

SUBSTITUTE LEAD FRANCE

C.I. - P. & B. Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1948.

Over in France the news of the day closed on an alarming note -- the communist party issuing what amounted to a call upon the Reds to take power, which sounded like a revolutionary situation.

A night descended upon the French Republic it was not clear just what this might amount to -- perhaps merely a communist manoeuvre to get into whatever cabinet may be formed. But here are the facts:-

A Red manifesto summoned Communist workers to impose what it called "a democratic regime" the word "impose" is significant, and we know what the Reds mean by "democratic". The Communist party calls for a regime that will oppose what is termed -- "misery in the continued service of American imperialists madly preparing for war." The revolutionary tone of the manifesto echoes in their slogan; "the hour of choice is here."

~~This, tonight was followed by immediate, clashes, etc. etc.~~

of mobs tonight -- as if the Reds were out for an attempt to impose the regime they demand, bent on taking the power. It is too early to estimate what this may mean - and let's hope that it is not the beginning of ~~the~~ civil war that France has been talking about with dread, a showdown battle between the Communists and the followers of General Charles DeGaulle. ~~to~~ seize Alarming news -- while President Auriol is trying to find a premier who can establish a government. Amid the complexities and futilities of politics in France.

As for the actual state of the negotiations, we only know that the talks between the military commanders in Berlin was ended in a deadlock. Word from Berlin indicated that the generals, in their talks, did not accomplish much.

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BERLIN CRISIS

(The Berlin crisis hit a new low today -- in the sinking spell that has followed the optimism of a mere few days ago.) Secretary of State George Marshall links the Red disorders with an attempt to break up the negotiations of a lifting of the Berlin blockade. He said today that the rioting at Berlin City Hall was part of the Communist plan to seize the local city government and then gave the matter that further interpretation -- Reds trying to sabotage the meetings to settle the blockade question.

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The latest from Moscow pictures the envoys of the western powers waiting to hear from their governments. They are studying the negative results of the discussions the Generals had in Berlin, and require further instructions before asking for another conference at the Kremlin.

At the same time, the western commanders have entered a protest against the new kidnapping of western sector German policemen. Nineteen of these were seized early today, as they left the Berlin City Hall in the Soviet sector - where they had remained during the Red rioting. They were given a Soviet "safe conduct." But this was immediately violated when German Communist police and Russian Army soldiers arrested and carried them off. The latest: the Soviet command in Berlin rejects the Western protest, saying that the doings of the German Communists are of no concern of the Russians.

And again there's a menace of Soviet air manoeuvres in the sky lanes used by the food planes. The Russians today announced massive air maneuvers in the corridors along which the food planes are swarming. In

spite of this, the American pilots today established a new record. They flew four hundred and thirty-nine planes to the Templehof Airdrome, with three thousand, three hundred and nineteen tons of supplies -- that much brought in by the Americans alone.

ATLEE

From London the news that British Prime Minister Attlee is ill ~~with duodenal~~^{stomach} ulcer. That is official, from the doctors, who say that the ulcer is not in an advanced stage, that the Prime Minister merely needs to be put on a diet for some weeks. At the same time Attlee has been suffering from excema of the foot - but he is getting over that.

ITALIAN COLONIES

Another international comedy was arranged though today -- though humor and levity would seem to be out of place in the sombre international picture. The United States has accepted the Moscow proposal for a conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four, to settle the question of the former Italian Colonies - by September Fifteenth. This is the eighth of the month - leaving just seven days for a big power meeting to settle a question in which they haven't been able to get anywhere during more than three years.

The American acceptance of the Soviet proposal was made in a diplomatic note sent by Secretary of State Marshall and he is no frivolous jester. Yet even his official diplomatic message could not suppress some sense of the wry comedy. In it Secretary Marshall states bluntly that he thinks the whole thing is a futility. "This government," declares the American note, "is of the opinion that no useful purpose could be served by this meeting, unless the Soviet government has new proposals to make."

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Secretary Marshall states further that although it is to be a conference of Foreign Ministers, he himself will not be able to attend - though he will send what the note calls "a duly qualified representative."

The latest - an announcement earlier today, London announced British, that the Soviets have suggested Sept. 10th as the opening date for the conference of Foreign Ministers. That Italian colony question is what is hardly more than a couple of days for settlement on the Italian Colony question.

The Soviet stand is that the Colonies should be given back to Italy, and France agrees. But Great Britain does not, the British having interests and bases in the colony of Libya and having made promises to the Arabs.

