

FRANCE

R.I. - P.S. Wed., Nov. 12, 1947.

The critical situation in France and Italy is headlined by the news from those two countries.

In France today, a powerful declaration was made by General Charles DeGaulle, ^{who,} after his astonishing victory in the recent Frach election, speaks with the most influential single voice in France.- And now he summons France to join in an alliance with the United States and Great Britain.

He told a conference of newspapermen that the power of Communism is the greatest menace that France has ever faced - a greater menace even than Hitler. Because, said he, there is a large Communist Party in France, ready to do the bidding of totalitarian dictatorship, DeGaulle said there was a possibility of war, and therefore advised a French policy of military alliance with the United States and Great Britain.

This DeGaulle statement is underscored by news from the great French seaport of Marseilles, where a Communist mob today stormed the city hall, and beat up the newly elected mayor. This was Red reaction to the

French election, with its victory for the General who led national resistance to the Nazis. Mayor Carlini of Marseilles was elected as a follower of the E DeGaulle, and today was the victim of Communist violence - the police intervening to save him.

In Italy, violence was still more ominous -
(Reds on the rampage in the great industrial city of Milan. All over Italy, during the past few days, there have been clashes and killings,) battles between anti-Communists and the Reds. Today a mob in Milan stormed the headquarters of a newspaper of the Common Man Party, bitterly anti-Communist. It was only the intervention of powerful forces of police which kept them from similarly destroying a Catholic newspaper. The demonstration ended with the Reds in possession of the great square of the Cathedral of Milan, yelling mobs and Communist harangues in the shadow of the famous Duomo, one of the world's masterpieces of gothic architecture.

PALESTINE

More trouble in Palestine - a clash between British Troops and Irgun Zvai Leumi. The underground army of Jewish extremists was holding training exercises in a forest, when the British appeared. There was an exchange of gunfire and grenade explosions, a battle that lasted ~~n~~ for an hour. Four members of Irgun Zvai Leumi, including ~~the~~ two girls, were killed. This ~~was~~ the first clash since the British announced their ~~intention~~ intention to withdraw from Palestine.

HUNGARIAN

Today a fugitive from Communist terror reached American safety - and found himself a victim of a tragic misapprehension. He is Zoltan Pfeiffer, Chief of the Democratic opposition in Hungary, who fled from the Red tyranny that has captured his native land.

~~(With his wife and small daughter, he arrived first in England, and then they took an airliner across the Atlantic. But Zoltan Pfeiffer was tense and harried, and refused to speak - until he was sure of the safety of the new world. It was only when the plane was a mere four hours from Newfoundland, when there was no chance of being forced back to Europe - that he broke that silence imposed by the fear of the Reds. Then he asked to see a newspaperman who was aboard the plane, Clinton Conger, United Press Manager for Germany. To Conger he told his story.)~~

He related ^{today} how the peasant party in Hungary fought against the mounting terror imposed by the Communists - Red Dictatorship run by Rakosi, one-time member of the Moscow Comintern. Pfeiffer told how the

Red secret police of Hungary, aided by the dread NKVD of Soviet Russia, went around in American-made jeeps, lend-lease, and rounded up opponents of the Soviet dominated despotism. In the liberal groups, friends would disappear - the^{N)} after some time, they would be brought forward making confessions and accusations - the old Soviet way of producing stage-managed confessions.

One by one, the leaders of the peasant party got out of the country to save their lives, or went underground. In June, Premier Nagy, made his escape - headlined at the time. He is in the United States now. Then the peasant leader, priest, Bela Varga, hit the ~~main~~^{next} underground trail. [^]the fight was carried on by Deszlo Sulyok, until it became too dangerous - and he went underground. That left Zoltan Pfeiffer, who in the Hungarian Parliament assumed the leadership of the Anti-Communist opposition.

In August, during the election campaign, three hundred Communist^s broke up a peasant party rally, and beat Pfeiffer so badly that he was unconscious for two

days. But still he continued the fight for freedom in Hungary, until he knew it meant his life. Today he stated: "I played along right into the shadow of the noose."

Aboard the plane, with the ~~xxx~~ safety of the new world virtually in sight, he broke his silence about how he escaped. He said that, disguised by thick glasses and covered by a huge coat, he worked his way to the border of Austria - trudging on foot, riding in farm carts, aided along an underground escape route. But still he didn't dare to cross into Austria, until he got word that his wife Magda, together with their five year old daughter, had got out of Hungary. The Reds have a way of holding families as hostages - as they ~~have~~ held the small son of the fugitive Premier Nagy. At last, Zoltan Pfeiffer received a message - his wife and daughter were across the border. Then he himself ~~xxxxxx~~ crossed - to safety in the British Zone.

