

CONFERENCE

P. G. - *Sensco. Tues., May 14, 1946.*

The news from Paris uses the word -- "ultimatum."
The description is applied to the proposal made by
Secretary of State Byrnes today before the Council of
Foreign Ministers. ^R The Council is deadlocked with
disagreement all along the line. Today the subject of ^{the} _A
terms of peace for conquered Germany was taken up, and
a more violent dispute than ever seems inevitable on
that point. The meeting is obviously about to break
up, and Byrnes has set forth a plan to bring things to
life again -- at a future date. ^{TT} The plan, which ^{is} _{is}
characterized ^{as a} _{as} virtual ultimatum, ^{is} _{is} for the Council
of Foreign Ministers to adjourn immediately, and adopt
a date for another meeting. The date proposed by the
American Secretary of State is for June Fifteenth.
This next meeting, according to the Byrnes proposal,
will do the thing that has been ^{the} _{the} major idea all along -
to call a general peace conference ^{of} _{of} the United Nations.

It certainly would seem that Molotov will
reject this, as he's been rejecting one thing after
another. The Soviet attitude is that peace treaties in

Europe must be drawn up by the big powers, and then presented to a peace conference for a rubber stamp okay. Byrnes has previously proposed that, since the Foreign Ministers couldn't agree on terms of treaties -- *go ahead and* why, [^]summon a peace conference anyway?. Today he repeated that suggestion more ~~em~~ emphatically than ever -- and more definitely. He demanded that the Foreign Ministers, meeting again on June Fifteenth, should call a conference for July First or perhaps July Fifteenth.

Also -- include a treaty with Austria in the program for ^athe peace conference. *And,* -- revise the ~~present~~ present armistice terms with Italy -- that to be done at the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

The angle that makes the Byrnes proposal sound like an ultimatum is this: He gave warning that, unless a peace conference is called, something will be done about the matter of treaties anyway. If the Soviets continue to block a conference, ^{other} ~~xxxxxx~~ measures will have to be taken. The implication was -- that the Western democracies would go ahead and make peace on their

own -- conclude a treaty with Italy, in particular.

This idea has already been advanced in government circles in Washington. ^R The Allies, who won the war, are, of course, pledged not to make a separate peace with anybody. But, when Soviet Russia insists on keeping things tied up -- the formal state of war, which still exists, cannot go on forever. And the Western democracies are particularly anxious to make a peace treaty with Italy -- to enable that country to take its place in a family of nations.

BASES

The British have no idea of turning any Pacific island bases over to the United States. This, we hear, British Foreign Secretary Bevin has told American Secretary of State Byrnes. There has been talk that this country might be given several British islands in the Pacific to use as strategic bases, but Britain will not consider anything of the sort - said Bevin to Byrnes.

However, the British are said to agree that the American armed forces should have access to ~~British~~ bases under the British flag, a kind of joint plan. This, we hear, would be a sort of regional program for South Pacific defense. ^A ~~The~~ partnership arrangement between Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the United States - all of which would share the use of the island bases. Such an arrangement, it is pointed out, would have nothing to do with sovereignty, and the British flag would still fly over bases which we Americans would be entitled to use.

BRUTALITY CASES

In Germany, General McNarney spoke sternly today about the much debated brutality trials - prosecution^s for the mistreatment of American soldier prisoners at Lichfield, in England. The Commander of American troops in Europe told a press conference that the trials have been mishandled, and he ordered an immediate review of the proceedings. General McNarney denied charges that attempts had been made to cover up the offenses. He explained that the trouble had been that some higher officers had failed to appreciate the seriousness of the brutality trials, and had failed to take prompt action. The result has been blasts of unfavorable publicity which, in the words of General McNarney, "are not doing the Army any good."

~~Six ~~xxxxxx~~ officers and nine enlisted men were ordered to trial. The proceedings began last fall in London, and thus far only two cases have been~~

MERGER

It looks as if the Navy has been brought into line finally on the subject of a unified command.