~~Today Secretary ~~Marshall~~ Marshall refused to say what the American attitude is. He merely declared that our policy in the matter has been decided, and that it represents a Bi-partisan agreement with Republican leaders. It is believed that we are taking a middle position, ~~and advocate~~ some sort of compromise.~~

TITO

Moscow takes a final definite step in the Tito trouble behind the Iron Curtain. Hitherto, the Red dictator of Yugoslavia has been assailed savagely by the Cominform and the Red ~~St~~ Satellites -- but not directly by the Soviet government. In fact, Tito, revolting against the international Communist organization has tried to keep up the pretense that he is not in opposition to Soviet Russia at all -- fighting the Cominform and satellites, but not the great God Stalin. During all his rebellion, Tito has been ~~kn~~ kow-towing and uttering homage in the direction of the Lord of the Kremlin. So what have we today?

This comes from (the Central Committee for the Communist party of Soviet Russia,) and is published in Pravda, the newspaper of the Central Committee. A three column article ~~is~~ hurls furious ~~and~~ denunciation at Red Marshall Tito. His government is described in the ~~following~~ following words: "A brutal terrorist regime, with repressions, mass arrests and murders."

This proclamation by the Soviet Communist party confirms the charge against the Yugoslav dictator ~~with~~ ^{the charge of} nationalism. Measures are suggested for what to do about it. (The Yugoslav communists are urged to overthrow Tito and his nationalist policy.)

All of which would seem to end the comedy of hating the ~~an~~ cominform, while loving the Soviets. Tito has now got to hate the Soviets - there's nothing else for ~~in~~ him to do.

In that air of intimidation there was no disturbance in Prague today, as the funeral of Dr. Benes was held. A huge throng in a silent demonstration honoring the former President who had been like a ~~man~~ ^{lovely} figure of liberalism.

In this country, San Francisco, a nephew of Dr. Benes has resigned as Czechoslovakian Consul. On the day of his Uncle's funeral, Bobus Benes, quits the Red diplomatic service - with a bitter excoriation of Communist dictatorship in Czechoslovakia. He calls it -- "a regime of Red Fascism."

BENES

Prague, Czechoslovakia - a huge demonstration of Communist force at the funeral of former President Benes today. Masses of Red police and armed bands of Communist labor were on guard to prevent any demonstration against the dictatorship. After scenes of riot last night the word ~~was~~^{went} out that two hundred people had been arrested.

In that air of intimidation there was no disturbance in Prague today, as the funeral of Dr. Benes was held - huge throngs in a silent demonstration honoring the former President who had been like a ~~lonely~~^{lonely} figure of liberalism.

In this country, ⁱⁿ San Francisco, a nephew of Dr. Benes has resigned as Czechoslovakian Consul. On the day of his Uncle 's funeral, Bohus Benes, quits the Red diplomatic service - with a bitter excoriation of Communist dictatorship in Czechoslovakia. He calls it -- "a régime of Red Fascism."

GEORGIA

Georgia had a primary election today - interesting because of the bearing it has on the racial rights issue in the south. Candidates for Governor - those headline rivals, M. E. Thompson and Herman Talmadge. It was not so long ago when the news told of the legal battle for the ~~governorship~~ governorship, fought out in the courts -- between Thompson and young Talmadge, son of the ^{old} ~~six~~ time Eugene Talmadge, loud advocate of white supremacy. Thompson won out in the courts, and now the contest has been renewed in the primary election.

Herman Talmadge, son of "white supremacy" ~~is~~ Talmadge, campaigned on a ticket of extreme opposition to the racial rights program. ^{Thompson} ~~Thompson~~ was more moderate. So what now do the figures show? Early scattered returns put Herman Talmadge far in the lead. He is ahead in large counties which used to go against his father. One, the county in which Atlanta lies. Talmadge and his racial rights program leading ~~thirty four~~ ^{thirty six} thousand to ~~twenty six~~ ^{thirty seven}

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one third of the precincts in,

thousand. This, in spite of the fact that negroes vote in large numbers in today's Georgia primary.

In the national picture democratic national chairman McGrath tonight, assails former Minnesota Governor Harold Stassen for his reply last night to President Truman.

McGrath derides Stassen as the spokesman for Governor Dewey. He demands - why doesn't Dewey speak for himself?

age of the twenty year old Edith to the forty-nine year old Russian fugitive from the tyranny of Stalin. Nothing to say it, no shock at all - says the bride's father.

