

JAPAN

L.T. - Sunoco. Thursday, Dec. 4, 1941.

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Tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock, the Japanese reply to the United States will be presented. The document will be handed to Secretary of State Cordell Hull. This was announced by the Japanese Embassy in Washington late this afternoon. Ambassador Nomura and Special Emissary Kurusu will transmit ^{the} a message from Tokyo - replying to President Roosevelt's demand for an explanation. The President wants to know the meaning of the recent Japanese moves in eastern and southern Asia - particularly the massing of troops in French Indo-China for what looks like a threat against Siam. It was indicated at the Japanese Embassy that the reply to the President will be accompanied by a general statement of Tokyo policy.

Meanwhile, the news from Tokyo puts an increasingly serious face on the Far Eastern crisis. The official Japanese news agency, in speaking of the

terms propounded by Washington, used these words:-

"It is utterly impossible for Japan to accept." And the Tokyo Foreign Minister today declared that the island empire faces what he called - "an unprecedented crisis because of recent most serious developments."

All of this is accompanied by renewed Far Eastern word of possible new action by Japan - such as taking over the International Settlement in Shanghai. Also, ^a~~the~~ move into Siam, which has been threatening all along _^ and is the most serious possibility of all.

WAR PLANS

Today, newspapermen in Washington immediately took one particular query to the White House. They asked. What about the story printed ~~today~~ in the CHICAGO ~~TRIBUNE~~ TRIBUNE? The TRIBUNE article alleges the existence of a giant war plan[^] to send an A.E.F. of five million men to fight abroad. The CHICAGO TRIBUNE implies that this ~~war plan~~ was drafted on orders from President Roosevelt, and a letter from ^{the} President ~~Roosevelt~~ to Secretary of War Stimson ^{(is) (say the Tribune,)} ~~was~~ printed. The Chicago paper states that under the plan, the American Expeditionary Force of five million men would start fighting in July of Nineteen Forty-Three - in a final push to defeat Nazi Germany.

So what has the White House to say about this?

Presidential Secretary Steve Early would neither affirm nor deny. He said he hadn't talked to the President about it, and didn't know. He pointed out,

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however, that war plans are always in existence - it's a duty of both the Army and the Navy to have programs of action ready for any eventuality. And he added that, in the President's letter, as printed in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, there is no mention of an A.E.F.

The question of ^{the} a plan was taken to the War and Navy Departments, where the answer was - no comment. However, the United Press quotes one responsible government official as saying there was such a plan as alleged by the CHICAGO TRIBUNE, but he called it - an old one. How old? He said the program of action had been completed this summer - but that was before the Nazi Soviet war. And so it was already out of date.

In Congress, the Chicago story was promptly introduced into the current debate on defense appropriations of eight billion dollars. Congressman

Cannon of Missouri ^{declared that} ~~promptly spoke up and told about~~
high army officers giving testimony before the House
Appropriations Committee, ^{gave no} ~~of which he is Chairman.~~

~~He declared that these high Army officers had given no~~
intimation or suggestion of plans to send American
soldiers anywhere out of the Western Hemisphere. ~~In~~
stating the Army plans, they made no mention of an

~~A.E.P.~~ And Congressman Cannon gave the opinion that the
President's letter, as printed in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE,
had to do with the sending of war supplies to Europe -
not American soldiers. He added that the TRIBUNE story
was timed for a special purpose - ~~was~~ published just on
the very day that Congress begins the consideration of
the new Appropriation Bill for eight billion dollars.

Congressman Case of South Dakota thought
otherwise. He said - yes, it was a case of timing.

But the publication was not aimed at the Appropriations

Bill, but at something else. Today in the windy city,

~~young~~ (Marshall Field's)

the new CHICAGO SUN began publication. Its ~~its~~ the first

a new competitor and in edition came out this morning, ~~It's in direct opposition~~

direct opposition to Col. Medill McCormick's

~~opposition to the~~ long, well established CHICAGO TRIBUNE

~~Its~~ and has a special purpose ^{is to} of fighting the TRIBUNE'S

isolationist policy. So, in the opinion of the South

Dakota Congressman, the CHICAGO TRIBUNE published the

President's letter and the A.E.F. story to time with

the first appearance of its interventionist rival and

~~For~~ opponent, the CHICAGO SUN. Trying to eclipse

the SUN on its first day.