In telling of his flight from the tyranny behind the iron curtain, the fugitive carefully refrained from mentioning things that might give a tip to the ~~in~~

methods of the anti-Communist underground. But he did admit one thing.

"Yes", he said, "I heard about the company of Hungarian soldiers who surrendered in Austria. They helped to cover my escape."

But there was one thing he didn't know - the company of Hungarian soldiers, ~~who~~ after helping him made a mistake. They did get into Austria - but, without realizing, they surrendered to the Austrian authorities in the Soviet Zone. They have not been heard of since! Only one man of them got to the safety of the British Zone.

(As an addenda to this, let's look at a dispatch from Stockholm - something concerning the flight from the Reds of Polish peasant leader Mikolayczyk, now in the United States. He took the underground trail ~~through~~ through the iron curtain with two companions, and the question was what happened to them? En route they were separated. So now we have word about one of the two Stefan Korbonsky, secretary to ~~Mik~~ Mikolayczyk. He has arrived safely in Stockholm, on his way to England.)

U.N.

(The United Nations has passed a resolution condemning Franco Spain. This was done today, in spite of objections by the United States. The Soviet^s people wanted a declaration of economic sanctions against the Franco Regime; but, that was turned down in a compromise that provides for a mere scolding.)^{IP} The United States delegation abstained from voting, the resolution carried by a large majority.

CROPS

Washington gives us an unfavorable report on the prospect of crops for next year. The planting of winter wheat has been seriously delayed by the drought in the western states. More than half of the winter wheat belt has been hit - particularly in the one-time dust bowl of the Southwest. And the news about corn is not so good, - the Department of agriculture cutting down its previous estimate of corn production. Last year we had a record-breaking bumper crop of nearly two billion, five ~~hundred~~ hundred million bushels - while this year's corn will be ~~more~~ more than eight hundred millions bushels short of that.

AUTO WORKERS

At the Auto Workers Convention in Atlantic City today, the victory was complete for the newly reelected President of the Union, Walter Reuther and his right wing supporters. Reuther's bitterest opponent has been former President of the Auto Workers R.J. Thomas, who has since been a Vice President. He today was ousted, in a clean sweep for the Reuther-led right wing.

HUGHES

The financial affairs of General Bennett Meyers went into new and remarkable disclosures today - the war time chief of Army Aircraft procurement testifying that he bought four million dollars of government bonds on a one per cent margin. He told the Senate investigating committee that he went into this financial transaction after getting an impression from wartime secretary of the treasury Morgenthau.

In answer to this, Morgenthau issued a statement that he never had any such conversation as General Meyers describes - but the General declares the Secretary of the Treasury told him that government bonds would be supported, and this is represented as a sort of unconscious tip that it would be a good thing to put money into bonds on margin. So ~~whx~~ he margined four million dollars worth - which, he said, gave him a paper profit of ninety thousand ~~million~~ dollars.

Yesterday Howard Hughes, the millionaire plane builder, testified that General Bennett ~~Meyers~~ Meyers asked him for a loan of two hundred thousand dollars for

the transaction in bonds.

Today, the General said it was the other way around, that Hughes offered him two-hundred-and-fifty thousand dollars for the bond business and Meyers turned it down.

It's all mighty complicated, not to say contradictory - in the matter of who asked for two-hundred thousand and who offered two-hundred-and-fifty thousand, or who did what.

CHURCH

There was a uproarious disturbance today at a Baptist convention in Texas. At Amarillo, the convention was scheduled to be addressed by Dr. Louis Newton, Churchman of Atlanta, Georgia. The trouble began, when up rose a Fundamentalist pastor from Fort Worth, Texas, the Reverend William Frazer. He shouted that the Atlanta Baptist leader should not be permitted to speak. He charged that Dr. Louis Newton was, in the words of the Fort Worth pastor, "A friend of Stalin."

In the convention of twenty-five hundred, there was an attempt to drown out the disturbances by singing a hymn. But above the singing shouts rose, supporting the pastor from Fort Worth, as he protested about the Communism and Stalin. While other voices roared -- "Throw him out."

