

READ

P.T. - Sunoco. Friday, April 5, 1946.

The latest world news is that Secretary of State Byrnes has proposed a big power meeting in Paris for April Twenty-Fifth - a get-together of the foreign ministers of the Big Four, the United States, Great Britain, Soviet Russia and France. The purpose, ~~would be~~ to arrange for a peace conference.

The schedule, as it stands, calls for a peace conference to gather ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ May on the First of May - but that has run into all sorts of complications. The task of the conference would be to make ~~form~~ formal peace treaties with such enemy countries as Italy, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland. The Soviets demand that the Big Powers shall have the treaties all fixed up before they are submitted to a peace conference of the United Nations. This has hit a lot of snags - and now Secretary Byrnes proposes a gathering of the foreign ministers of the Big Four to make possible the ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ peace conference scheduled for May.

IRAN

It's hard to say whether today's news is to be considered a bombshell for the United Nations, or a gentle breeze that blows away the remainder of the Soviet-Iranian dispute. ^{IP} Both Moscow and Teheran announce the conclusion of an agreement, an agreement concluded less than twelve hours after the Security Council had accepted the Soviet explanation ~~that~~ no conditions ~~had been~~ attached to the Red Army ^{withdrawal} ~~troops~~ from Iran. -- the Council on that basis putting the dispute aside. ^{IP} The settlement announced today provides for the formation of a joint Iranian oil company to exploit petroleum reserves in northern Persia, ^a ~~the~~ thing Moscow had been demanding. The other Moscow demand, pertaining to an autonomous government ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ Iranian ~~Azerbaijan~~, is not mentioned in the public agreement, the Teheran Premier explaining that ^{IP} Azarbaijan is an internal Iranian affair. The announcement of the settlement explains why Soviet Delegate Gromyko was so insistent that the Security Council should not consider the dispute right away -- should agree to a delay.

The ~~pur~~ purpose of the delay was obviously to give Moscow time to conclude the arrangement announced today. Another point, most pertinent, is this: Iran insisted before the Council that no agreement could be made while Soviet troops ~~are~~ ^{were} on Iranian soil. But the Red Army is still in Iran, and the ~~ag~~ agreement is announced.

In London there was an immediate remark that the mere presence of ~~the~~ Red ^{forces} in Iran implies ~~fx~~ some sort of intimidation; ~~and~~ therefore today's agreement was negotiated under pressure. Also -- there is doubt about the maintenance of full Iranian ^{sovereignty} ~~sovereignty~~ over Azerbaijan, where autonomous government was set up under the sponsorship of Moscow. ^{TR} It is possible, of course, that these considerations might persuade the Security Council to take up the matter again -- ^{on} ~~the~~ the suspicion that today's agreement might, in reality have been a condition for the withdrawal of the Red army from Persia.

~~In London today the word is that the British Foreign office is studying the matter as of whether or not it should instruct the ~~British~~ British Delegate,~~

~~Lord Cadogan, to reopen the issue.~~ And then there's the Australian delegate, Colonel ~~W. R.~~ Hodgson, who yesterday objected to the way the Council accepted^t the Moscow assurance and put the matter off. The blunt-spoken Australian^{de} announced this as sliding over the matter, and stated that he reserved the right to raise the Iranian question again at any time. So will he revive the issue now at the next Council meeting?

Yes, the Security Council might consider the Soviet-Iranian agreement as a reason for investigating the whole dispute all over again. But, on the other hand, it might consider the settlement as an end to the affair and say -- well, it patched up their dispute, and that's trouble off our hands.^R The echo would seem to be -- what's your guess?

Here's the latest, the Australian Colonel issues a prompt blast that the statements of no negotiation made to the Council were in his words: "completely hollow."

U.N. HOME

Today the delegates of the United Nations were looking over a huge building out on Long Island, headquarters for the Sperry Gyroscope plant at Lake

Success. ~~Long Island~~ The United Nations are looking for a new ^{temporary home,} ~~home~~ the gymnasium at Hunter College having proved to be too small.

Soviet Delegate Gromyko was on the job, after his walkout on the recent proceedings. The Iranian question having been disposed of, his boycott did not include the business of selecting a new temporary home.

The Russians are a good deal better fixed than most in the matter of accommodations for their delegates ~~to the United Nations~~ - the Soviets having just purchased one of the finest estates ^{in American} ~~on Long Island~~.