Alexander Barzine fought in one of the most prestigious of all these headline escapes from the Red regime. A graduate of the Soviet staff school, he was on diplomatic service abroad, and refused to go back to the Communists' evil empire - as so many others have refused. During the war the one-time Red Army General enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army, and now has married into the Roosevelt family - the Theodore Roosevelt branch.

MARRIAGE

At Northport, Long Island today Edith Kermit Roosevelt, grand-daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, was married to Alexander Barmine, the one-time Soviet diplomat and Red Army General who fled from Communism. There was a quiet wedding, and a denial was issued by the bride's father, Archibald Roosevelt, son of the Great Teddy. Reports were circulated that the Roosevelts were "shocked" by the marriage of the twenty year old Edith to the forty-nine year old Russian fugitive from the tyranny of Stalin. Nothing to say it, no shock at all - says the bride's father.

Alexander Barmine figured in one of the most prominent of all those headline escapes from the Red regime. A graduate of the Soviet staff school, he was on diplomatic service abroad, and refused to go back to the Communist utopia -- as so many others have refused. During the war the one-time Red Army General enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army, and now has married into the Roosevelt family -- the Theodore Roosevelt branch.

SHIP

From the port of Cartagena, in the Republic of Colombia, comes the tragic story of the Circus ship. This was a small motor vessel under the flag of Honduras, which carried the Razzore circus - the performers, the animals. Today Cartagena received a radio message stating that a Norwegian steamer had picked up a drifting lifeboat with twelve survivors of the circus ship.

The traveling show, owned and operated by a Brazilian, played a circuit around the Caribbean. They left Havana, bound for Cartagena, and aboard were fifty-six persons - and sixty trained animals. A few days out, the disaster came. A tropical storm in the dead of night, and the circus ship capsized and sank.

It happened so suddenly, that only one lifeboat could be launched, saving twelve persons -- and it is feared that the remainder must have perished. This happened on September First, and the survivors were adrift for ~~ix~~ seven days -- undergoing the

privations of an open boat under the tropical sun.

The afternoon American planes from the canal zone were scouting the area of the disaster -- in the faint hope of finding more survivors of the circus ship.

KING

In England, the town of Brunswick, an aged man applied for a food ration card today. He filled out a form, and handed it to the town clerk, who glanced at the application and then ~~stared~~ stared at the old man. On the form the following was filled in: "Name, Otto Witt; age seventy-seven; occupation, ex-king."

The town clerk thought it must be some kind of a joke, but the applicant said: "I used to be King of Albania. I held the Albanian throne for five days in Nineteen Thirteen as Otto the ~~First~~ First." To which he added a story that sounds like a classical comedy -- especially if true.

It was back in the days before World War One when the small country of Albania, in the Balkans, was a sort of international football - the great powers maneuvering ^{the} the business of putting a king on the Albanian throne. The mountaineers of Albania needed some sort of sovereign - and they, themselves,

were agitated by the question of who should be king.

At that time Otto Witt was a carnival man traveling around from one country to another with a ~~xxxx~~ show he owned. His journeying took him into Albania, where one day the carnival landed in a mountain town -- and things proceeded to happen.

In the show business of the traveling troupe, the owner Otto Witt played the part of a Turkish Prince -- with a magnificent turban and royal robes. He looked like the terrible Turk in all his glory. The town in question was in a Mohammedan section of Albania, and the local Moslems took one look at the carnival owner and thought: -- "here is the King for us!" What could be more ~~perfect~~ perfect than to make a Turkish Prince the sovereign of Albania?

Those followers of the prophet had never before seen anyone who looked half as much like Mohammedan royalty ^{as did Otto Witt.} The proprietor of the show, all dressed up, ^{to them} seemed like a sultan out of the "Arabian nights".

Today Otto Witt, at the food ration office in

Brunswick, England, related how they took him to an old mountain castle, and there proclaimed him King. There was a coronation with as much ~~gaa~~ gaudy magnificance as anything he had in his carnival.

He stuck it out for five days, and then got away - realizing, I suppose, that sooner or later the Mohammedan villagers would find out that a Turkish Prince in a carnival ~~mg~~ might be something less than a caliph of Baghdad.

Such was the story he told today, ^{he} Signing himself Ex-King, he got his ration card. —

And what ^{have} you got - Jay Simms.