This latter advice was taken and there was something of a battle -- as the dissenting Fundamentalist minister, the Reverend frazer, Fort Worth who disliked Communism and Stalin, was ejected -- thrown out.

ECLIPSE

There was an eclipse of the sun today, visible along the Pacific Coast of North and South America, from Alaska to Peru. At San Francisco, observers saw the moon pass slowly across the lower rim of the sun, blotting out almost ninety percent of the sunlight and bringing an eerie darkness to the earth -- the sun hidden except for a narrow band that circled the dark of the moon like a blazing ring.

This eclipse of the sun, which reached its maximum in California, was practically an all Pacific affair, hardly noticeable on the Atlantic seaboard where the edge of the moon nearly kissed the bright rim of the sun. Astronomers say that this eclipse was not very important for the scientific point of view, because the moon, today, was at its maximum distance from the earth, but for the Indians down in South America, the eclipse of the sun is an important event celebrated with feasting and

FLYING DISCS

(Those flying discs are here again. From Seattle Washington tonight, second officer Claude Williamson of the tanker Ticonderoga reports having seen two flying discs trailing jet like streams of fire, moving at a tremendous speed out of the north horizon and curving in a westerly direction in long, low archs.)

"I can't be sure" says Williamson, "but I'd say these discs were travelling at seven hundred to nine hundred miles per hour." Was Second Officer Williamson just seeing things? Well, beside him on the bridge of the Ticonderoga was Ordinary Seaman James Lynde, and Lynde says he also saw those flying discs. So now I suppose we can ~~not~~ expect a whole crop of flying disc stories.

PLANES

The President's airplane was grounded today - along with all others of the new Douglas D.C. 6 type of luxury airliner. Secretary of State Marshall, going to the Foreign Ministers' meeting in London, on November Twentieth, was scheduled to fly in the Presidential plane Independence. But now he'll take the older sky craft the Sacred Cow - *the Douglas DC 4.*

The grounding of the DC 6s was at the recommendation of the Douglas Company itself - after unexplained fires aboard two of those new and sumptuous liners of the air. One, ~~was~~ the dark disaster in Utah several weeks ago, The other, ~~the 1 airplane fire we heard about last night~~ *the* lucky affair ~~this time~~ *with* the pilot landing ~~the~~ *that* airliner safely in New Mexico yesterday. All DC 6s are grounded until an investigation can be made of what caused the unexplained fires?

This will not disrupt airplane travel to any extent - since there are only a few of the super-luxury airliners in operation, most passenger planes being the previous types, which are not involved in the fire hazard.

PLANE.

Today in the mountains of the west, an airplane was flying over rugged ~~xxxx~~ peaks along the border of Wyoming and Utah, when the pilot spied two people on top of Mt. Gilbert, a peak more than thirteen thousand feet high. On the summit were a man and a woman who ran around waving frantically at the pilot overhead. Near them was the wreckage of an airplane.

The whole thing turns out to be a case of almost miraculous survival. The man and woman are a ~~xxx~~ young doctor, ^{Robert Dyke of Taft, Calif.,} and his wife - - who took off four days ago in a small plane of their own, returning to California from a vacation in the mountains. They crashed on top of Mt. Gilbert, and have been there ever ~~since~~ since, in the bitter cold and high altitude.

People who know them say they were probably ~~a~~ able to survive because of the doctor's medical knowledge. He's not only a physician himself, but his father ^{is} a prominent physician. Two of his brothers are doctors and two others are ~~dentists~~ dentists - a medical family indeed. Well, I suppose it does come in handy to

know the science of medicine, when you are in a crackup with your wife on top of a thirteen thousand foot mountain, as winter comes to the Rockies.

Sheriff Frank Narramore of Evanston, who is leading the ground rescue party, says it may take a couple of days to reach the stranded fliers. Much depends on travel conditions. Meanwhile, Army Air Force and private pilots have dropped food and sleeping bags to Doctor ~~Robert~~ Dyke, ~~of Taft, California,~~ and his wife, to sustain them in the ~~bit~~ bitter temperature. One pilot who flew low over the red winged cabin cruiser crashed on the side of the snow-covered peak, said both the doctor ~~and~~ and his wife appeared to be in good shape -- a little surprising for two people, who have spent four days and nights without food and shelter at thirteen thousand feet.

Tonight, rescue parties are on their way going as far as possible up the slopes of Mount Gilbert on horseback and then taking ~~to~~ to snow-shoes and skis.

I wish we were taking part in that rescue on skis, don't you, Nelson?