</sup> ~~claim~~ he is on a tour of inspection of the island <sup>and its 60,000,000</sup> ~~people.~~ people.

~~Batavia has become much quieter since the Indonesian Peoples' Army has declared war on the Dutch. That is presumed to be due to the warning from the Allies that order must be maintained. The Soekarno Indonesian Government~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~declined~~ <sup>d</sup> even to negotiate with the Dutch ~~Government~~. However, Soekarno and his <sup>say they</sup> colleagues are willing to discuss the affairs of <sup>the</sup> ~~Java~~ East Indies <sup>and the other islands</sup> with the Allies <sup>as a whole.</sup>

The Governor General of the Netherlands East Indies has resigned because he cannot agree with <sup>the</sup> ~~his own~~ own

Government <sup>M</sup> how to treat the independence movement. <sup>IF</sup> The Governor General himself has only recently been set free from a Japanese prison camp in Manchuria. ~~It is difficult to gather from the dispatches whether he is in sympathy with the independence movement or not.~~

The De Facto Government of Java the actual Government, is under Allied Military Control. The Dutch Lieutenant Governor General ~~has~~ <sup>S</sup> announced that he ~~also~~ <sup>has</sup> refused to negotiate with the ~~Indonesian~~ Nationalists <sup>A</sup> Leaders. ~~This~~ Lieutenant Governor, ~~whose name is~~ Van Mook, accuses the Nationalist Leaders of being Pro-Japanese. He recalled the speech of Queen Wilhelmina in Nineteen Forty-two, in ~~k~~ which she promised the Indonesians that after the war she would call a conference of the Netherlands Indies to work out a program by which they would have equal status with other parts of her empire and home rule for themselves. The Indonesians, however, are skeptical, and determined to resist any return to their former colonial status.

The troubles in Java will be felt in many



an American household. When the Japs caved in, there were more than a million tons of sugar in the Javanese warehouses. All these warehouses are in the Eastern half of the island, which the Nationalists control. It is believed they have confiscated the sugar to distribute it to their own people instead of exporting it for American dollars.

It is guaranteed that no more French troops would be brought into their country.

The leaders of another section of the Nationalist popular front announced that French troops stationed in Java are not to be allowed to leave the island.

There is a report that Chiang Kai Shek has sent Chinese troops into Northern Cambodia, presumably to help his allies, but to lead a hand to the unassisted. But that remains to be seen. Cambodia, by the way, is the land once ruled over by a little known race called the Khmers. Their capital was the now fabulous deserted city of Angkor Wat which had a population of a million or more. A thousand years ago

INDO-CHINA

A French cruiser has arrived at Saigon with part of the Second French armored Division. Fierce fighting is reported in Indo China. As the French troops disembarked, the leaders of the Revolutionary Forces were in the act of notifying the British that they would withdraw into the interior and cease fighting if the British would guarantee that no more French troops would be brought into their country.

The leaders of another section of the Nationalist popular front announced that trained Anamite regiments from Siam are on the way to join the Indo Chinese Army.

There is a report that Chiang Kai Shek has sent Chinese troops into Northern Cambodia, presumably to help his allies, not to lend a hand to the Anamites. But that remains to be seen. Cambodia, by the way, is the land once ruled over by a little known race called the Khmers. Their capitol was the now fabulous deserted city of Angkor Vat which had a population of a million or more. A thousand years ago

it was the mightiest city in Asia - now totally deserted, and almost swallowed by the jungle.

of liberal government in this country. The Ministry of the Interior today has reported the complete destruction of the National Government, the abolition of all and restricted political parties.

The Minister of the Interior also released a statement leader who had been arrested, related censorship over press dispatches to other countries, abolished the propaganda department of the National Government, and promised complete freedom of the press with the understanding that it should not be abused. He also promised that the elections, to take place next month, will be completely free.

But the liberal groups in Argentina are not far from believing that the military is not at all free.

The physicians of Argentina are threatening a general strike as a protest against the killing of a prominent doctor last Friday. The

## ARGENTINA

The new government of Argentina appears to be serious in its attempt to restore some measure of liberal government to that country. The Ministry of the Interior today ~~xxx~~ repealed one important decree of the Colonels' Government, the decree that had restricted political parties.

The Minister of the Interior also released a Communist leader who had been arrested, relaxed censorship over press dispatches to other countries, abolished the propaganda department set up by Colonel Peron, and promised complete freedom of the press with the understanding that it should not be abused. He also promises that the elections, to take place next April, will be completely free.

But the liberal groups in Argentina are ~~xxx~~ far from satisfied. ~~xx~~ They want government by the military to end at once.

The physicians of Argentina are threatening a general strike as a protest against the ~~xxxxxx~~ killing of a prominent doctor last Friday. The

Doctors met with business and financial leaders of the stock exchange today to consider this move.

