

Sokolaki

LT from  
Paris  
May 14, 1937.

L.T. - SUNOCO. FROM PARIS, FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It seems that this brief European jaunt of mine has been just one great spectacle after another. First in Rome, where I talked to you about Mussolini's celebration of Empire Day. Then, night before last, the Coronation in London. Now, in Paris - I have been shown around the coming splendors of the Exposition. Things are approaching completion, the vast structures in the heart of this resplendent capital. My guide and Mentor has been Mr. Edouard Jonas, Exposition Director and Member of the Chamber of Deputies, and M. Locan of the Premier's office. They took me on a tour of the sights that are to be the Great Paris Fair.

It was at their suggestion that I went to Leon Blum, Head of the French Government, and said to the Premier that Americans would like to be told by one who could tell them best of all, by the Premier himself. And Mr. Blum replied that he

would be glad to talk across the sea - to Americans. As one of the first statesmen of Europe he is interested in anything that will promote amity between peoples. So now, Premier Blum- Chief of the Government of the French Republic:-

(Mr. Blum spoke in French.)

"Premier Blum has asked me to tell you in English what he has just said. He spoke as follows:-

"On the eve of the inauguration of the International Exhibition of Paris in which the United States will be so splendidly represented I send this heartfelt greeting to the American people and with it the friendly invitation of France.

"From a great number of Frenchmen who have recently visited **your country,**" the Premier continued, "I have, in these recent months learned with deep joy that our two great democracies are, just now, closer together than they have ever been. There has never been greater sincerity in our common, age-old, aspirations to give nobility to labor, to organize liberty and to consolidate peace.

"Our Exposition will be a great international competition but it is a peaceful competition. Its aim is to exalt the spirit of invention, of enterprise and of daring, to glorify the creative genius of man, his urge for progress, the value of individual and collective effort, the taste for risk, and that desire for something new which lies deep in the heart of mankind and pushes him on to work without faltering to improve and adorn his manner of living."

And now the Premier insists that enough French has been spoken and asks me to continue the remainder of his paragraphs in English. He goes on to say:-

"Even although all the forty-two countries, which are represented on the banks of the Seine at this time, are not animated by the same spirit, they nevertheless form a kind of miniature of that ideal society of nations which is united in its struggle against these universal economic crises which result from the disequilibrium between the means of production which science multiplies and infinitely renews and the limited capacity of consumption which does not increase at the same rate.

To those workers, says he, those technicians and those artists who have suffered so cruelly from unemployment, the Paris Exhibition is intended to restore their faith in the sovereign virtue of work by which alone riches, well being and joy are created, and to reconcile the working classes with the conception that abundance, far from engendering need, should assure eaAB and prosperity to all.

The undertaking, he declares, which we have carried out in the short space of three years and so merits to be regarded as a real tour de force, is, therefore a striking lesson in confidence and energy. At the same time it is **an** appeal to the effective union of the peoples which it will bring together and convoke to common action against these crises of discouragement, racial hatred, useless rivalries born of economic disorder, paradoxical restrictions in the midst of superabundant production and the pernicious councils of want.

In that field, adds the Premier of France, I rejoice to see the people of America and France drawing closer and closer

together in cooperation. We have both passed through the same hard trials, borne the same sacrifices and triumphed over the same obstacles by the application of the same civic virtues, first among which I place collective discipline by free consent.

Then the Premier continues:- "Our destinies have been

united in the past on fields of battle but, as I said some weeks ago on the occasion of George Washington's birthday, however dear these sacred memories may be, we do not wish to see them added to in the same manner. It is in Peace, not in War, that France desires to cultivate American friendship.

"We hold this belief in common that the best way to strengthen Peace is to improve economic intercourse between the nations. To that end we gave recently this example that we signed a monetary and commercial treaty with the United States. And our desire is to continue along this road heartened, encouraged and inspired by the courageous, generous policy of President Roosevelt.

"Some people disquieted by the progress of our mutual affection, trouble-makers who want to profit by what they vainly hope, have told you that France is disturbed by grave division, that Paris is no sure place for foreigners.

"These lies and calculated calomnies scarcely merit a denial. France is calm, as attached to internal order as she is attached to external peace. At no time has Paris presented a more comforting spectacle of security in toil.

"Our American guests can come with every confidence. They will receive here a most affectionate welcome.

"And, too, they should not be influenced by evil reports which seek to discourage them by announcing that a monstrous increase in the price of our hotels and restaurants has taken place. The government has taken all the necessary measures to prevent anything like that from happening and has secured the necessary agreements. No abuse need be feared. If any attempt at speculation should occur, the Government is armed to check it and will not tolerate abuse of any sort."