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RUSSIA

For the moment again
Russian war interest focuses on Finland, where
& the Soviets are evacuating the great *fortress* ~~forces~~ of Hangoe.
That stronghold at the mouth of the Gulf of Finland was
one of the principal items of property ~~which~~ which the
Soviets seized from the Finns ~~the~~ winter before last.
The Red forces have defended themselves stubbornly there
during a long siege, but now are pulling out. One
supposition is that the Soviets are doing this as part
of the effort to get Finland out of the war - give back
to the Finns all that the Red Army took, so that Finland
won't have any further excuse of fighting by the side of
Nazi Germany.

But there's another explanation, which points
to the fact that the Gulf of Finland will soon freeze
over. They say that with the Gulf a sheet of ice, the
Soviets could not continue to supply the fortress of

Hangoe - because the only supply route is by sea.

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From London we have a rumor that the British Government has sent an ultimatum to Finland. If the Finns don't agree to stop fighting the Soviets, London will declare war. The deadline of the ultimatum is ~~xxx~~ said to be - Friday.

In the clash between the Nazis and the Red Army, the news is about the same. The Soviets tell of new and slashing successes in the area of Rostov - still driving the Germans back, ^{the} Nazi armies threatened with annihilation. ^{TP} Berlin admits that the Germans are on the defensive in the Rostov sector, but claims that Red Army attacks are being repelled.

At Moscow, the Soviets tell of making advances, while Berlin, on its part, claims further penetration of the defense lines.

WAR

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The battle of the desert was at a standstill today. The story is one of hardly more than skirmishing ~~operations~~ operations and bad weather. But it's not a case of burning heat and blazing desert sands - just the ~~opposite~~ opposite. We must remember that it can grow cold in the desert, and night in the North African winter months are frosty. Also - it rains in the desert. In certain seasons there are tremendous downpours. Today's weather report from Libya is - cold, with chilly drenching rains.

The Imperial forces have drawn back to a line which appears to be somewhere near the border of Egypt, not far from the area from which they started in the drive that began with such brilliant success. The Axis forces hold the battlefield south of Tobruk, and that fortress is isolated once again, under siege.

The British admit that the Germans have won

the ^{*overture*} ~~first round~~ of the desert conflict, but add it's only the ^{*prelude*} ~~first round~~. They say that the mechanized clash will be resumed, and will be decided by reinforcements and the flow of supplies.

In London there's criticism - complaints about the over-optimistic statements that were issued when the Imperial drive was launched. At that time, both Cairo and London expressed enthusiastic confidence of swift and brilliant victory - the prompt annihilation of the Nazi tank forces in North Africa. London critics today were denouncing this as a bad case of over-optimism, and wanted to know why such declarations of triumph were issued - only to be followed by disappointment.

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LONDON

In London, the House of Commons today defeated a demand that the British Government take over British industry - government operation of everything. This proposal was put forth by a Labor Party group, a faction called "Labor Party Rebels." The insurrection of these parliamentary rebels occurred as Parliament considered the Churchill Conscription Bill - a measure to draft men up to fifty, and unmarried women between the ages of twenty and thirty for uniformed auxiliary forces.

The contention of the Laborite Rebels was that this conscription of human beings should be accompanied by a conscription of industry - the government taking over everything, complete industrial socialism. The Rebels demanded that the Labor Party back this Communistic sort of program, and said they'd make their fight to bring the Labor Party around to that point of view. The official leaders of Labor disagreed, and

maintained their support of the Churchill Government.

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The thing went to a vote today, and the conscription of industry was defeated by three hundred and thirty-six to forty. So there's the strength of the radical Rēbels0


-- forty!

After ~~having~~ disposed of that matter, Parliament went ahead and approved of the Churchill plan for the drastic conscription of men and women.

ANTI*STRIKE BILL

The anti-strike bill which the House of Representatives passed yesterday got a jolt today. It was handed to the Senate Labor Committee. This was done by Vice-President Wallace, and his action is taken to have a special significance. Of course, when any bill passed by the House goes to the Senate for action there, it is referred to a Senate Committee -- and the Labor Committee would seem to be the logical place. However, the Vice-President might have handed the bill to the Judiciary Committee.