## STRIKES

*Now for* The industrial picture ~~in the United States~~  
~~is not encouraging tonight.~~ The production of steel is at  
its lowest since the depression of the Ninet<sup>en</sup> Thirties;  
~~That is the~~ result of the strike in soft coal mines.

*TV* Officials of the ~~Truman~~ <sup>*seem*</sup> Government ~~are~~ at their wits' <sup>^</sup>  
end to find some way of stopping the spread of labor  
disputes. The President <sup>*has*</sup> ~~himself~~ talked with the War  
Labor Board, <sup>^</sup> ~~asked~~ them to work out a wage and price  
policy to get the reconversion machine moving. Mr. Truman  
also called Labor Secretary Schwollenbach to the White  
House for a conference. Schwollenbach has had his hands  
full trying to settle the troubles in the oil and soft coal  
industries. Differences between the mine operators and the  
union are as wide as ever. However, there is one ray of  
sunshine in the clouds. In spite of the arrival of Harry  
Bridges in New York, the striking dock workers began to  
go back to their jobs on the waterfront today. So there  
were the first signs of shipping activity in fifteen days,  
in our biggest seaport.

But out in Hollywood there was more violence.

Three men and one woman arrested, the woman for spitting at policemen. Two men were hurt. Picket lines are around four studios now. The woman arrested is the Secretary of the Labor Leader.

In New York City, people are waiting in fear of a milk strike.

A squad of a dozen French soldiers fired a volley into the body of Pierre Laval, the son of Vichy. 2nd Lt. ... the job was really done, the Colonel in charge of the squad walked over and fired one shot from his revolver.

The rifle of one man of the firing squad was loaded with black cartridge - none of them knew whether his was the black or not.

The historic day began with a last minute attempt by Laval to catch the firing squad. At half-past eight of the morning, the Chief Prosecutor went to his cell, accompanied by Laval's principal counsel. Laval was in bed. The Prosecutor said to him: "Your day has come, prepare to die bravely". Then Laval's lawyer

## LAVAL

The courtyard of a French prison today was the scene of the most memorable execution of our time, in France, perhaps in all Europe - the most important from the standpoint of history since the day when the head of Robespierre fell under "the knife of Louisette", as the French used to call the guillotine. A squad of a dozen French soldiers fired a volley into the body of Pierre Laval, the man of Vichy. And to make sure the job was really done, the Colonel in charge of the squad walked over and fired one shot from his revolver.

The rifle of one man of the firing squad was loaded with a blank cartridge - none of them knowing whether his was the blank or not.

The historic day began with a last minute attempt by Laval to outwit the firing squad. At half-past eight this morning, the Chief Prosecutor went to his cell, accompanied by Laval's principal counsel. Laval was in bed. The Prosecutor said to him: "Your time has come, prepare to die bravely". Then Laval's lawyer



leaned over him and said: "Pierre Laval, be brave, for your lawyers' and for history. " Why for his lawyers. I don't know.

Both noticed that Laval was almost unconscious and in his hand they saw a vial. The prison doctor who was then called found that Laval had tried to poison himself. More doctors and nurses came. They administered antidotes, and brought him back to life, in time to be put to death. The word is that had he taken the poison at night, he would have succeeded in his attempt.

All this took several hours. But by noon the physicians had brought him around so that he could be led to the place of execution. When the Police commissioner asked him how he obtained the poison he replied that he had it before he left France for Germany, that none of his guards knew about it, and therefore should not be blamed.

The two lawyers held Laval as ~~he~~ they led him to the prison van in the courtyard. Said Laval

to the Prosecutor: "I pity you for having to carry out such a task". And to the soldiers: "I pity you for being obliged to carry out this crime." Then he turned to his own lawyers and asked them not to go too far from him as he wanted to see them before he died.

Right up to the last moment he wrote letters, to his lawyers, to his wife, and to his daughter, Jose. He also left behind a political document which may one day be published.

In One of the letters he explained his attempted suicide, saying that he did not want to fall under French bullets, did not want to make French soldiers accomplices in a judicial crime.

Also, he insisted upon being executed in his usual white necktie. That was permitted.

And, he asked to be buried in the tri-colored scarf which he had once worn of right when he was French Premier.

He wanted to have the privilege of giving the soldiers the order to fire. A Premier, he said, should die with dignity. But the commanding officer refused, said it was contrary to the rules. Laval declined to have his eyes bandaged. As he faced the firing squad he shouted: "Aim at my heart". And then: "Long Live France!" At that, the Colonel lowered ~~his~~ his ~~an~~ drawn sword and twelve ~~rifles~~ rifle shots rang out. Six of them were aimed at his head, six at his heart. Twenty minutes later, a hearse with a plain black coffin rolled out of the prison yard.

And so ended the strange career of Pierre Laval, once a butcher boy in a little French mountain village, then a millionaire, three times Prime Minister of his country, today, the firing squad.