

FORMOSA

L.I. - Decs. Wednesday, January 19, 1955.

President Eisenhower says - he'd like to see the U.N. do something about the "vest pocket" war off the China coast. A good idea - if the international organization could arrange a cease-fire.

The President agrees ~~that~~ with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles - that the island of Yi-kiang-shan, captured by the Chinese Communists, is not important. Which - goes for the whole Tachen chain of islands, off the coast of the mainland. These are two hundred and fifty miles north of Formosa, and are not vital for the defense of that bastion - declared the President. So we won't intervene in their defense. Our Seventh Fleet will not get into the "vest pocket" war, so far as the Tachen Islands are concerned.

Today, the Reds hit the main island of Tachen with a ~~massive~~ ^{heavy} bombing attack - by two hundred planes. And they are, we hear, massing naval forces along the coast - apparently for an invasion of Tachen. The Chiang Kai-shek air force hit back - bombing the mainland.

The Nationalists on Formosa are gloomy - one Chiang

Kai-shek leader saying today: "The Communists are going to take our islands, one by one, and the United States Seventh Fleet is not going to do a thing about it."

The view in Washington is - that we don't want to get involved in a war, because of minor islands a few miles off the China mainland. That sort of thing might be a "powder keg", as President Eisenhower, today, remarked.

ITALY

In Italy, the Communist Party revolt - has been crushed. Togliatti, the Red boss, comes out on top - in a feud that might have disrupted the ranks of the Italian Communists.

Last week, the news told how a secret manifesto had been circulated among the Reds in Italy. Attacking Togliatti - in bitter terms. Charging him with the worst of sins, according to the Marxian gospel - "opportunism, conformism," Also - personal ambition. This emanated from extremists - demanding tougher action. Accusing Togliatti - of too much moderation.

The leader of the rebels was - the number two Red, Secchia (Say-kva) - whom they call "the man who never laughs." His face - grim, unsmiling.

So now the word is - that Secchia has been ousted from his post as a Vice-Secretary of the Italian Communist Party. Likewise - from his all-important job as head of the Central Organizing Committee, which controls the Party machinery.

This - decreed by a vote of the Party Directorate. | Directorate. |
~~Directorate~~ which sent
"the man who never smiles" into virtual exile. Given a minor
post - of a Regional Secretary in Lombardy.

(Another top rebel was - Longo, prominent for years
in Italian Communism. Nothing happens to him at all - but that
was because Longo saw the revolt was failing, and was prudent
enough to ~~steer it~~ ^{get} back into the Togliatti camp. Still other
insurgents have recanted - or have been ousted.)

At the Party showdown, Togliatti was reelected
Secretary General of the Italian Communists - which sealed his
triumph.

All this has wide international implications.

Togliatti was able to crush the revolt only because he had the
backing of the Kremlin. The Malenkov regime - supporting his
tactics of moderation. Seeking a Red victory - by parliamentary
means, and slow Red infiltration. Moscow - frowning on the
policy of violent strikes and revolution advocated by "the man
who never laughs."

SOVIET RESTRICTIONS

Our government has made another move in the game of - tit-for-tat. The game - with Soviet Russia.

Today, Soviet citizens in this country were forbidden to snap photographs of a whole variety of things - military installations, seaports, power plants, and so on. Also, they may not purchase pictures of such things, or large maps.

Several weeks ago, we slapped travel restrictions on Soviet citizens in this country - to match the way the Moscow government keeps our people from x traveling around in Russia. So now - the photographic angle. The Reds - being always jittery about the clicking of cameras.

So it's tit-for-tat again -- which may not sound like the loftiest brand of statesmanship. But mankind wouldn't be mankind - unless it were petty.

EISENHOWER - SECURITY

President Eisenhower has made a special arrangement for handling security cases - in which there's a division of opinion between different agencies of the government. As in the Ladejinsky case - in which the Russian born farm expert was dismissed as a security risk by the Department of Agriculture. Then - hired by the Foreign Aid Administration, under Harold Stassen. The two agencies - at odds on the security status of Ladejinsky.

Today, the President announced that, hereafter, a special unit of the Department of Justice will handle such cases. (If there's a difference of opinion in the security case of any individual, the Department of Justice ^{group} will take over. This - to avoid future controversies - other Ladejinsky cases.)

MARCH OF DIMES

Vice-President Nixon did a skillful job, today - except for one thing. Performed like an expert - except for a slight omission.

The Vice-President worked - as a gasoline station attendant. Filling the tanks, checking the oil, wiping windshields. All - part of the March of Dimes. In Washington, two Amoco stations turned over the profits of the day, to the Polio Fund - and asked the Vice-President to help out. He was more than willing - because he's an old hand at a filling station. He told how, his father's grocery store had a gasoline pump out in front - and young Dick Nixon ran it.

So, today, he sure was an expert - as the first automobile drove up. In it - three young women. "Fill 'er up" they told him. Nixon did, and then checked the oil and wiped the windshield, while news photographers took a lot of pictures.

There was only one thing he forgot - to collect the money. He rang up the amount on the cash register all right - but never thought about the cash.

Later, he did better. When other cars came through, he made sure to collect - for the benefit of the March of Dimes.

Today he said, "I don't think people still...
...called yesterday." That's the reply he gave to...
...the proper...
...of...
...today, Harry Truman told of
...Hoover. "I instructed the
...to call Mr. Hoover -
...called him Mr. President."
...at the White House
...Early Sixty-Six Diner."
...So far
...Harry Truman that
...Mr. President.