President Truman today told both branches of the armed forces to get busy and work out an agreement by May

Thirty-First -- a unified command arrangement. He

presented these instructions to the Secretaries of War

and Navy. ~~and that would seem to mean an end to the~~

~~opposition ^{the} Navy has been putting up in stubborn~~

~~fashion. From the President, being Commander in Chief,~~

~~orders are orders - and we may look for an impending~~

~~settlement of the bitter dispute, about a new set-up~~

~~for the command of the armed forces of the nation.~~

FOOD

The Government is taking over twenty-five per cent of this year's wheat crop - ammunition for the battle against famine abroad. Wheat will be bought from the farmers, as they deliver the crop to the grain elevators. One-fourth of this year's total means two hundred and fifty million bushels of wheat.

All of which will ^{necessitate} ~~see~~ a further cut of the bread supply in this country. There'll be a reduction of fifteen per cent, beginning on July First. Also, it means - less beer. Smaller amounts of grain will be available to manufacture beverages.

Today, Stabilization Director Bowles took issue with former President Hoover on the subject of - rationing. Returning from his round-the-world study of the menace of hunger, Herbert Hoover gives the opinion that there is no need of rationing - not right now, anyway. He believes that the present measures being taken

will suffice - at least until we've had a chance to see whether the world harvest in Nineteen Forty-Six will overcome the gravest peril of famine abroad. Chester Bowles does not agree with this. In a news conference today, he insisted that a return to rationing might be necessary in this country within the next sixty days. The next two months will tell the story, says he.

GIBSON

I was talking today to our radio friend, Hugh Gibson - ~~has~~ just ⁱⁿ ~~returned~~ from the Herbert Hoover trip-around-the-world to study famine conditions. And I asked him - how could the Ex-President and his party gain so much information and do so much negotiating, while making a series of brief stops in one country after another, twenty-six countries in all. They couldn't be more than a few days in any one place, and sometimes only a few hours - mighty little time in which to study the shortages of food and arrange plans with local governments to fight the famine.

Hugh Gibson explained that, in the first place, former President Hoover took with him old time associates, experts ~~assistants~~ on food relief - men who had worked with him during the years following the first World War, when the name of Herbert Hoover became synonymous with feeding millions in many countries. So he had an experienced team, accustomed to cooperate in dealing with problems

of relief. ^{TP} They had, in advance, all available data about the food situation in the countries to which they traveled. This they studied, and figured out further things they wanted to know. ^{TP} These questions they wired to American diplomatic attaches in the various countries, and these representatives started the inquiry going, and had the answers to questions ready when the Hoover party got there. In this way, there was little need for time-wasting talk; and the Hoover group, with each man assigned to a special angle, could come straight to the point - with final inquiries and a suggestion of plans. In that way they were able to cover so much ground and do a round-the-world job with such speed.

MEDICAL FUND

Dr. Harlow Shapley, of Harvard, announces a nation-wide campaign for medical research. Dr. Shapley is the head of what is called the Medical Memorial Fund. The plan is to raise millions for research, especially for research that will help to eliminate those diseases which each year disable or kill the largest number of people and which as yet have only small sums available for research.

Dr. Shapley uses this telling argument: "If in war we can spend billions for research to develop the atomic bomb, then, in peace, we can well afford a few millions for medical research" to make it possible for men to live longer.

He estimates that the spending of ten ~~xxx~~ million a year would make a fantastic difference.

MEDICAL FUND - 2

This he and his colleagues hope to raise through
the Medical Memorial Fund.

STRIKE

In the coal dispute, John L. Lewis presented a demand today - a demand large and formidable, a Seventy Million Dollar demand. That's how much Lewis wants per year for the Union Welfare Fund, - ~~The~~ Companies to contribute.

Originally, the Union idea was to impose a royalty on coal - so much per ton to be paid into the Union treasury for the Welfare Fund. That royalty idea has been dropped in favor of what is called - "a payroll tax." That is, the Companies would be required to contribute a percentage of ~~the~~ payroll^s to the Welfare Fund. The question was - how much? Today John L. Lewis answered, and it was much indeed - a payroll tax of Seventy Million Dollars a year. That sum to be contributed annually to a Welfare Fund.