This was announced today, with the Russian acquisition of the Glen Cove estate of the late George D. Pratt of Standard Oil. That million dollar property has

long been a show-place on Long Island, with stately buildings and beautiful landscaping, trees, gardens, ^a and lakes. ^{Now} ~~It is~~ taken over by the Soviet Purchasing Commission for the use of its employees - and also the delegates of Soviet Russia to the United Nations will ~~probably~~ be invited to stay there.

This is the second great Long Island estate to be acquired by the Soviets, they having last year leased the famous estate of J.P. Morgan at Glen Cove - the magnificent property of America's one-time giant of banking.

I wonder if those millionaires and bankers are turning in their graves, ^{or are} ~~or~~ Lenin and Trotsky? ~~for that matter~~ [^] All of them [^] probably.

RUSSIAN PRESS

Well, we are still taking a beating in the Russian press. Moscow propaganda is still attacking the United States. Today the ~~Byrnes~~ blast was in Izvestia, official publication of the Communist Party. Izvestia charges American treaty violations in Iceland, claiming that our government is acquiring Icelandic bases - which is all wrong according to the Soviets. Izvestia ~~it~~ calls this "American imperialism" and declares that American army authorities ^{on that far north island are} ~~in northern Iceland are~~ acquiring tracts of land on the quiet - buying land from Icelandic farmers, and paying them large prices, if they'll say nothing about it.

The complaints in Izvestia are said to be quoted from Danish and Swedish newspapers, protests of what are called treaty violation ^{in the} ~~and~~ American acquisition of bases in Iceland.

~~The news today tells of a couple of significant~~

~~* There has been wide comment
actions propounded for the benefit of the United Nations.~~

~~that one today on~~
~~one is from~~ General MacArthur's ~~the~~ proposal that the

United Nations should, each and individually, renounce

war. —

~~Of course, the organization has been formed~~

~~to prevent war, but~~ MacArthur ^{argues} ~~argues~~ that a system,

based on the idea of stopping wars by the use of force,

is only a temporary expedient — ^{and that} ~~and~~ the whole idea goes

deeper. He bases his thesis on what has happened in

Japan under his guidance - the incorporation into the

new Japanese Constitution of a proviso abolishing

military power and depriving the nation of the right to

make war. MacArthur thinks that all nations should

similarly amend their own sovereignty and impose upon

themselves a constitutional provision forbidding

themselves to make war. ~~XXXX~~

~~Another idea for the United Nations comes from~~

ARMY DAY

President Truman tonight is on his way to Chicago - for Army Day tomorrow. The President ^{there to} ~~will~~ review a giant ~~military~~ parade of military forces, ^{And} ~~will~~ ^{he'll} take Army Day as the occasion for a declaration of American foreign policy. It is understood that ^{Mr. Truman} ~~he~~ will speak of the necessity of this country maintaining great military power, and that he will repeat his views on the ^{need} ~~necessity~~ of a unified military command. Also - the President is expected to make important declarations ^{regarding} ~~on~~ the American attitude in world affairs.

While America parades
- on Army Day.

NAZIS

From occupied Germany we get an assortment of reports of Naziism reviving in the land. In Munich the other night, headquarters of the Communist Party was decorated with swastikas - the Nazi emblem appearing mysteriously all over the building occupied by the Reds.

And a mysterious kind of symbol has appeared - the number eight, repeated twice. This numerical sign - the two eights - has been found scribbled time and again on walls in towns. What does it mean? Well, if you count down the alphabet you will find that the eighth letter is - H. So the symbol of the two numbers stand for - H.H. Which, in turn, stands for "Heil Hitler."

Rumor centers around Martin Bormann - who was Deputy Fuehrer to Hitler during the final days of the Nazi collapse. It has been authoritatively stated that Bormanⁿ was killed, but from time to time we have noted rumors that Martin Bormann was still alive, somewhere in Germany.

It had been ~~believed~~ ^{assumed} that the legends would gather around Hitler, with a refusal to believe that the Nazi Fuehrer had actually perished - Hitler thought to be still alive. But, actually, Bormann has become the creature of legend - especially among the wandering, displaced youth of Germany.

One seventeen year old is quoted today as saying that in the mountains of Bavaria, Bormann has a hideout, a kind of secret stronghold. And - that he has with him several companies of Nazi Storm Troopers, and enough food stored up to last for ~~several~~ years. In this hideout the one-time Deputy Fuehrer to Hitler is said to direct a Nazi underground.

Another ~~rumor~~ rumor is that Bormann has had his face changed - his features altered so that he cannot be recognized. ~~So he can go about in~~ ^{That he goes around} Germany without fear of detection.