There has been some sort of conflict between various groups -- which shall handle what? The Judiciary Committee



is regarded as being more favorable toward anti-strike legislation than the Labor Committee. So you see the implications of the Vice-President's action - in passing along the House anti-strike bill to the Senate Committee which is less inclined toward drastic laws for the settlement of labor disputes.

Today the House bill was defended and criticized before the National Association of Manufacturers, holding their annual conference of American industry. Congressman Smith of Virginia, who sponsored the anti-strike bill, told the assembled manufacturers that he's in favor of legislation which will restore to the working man of America the right to work. The opposition to the Smith Bill was expressed by Chairman Williams of the National Defense Mediation Board, *who told the N. A. M. that* ~~He said~~ he objected to the feature of the measure which would compel a cooling off period before strikes could be called.

BRIDGE

Today's bridge collapse in Connecticut was a spectacular and terrifying disaster. They were building a four million dollar span across the Connecticut River, *near Hartford,* and were in the process of shifting into place huge ^A girders. Dozens of men were working, perched on the steel structures a hundred and fifty feet above the Connecticut River. A giant crane, said to be the biggest in the world, was swinging a girder - weighing ninety-five tons. ^{TR} Something happened. The ninety-five ton girder slipped. It shifted somehow, and hit three other girders of similar weight. There was an enormous wrenching and cracking, and the immense steel span collapsed into the river -- the whole thing including the monster crane. ^{TR} The men at work dropped with ^{the} ^A falling steel -- dozens struggling in the water amid the wreckage. The full number of casualties isn't known, but at least seven lives ^{were} ^A lost, six persons ^{are} ^A missing, and

seventeen injured. It was one of those ~~grand~~^{ponderous} mishaps that can occur when men build with so ponderous a magnitude of steel.

EXPLOSION

At Cleveland today there was a huge explosion -- accompanied by an equally huge bit of luck. A tremendous factory blast went off ripping and shattering. Yet nobody was even injured -- because of ^{a freak} ~~that streak~~ of luck.

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It happened at the Cleveland Wire Works, where they use oxygen for the manufacture of incandescent lamps. Fifty tanks of oxygen were stored in the factory yard, near one wall. Each was twenty feet long and one foot in diameter, and all fifty blew up simultaneously. Oxygen can explode with devastating violence, and today's blast let loose so much thunder that it was heard miles away. The plant was heavily damaged. One section of the rear wall of the building was blown out. ⁷⁷ Six hundred workers were in the factory, but the section hit the hardest was empty. The employees who usually had worked there had gone to another ^{part} ~~section~~ of the plant -- to

get their weekly pay. It's always a joyful thing to get that weekly pay envelope -- especially when the place where you'd otherwise be working is being blown to pieces.

BASEBALL

A headline baseball deal was announced today, a swap of players between the New York Giants and the Chicago Cubs. And in the story of the transaction, one theme is -- the bean ball.

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The Giants' new Manager, Mel Ott, has wasted no time in getting busy. And his first move is to acquire outfielder Hank Leiber from the Cubs. Hank used to be with the Giants -- a star several years ago. But he failed to live up to his promise -- and maybe that was because of bean balls.

In an exhibition game down South, Hank was hit by Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians -- beaned by Blazing Bob. Heavy hitter Hank was not so good after that, and the Giants traded him to the Cubs. Then, last season once again -- the bean ball. This time Hank was hit by a Giant pitcher -- Cliff Melton. He was a ~~fixix~~ failure with the Cubs throughout the summer. Mel Ott,

however, believes that Leiber will improve -- will be hammering Hank all over again.

The Chicago Cubs, in return for Leiber wanted Fiddler McGee -- although the Fiddler was an outstanding flop last season. A pitcher -- he won two and lost ten -- which sounds more like fiddling than pitching, and sour fiddling at that. Yet Mel Ott refused to trade the Fiddler. Nobody knows why. Maybe because Mel Ott likes music -- "Mel" for "melody."

The player the Cubs get is Bob Bowman -- and that once again brings in the subject of the bean ball. Bob, season before last, beamed Ducky Medwick of the Dodgers. The result was a free-for-all, and the grand climax came after the game -- when President McPhail of the Brooklyn Club swung a haymaker -- taking a hefty punch at Bowman.

So you see the bean ball angles in today's transaction.

And now Hugh, you throw a few.