A spokesman for the Companies calls the demand - "a ridiculous pipe-dream."

And so, negotiations are deadlocked. President Truman asked the Companies and the Union to work out a contract by tomorrow, the deadline. But that ~~is not~~ ^{seems} unlikely to happen, and even the remainder of the two week strike truce seems little enough time to accomplish anything in the face of the Seventy Million Dollar demand.

Meanwhile, Congress is talking still about a law to curb Lewis. (A proposal had been made for a bill to outlaw the royalty on coal that Lewis had demanded in the first place. And now the legislators are threatening to put a ban on the payroll tax - the present scheme.)

Meanwhile, coal production in Pennsylvania is reported to be only thirty-six per cent of normal, because ^{those} seventy-six thousand miners have rebelled against the strike truce ordered by John L. Lewis: they refused to return to work.

RAILROADS

At the White House this afternoon, Company and Union representatives gathered in an attempt to avert the railroad strike - set for Saturday. President Truman called the meeting, and the latest is that both sides agreed to reopen negotiations. They're doing that immediately - negotiations to be resumed in just a few minutes from now, seven P.M. in Washington. ~~The~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ So there's hope left that a railroad strike can be avoided - a walkout that would tie up the nation's transport.

MUSSOLINI

The strange doings in the case of the late Benito Mussolini, take a new turn in the news from Rome today. While the police are still searching for the body of the one-time Fascist Duce, which was stolen from a cemetery at Milan, they've arrested a man in connection with the disappearance of ~~the~~ Mussolini treasure. It seems that, in trying to escape from Italy, the fallen Black Shirt Dictator took with him a great hoard of wealth, a fortune in foreign banknotes, gold and jewels.

The man arrested today is named Barbieri, who was a leader of Partisan forces in the mountains around Lake Como. He was a member of the Partisan band that seized ~~Mussolini as he tried to get across the Italian border~~ ~~into Switzerland.~~ They executed Mussolini and his sweetheart, Clara Petacci. That, of course, was published far and wide - but there was one thing that remained untold. The treasure that Mussolini was taking along in

his attempt to escape; ^{that} - disappeared. The bank notes, the gold, the jewels - vanished. That is - the Partisan band carried away the loot.

The disclosure now is that Partisan Leader Barbieri has in his possession a huge sum of money - and fails to explain how he got it. The police say that recently, he had an expensive villa built. So they've arrested him - on the charge of having taken part in the theft of the Mussolini treasure.

To all of which another interesting twist is added. The police state that this Partisan leader, before joining the anti-Fascist, anti-German insurrection, had been a pro-Nazi collaborator, helping the Hitler forces in Italy. That makes him an all the more curious figure - now found in possession of part of the wealth with which the one-time Dictator tried to escape.

STATUE

A strange story comes from the island of Ceylon, where the Mayor of a town makes public a letter that he has received from Canada. The town in question is at the site of the ^{ruined} city of Anuradhapura, which in bygone days was a superb metropolis - now a scene of fallen palaces and temples. The letter, from Vancouver, British Columbia, is signed Jack Canuck, and it tells the Mayor how, nine years ago, the writer visited the ruins of Anuradhapura. There he did a thing that tourists are often likely to do. He took away a souvenir. In other words, he committed a bit of vandalism. From an ancient statue of Buddha, he broke off an arm, and this sculptured memento he took back to Canada. Not a bad trophy to have in his house - an arm of Buddha, from the famous ruins of Anuradhapura. Now, ^{however}, he was returning it. Jack Canuck wrote he was sending back the arm of Buddha.

He ^{gives} the following explanation: "It has

brought me the devil's own luck," he writes. "I was a wealthy man but now I am a common laborer. I have read," he explains, "that these statues are very sacred -- and, the way it turned out, it must be so.

A vivid example, a dramatic example, of the belief that loot taken from shrines of old, may carry a curse, may bring bad luck.

And now our good luck mascot, Hugh James.