MONEY

Today's recovery at Jacksonville, Florida, of One Hundred and Fifty-three Thousand Dollars dug up in a back yard, ~~ix~~ is a tale of the final triumph of a downcast and dejected post office inspector. ~~For two years he had felt that it was his duty to recover the cash, and he felt that he knew where it was. But he had failed -- until today.~~

Two years ago, One Hundred and Eighty thousand dollars was stolen from the Jacksonville postoffice, and immediately suspicion fell on ^a~~the~~ registry clerk. He was watched carefully for a while, and then arrested. He confessed ~~ix~~ but refused to tell where the money was. He merely said -- "it's buried." Then quickly, by the chance of fatality, he fell ill, was operated on and died -- while awaiting trial.

The job of finding the money was placed in the hands of ~~ix~~ Post Office Agent Palmer, who thought ~~xxxx~~ he'd have little difficulty in finding it. ~~For a~~ ~~else he had the one thing~~ The dead post office clerk had admitted -- the money was buried. Palmer had been on the job of watching the clerk, and what he had seen had

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indicated that the place was -- the clerk's back yard. So he had the backyard dug up -- every square foot -- and found nothing. The diggers went down to six feet -- no sign of the money.

That made things look bad for Post Office Agent Palmer. It was up to him to find the hidden loot, and he was a failure on the job.

He brooded, went over everything he knew. What was wrong with his calculations? Day before yesterday he had a hunch. He remembered that the Army in the war had perfected means of finding buried land mines -- a mine detector. This would spot any sort of metal under ground. Palmer figured that the ~~man~~ clerk, from what he knew of him, would have carefully put the money in a secure container, probably metal -- before burying it.

So he borrowed an Army mine detector and a soldier to operate it, and today went to that same backyard. The soldier moved the detector over the ground, and presently the needle, the indicator -- jumped. There was

metal buried directly below.

Palmer had dug at exactly that place before and found nothing. But now they dug again. They went down to six feet, the previous depth, and nothing happened. The needle of the mine detector still indicated the presence of metal. They dug deeper, they went down to nine feet, and there they found a length of sheet iron stove pipe. In it were two glass containers sealed with parafine, and these were crammed with money, bills from five dollars up to a thousand. ^R Palmer's original mistake was that he thought the clerk, burying the money in the back yard, would not have dug deeper than six feet -- when, in reality he had gone down to nine feet. ^R The money recovered amounts to One Hundred and Fifty-three thousand dollars -- out of One Hundred and Eighty thousand that had been stolen. The rest had been spent or disposed of in some way or other.

LOVE STORY

Here's a love story - Soviet style, the way ~~the~~ wedding bells rang out in a Russian village. The tale is told in a Soviet newspaper, "Moscow Bolshevik", and is cited as an example of how things are sometimes run under minor Communist bureaucrats. The account is well related, and eminently quotable, the Russians having their traditional gift for writing a story. Here's how it goes:

"A young soldier recently returned home," says the Moscow Bolshevik, "went ^(with) ~~to~~ his fiancée to the registrar's office to get married. They were gay and happy, but their spirits dropped as they approached the gray, forbidding building, a former butcher shop, where the registry was located.

"Opening the door, the bride said in a frightened voice - 'It's so dark in here - I can't see anything.'

"The groom," continues the Moscow Bolshevik, "turned on a flashlight and led the way through a dark passage. The walls were covered with torn, dirty wallpaper and dense cobwebs hung from the ceiling. They walked into a room with window panes so dirty - there was just enough light to see the discolored walls, and a wooden table covered with a shabby, ink-stained cloth.

"The woman registrar, seated at the table, asked in a passionless voice: 'Now - who's dead?'

"'We have come for marriage' the bridegroom replied.

"'Then go on into the waiting room,' the registrar said sourly. 'I'm registering deaths now.'

"The couple," the story goes on, "returned to the dark and dirty hall, and through the half closed door they could hear an old woman sobbing out the details of her husband's death.

"When their turn came to be married, they were chilled to the bone by their long wait in the unheated hallway. As a climax to their indignities," the Moscow Bolshevik concludes, "the ink froze in the inkstand while the marriage act was being signed and had to be thawed by blowing."

And so they were married - a Soviet beginning of wedded bliss and bright expectations of being happy forever after. Maybe we over here do a bit better, in a little country church.

And now - as Hugh usually suggests let's all go to that little country church, on Sunday.