TRUMAN

If you should ever happen to meet Harry Truman, you should call him - Mr. President. He's an ex-President, of course - but he deserves the courtesy.

Today he said: "I don't care what people call me. I've been called everything." That's the reply he gave to Etiquette Writer Amy Vanderbilt - who asked about the proper method of address.

In ~~an~~ a news interview, today, Harry Truman told of his custom - with former President Hoover, "I instructed the White House staff," he said, "always to call Mr. Hoover - Mr. President. ^(I, myself, called him Mr. President,) ~~Andixidixexxyxyxyxy~~ at the Nineteen Forty-Six Gridiron Dinner."

^{So far}
~~Which certainly deserves for~~ Harry Truman, that same title - Mr. President.

PRISON

A grim siege is going on at the Massachusetts State Prison. Where, today - a thirty ton tank was brought in to guard against a possible attempt by convict mutineers to shoot their way out. There are four of them - and they^are holding eleven hostages. Five guards - and six convicts, who refused to join the revolt. The present plan is, to ~~starve~~ starve the mutineers into surrender.

Their leader is Teddy Green, a bank robber - who has been rejecting appeals from his own daughter, a girl of sixteen. There's communication by telephone - and, last night, Tobey Green spoke to her father on the phone, and asked him to give in. He refused. Today, she talked with him in person. Approaching the building - while the mutineer chief appeared at a window. But, once more, he rejected his daughter's appeal.

SCOTLAND

The British Royal Air Force was in action - over Scotland, today. Dropping supplies to scores of Highland villages. Snowbound villages - isolated by an immense blizzard. An aircraft carrier of the Royal Navy was navigating off the coast - acting as a base for helicopters on missions of mercy.

Northern Europe is having violent weather - the Highlands of Scotland getting the brunt of it, Caithness and Sutherland. Huge snowdrifts piling up - ~~and~~ ^{-- with} the Scottish Highlands ~~are~~ snowbound.

Further south - it's a story of ~~a~~ ^{the} deluge. In France and Germany - dangerous floods.

ARABIA

Today I've been thinking - about some surprising people I encountered in Arabia. Here's an example.

During ~~my~~ ^{my} stay at the court of King Saud, monarch of desert sands and oil wells - I was shown around by a young sheik, ~~ad~~ Abdulla Bul Ker. But, one day, the sheik had to be with the King. So I was put in charge of another escort.

That morning I was having breakfast alone in a great banquet hall of the palace - enjoying a repast of goat's cheese, olives and pomegranates, straight from the King's

garden. That was when Al Foster came in - a young American, ⁷ ~~gentle, whispering sort.~~ ^{the} ~~gentle, whispering sort.~~ ^{gentle, whispering sort.} - I suppose you'd call him ~~who is a sort of wazir;~~ ^{He's} in charge of the King's personal finances, ^{also} and the royal personal property. ^{Al even} ~~he~~ has to keep a check on the rugs, the furniture, and so on, in the many royal palaces. A unique job, if there ever was one - like something out of a story book.

Al dropped in on me - unannounced. I hadn't heard a word about his being in Riyadh. He told me he was born and raised in Portland, Oregon, and had been there, in Riyadh,

for ten years.

Altho he spoke in a *soft* voice *and* *seemed to have* just above a whisper, ~~with~~ a mild manner - ~~which~~ *that* I later discovered merely concealed a toughness underneath. Which probably explains why he has been ^{there} so long, and why the King has such complete confidence in him. And also - why, when he'd pass along a street, Arabs would point him out and say, "That's FÖSTAAR."

Al took me a few miles outside the city, to the largest oasis I visited. There, we went through the most attractive of the palaces that I saw in Central Arabia.

When he was still Crown Prince, Saud built Bedhia Palace for himself. But one day ^{his father,} the aged ^{King} Ibn Saud, said to his son, "Take me out and show me what you have been doing at Bedhia." And when the King saw it, he liked it so much, that he said, "Fine, I'll move in." And he did.

Whereupon the Crown Prince, in a hurry, sent his men to Bedhia and had them take out all of his spic and span furniture, and replace it with some of

his father's more beaten up things from other palaces. He did this because he knew that the desert bedouins, who were always around their idol, Ibn Saud, would demolish his ornate new furniture.

(All of which added another complication for the young man from Oregon - who some day ought to write the intimate story of his strange life at that Arabian Nights court.)

At Bedhia Palace, Al pointed out a number of sloping ramps, obviously built wherever there had been more than one or two steps, from one big room to another.

Father of Saudi Arabia -

Ibn Saud_h suffered from arthritis during his later years. He was a giant, and finally his legs wouldn't hold him. President Roosevelt, when they met

ARABIA - \$5

Or to play skee ball, an American modified bowling game that the King likes and at which he seems to be a whiz.

Young Foster also said that his stay here at Riyadh might have lengthened because he plays jazz on the piano, and does it in a way that seems to meet favor in the eyes of the monarch who rules over the desert land of camels, date palms and that vast ocean of oil beneath ~~these~~ ^{the} sands.

~~(Anyhow, Al likes life here in Riyadh. He likes the people. And he doesn't want to hurry back to the beautiful City of Roses on the banks of the Willamette River in the shadow of Mount Hood,~~ Young

Al ^{likes} ~~prefers~~ the excitement and the romance that goes with life at the strangest court on earth. ^{TP At any rate} Where all the cars I saw, Hugh, use our Delco Batteries.