Then concludes the Premier of France: "Come then and Welcome. You can count on the cordial hospitality of France and of Paris.

Those of you, American Citizens, who cross the ocean to visit our country and the new Exhibition-City which we have built on the winding banks of the Seine in the very heart of Paris, will find here a happy people to welcome you to as beautiful and artistic an eager fete as the capital of France has ever offered."



This is what Premier Blum has to tell us. And I want to tell him that I appreciate the honor of having had on the air with me the chief of one of the great nations of the earth.

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And now for a brief glance at the news as we see it here at midnight in Paris:-

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There are two stories in the news today, that are of predominant interest here in France. The French are a most internationally minded people. Why would not they be - situated at the very focus of international rivalries.

Everywhere you go in Paris, responsible people express their concern for Peace, their desire for a good understanding among the nations. Just as Premier Blum did a moment ago.

So, of the first importance here was that speech made by the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Ciano, in Rome. Those declarations by Mussolini's son-in-law have an especial interest for me, too. When I was in Rome and talked to him, he told me he was working on the address he was to make and he pointed to a sheaf of manuscript he had beside him. I got the impression then that it was to be a most carefully prepared and deliberate address - and it was. As I sat with Count Ciano he mentioned smilingly that, having flown and fought in the Ethiopian War, his job now was to sign Treaties, negotiate agreements and promote Peace and understanding. I did not realize it, but that set the tone of his

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declarations to the Italian Chamber of Deputies yesterday. It was so mild and amicable in tone that it was a regular European surprise - calling for friendship. Between Italy and the other nations, friendship especially with Great Britain. Count Ciano's peace talk was received here in Paris today, with expressions of approval on all sides; although, many Parisians were puzzled by this new Italian gesture of friendship to London, so full of peace and goodwill. After the way Mussolini cold-shouldered the Coronation, who would not be puzzled?

## SPAIN

Here, in Europe, today there is a rather anxious interest in some torn and jagged steel, a great hole torn in the armour plating of a war ship. What was it that blasted those sheets of iron? What kind of explosion struck the vessel? The anxious interest is natural, considering that it was a British warship badly damaged, almost sunk, with lives lost - off the coast of Spain. The nations of Europe, afraid of the spectre of war, are nervous and jittery about any incident that might touch off the long dreaded explosion of international war.

And what incident could be more dangerous than - a British warship torpedoed in the midst of the perilous Spanish trouble? That exactly is one surmise that is being raised today. The newspapers here in Paris are featuring the possibility that (H.M.S. HUNTER may have been torpedoed by a submarine. They say that there is some indication of this. At the port of Almeria, to which the stricken vessel was towed, divers descended and examined the damage below the water line.) They studied that jagged hole of twisted steel. They reported on the condition of those mangled

armour plates, which are indeed a subject of anxious interest.

And the word is -- that there are some signs that might indicate -  
torpedo.

But what nation would make a submarine attack on a British warship? It does not seem likely that any such thing could be the doing of one of the Spanish factions. We have not been hearing that either Franco or the Left-Wingers had any submarines out on the loose. Relations have been strained between Great Britain and Italy, and there are plenty of Italian submarines there in the Mediterranean. An Italian torpedo attack on a ship of the British Navy - that would be something terrifying in its implications. Also - something impossible to think of.

EMBASSY

I passed an hour this afternoon with Ambassador Bullitt at his home and we talked about news from across the sea- the United States. The main topic among the group of us who were there was the strike difficulties in the steel industry, especially the walk-out at the Jones<sup>g</sup> Laughlin Company at Pittsburgh. We wondered how things were turning out there, what the chances were of a settlement after all the turbulent disturbance. What we did not know was that the strike had already been settled - a tentative agreement made. I learned that afterwards, talking to the Editor of the Paris edition of the "New York Herald-Tribune." That's as much news as had got here at the moment.

There is one bit of American news that I did not discuss with Ambassador Bullitt - that story about Ambassador Dodd. You all know better than I the stir created in the U.S.A. by the dictatorship talk attributed to our emissary in Berlin. The Paris newspapers tell us something of the uproar caused by Ambassador Dod's<sup>d</sup> letter to a Senator in Washington - a letter in which he told of a millionaire ready to back dictatorship in the United States. I had enough tact to refrain from asking Ambassador

Bullitt for any information about that. The theme was altogether too ambassadorial. Bill Bullitt - not Bull Billet as I once accidentally referred to him on the air - is one of the most genial chaps on earth, but also one of the most discreet. So I kept silent then, and it's time for me to be silent now. And So Long Until we hear from George Sokolsky on Monday.