

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

Soviet Russia has asked the Chief-of-Staff of the U.S. Air Force, General Nathan Twining, ^{to send some} ~~and other~~ top American air officers / to ~~send~~ a Russian air celebration in Moscow.

The date - June Twenty-Fourth. This was disclosed by the Soviet Embassy today, and the invitation is being considered at the Pentagon.

^{The} ~~This~~ announcement followed a Washington dispatch

indicating - that the American joint Chiefs-of-Staff might visit Soviet Russia. The heads of the Army and Navy, as well as the Air Force. Both the White House and the Defense Department stated that an invitation to the joint Chiefs-of-Staff ^{might} ~~would~~ be ~~accepted~~ ^{accepted}. Although - no invitation has been received as yet.

This was in reply to queries about a story in the New York Daily News, which said informal feelers for such a visit had been made by Moscow. Our joint Chiefs-of-Staff -- asked to come over and inspect the Soviet armed forces.

BDDHA

One of the greatest of religious observances began, today, in India - at Bodhgaya, in the Indian state of Behar. This is a supreme event in the world of Buddhism, celebrating a twenty-five hundredth anniversary in connection with Gautama Buddha, the Light of Asia, who taught the ~~great~~ doctrine of Nirvana.

More than a thousand Buddhist monks from all over Asia participated in the ceremonies at Mahabodhi Vihara, a seventeen hundred year old shrine, reputed to be the oldest temple in the world. Nearby is the "Bodhi Tree", where the Prince of India, meditating under the tree, attained that spiritual perfection, which the Buddhists call "Bodhi."

There was a huge ceremony in the lighting of lamps - six thousand oil lamps lighted by two women. One, British born, Mrs. Freda Bedi, wife of an Indian. The ancient temple reverberated with the chant of prayers, the throbbing of drums, and the melody of many flutes.

In Burma, too, there are huge observances. In a large cave outside Rangoon, twenty-five hundred young men went through the ritual of becoming Buddhist monks. A hundred thousand people attended the ceremony, headed by President Ba-U and Premier U-Nu. of Burma.

ROME

A dispatch from Rome tells of a concert, a piano recital - and seldom has a more melancholy story been told. The pianist, Rina Del Liguoro - who, years ago, was a great beauty of the films. In the years after World War One, she was a star of the old silent movies - and the toast of Europe.

When her career as a film star ended, she decided - she'd have another career. She'd be a concert pianist. So she studied for years - and now, at last, was ready for her debut as a pianist.

When she stepped out on stage at the Quirino Theatre, what did she see? A vast emptiness. There were seventy people in the audience. She had given free tickets to fifty, and there were twenty who paid.

But she smiled, and began a Bethoven sonata - Opus Twenty-Seven.

She played a few bars, and then stopped. She got up,

turned
~~spoke~~ to the audience, and said:

"I am sorry. You must forgive me. I cannot play to

an empty house. I thank the fifty persons who are here on invitations I sent out. But above all, I thank the twenty who bought tickets."

Then she courtsied, and left the stage. Saying - she'd try no more in music.

So that was the debut of the one-time film star as a concert pianist. Her first recital - and her last. Ave Atque Vale, as the Romans used to say, Hail and Farewell.

SPIDER

At Ironton, Ohio, there was a fire in the home of J. B. Williams. A case - of arson. So who was the firebug? In this case, "bug" is exactly the word. A spider - set the blaze.

Fire Captain Fred Freeman says that, in the basement of the Williams home, a big spider spun a heavy web from a wooden door - to the pilot light of the cellar furnace. The web caught fire, and carried the flame to the wooden door. And the next thing you know - the house was ablaze.

So it's no figure of speech to say - firebug.

JOKE

On my desk here at CBS, today, I found a sheet of paper - with the drawing of what looked like a cat - and, well, it looked a little like a man, too.

It was the doing of some wag in the news room, who titled it "The Catman" and wrote a question at the bottom of the page. Asking: "What does a cat man do?"

Well, we'll have to ask Lowell Thomas about that. He's been out there at the capital of remote Nepal, and should be able to answer the question. "What does a cat man do at Katmandu?" Maybe he feeds the kitty - if the Nepalese play poker.

Anyway, we'll soon have some new reports from Lowell, some recorded travel notes, as he journeys in lands of the Himalayas.

FROGMAN

Over in Europe, there's a sensational story about the disappearance of the British frogman, Commander Lionel Crabb. The statement is that the ~~Russia~~ Russians trapped him, as he was doing an under-water spy job, and brought about his death.

This account is printed in a Swiss newspaper, which says it has the story from Stockholm. Sources in the Swedish capital are quoted.

They say at Portsmouth, that the frogman was inspecting the hull of the cruiser, which brought Bulganin and Khrushchev to Britain. And, aboard the warship, sailors caught sight of him. The Russians then jammed the frogman's radio connection with shore, and switched on what the Swiss newspaper calls "magnetic installations." There's no explanation of what these might have been. But the "magnetic installations" are said to have drawn the frogman against the hull of the ship until his air supply ran out, and he perished.

The story, with its "magnetic installations", has a fantastic sound. But the stubborn secrecy covering the affair encourages weird reports - and there have been plenty of these.

POLAND

In Red Poland, since the end of World War Two, the anti-Communist underground has killed thirty thousand members of the Secret Police, Communist Party officials and soldiers of the Red regime. This figure does not emanate from anti-Communist sources, but from a Communist newspaper in Poland.

The statement is made in an oblique way. The newspaper discusses the more liberal policy, since the down-grading of Stalin. With a declaration of amnesty - under which leaders of the underground have been surrendering. So now, asks the newspaper - who is to be punished for the anti-Communist guerrilla warfare? "Who," demands the article, "will be made responsible for deaths of about thirty thousand Communist Party functionaries, members of the People's Army and security organs, killed by enemies of the People's regime?"

This is the first time the Polish press has published casualty figures in the war between the underground and the Reds.

EGYPT

Premier Nasser of Egypt will go to Red China - on a visit of state. This was announced in Cairo today, where the head of a Chinese trade delegation called on Nasser, and invited him. The Egyptian Premier - accepting.

This follows Egypt's diplomatic recognition of Red China, and is likely to cause new uneasiness in Washington.

CYPRUS

On the island of Cyprus, British troops, today, hurled tear gas bombs - at Turks. The British - taking measures to prevent a possible civil war between Turks and Greeks. Last night, a Turkish-Cypriote policeman was killed in the city of Paphos. This aroused the Turkish minority to fury, and today mobs in three cities attacked Greek stores with stones, and went storming with shouts of "revenge". The tear gas was used to disperse them.

SAILORS

The Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee calls upon the federal government to oust two top Soviet officials at the United Nations. Chief Soviet U.N. Delegate Sobolev - and the First Secretary of the delegation, Ekimov. This is in connection with the alleged kidnapping of five Russian refugee sailors, who were granted political asylum in this country, and then returned home. The Sub-Committee, which ~~is investigating~~ ^{investigated} the affair, charges that the Russian staff at the U.N. used "coercion, force and duress", in persuading them.

Last month, two lesser members of the Russian staff were expelled from this country. Now the Sub-Committee wants the same treatment for the two top men.

COMMITTEE

The charge of "treason" was hurled freely at a meeting of the Committee on Un-American Activities today. A witness, Louis Wheaton, invoked the First and Fifth Amendments - refusing to answer questions. Wheaton was identified as the Chairman of the U.S. delegation which attended a Communist inspired peace conference in Red China during the Korean War. He wouldn't say how he got his passport, and whether he made Red propaganda speeches.

He was asked in particular, about broadcasts - charging that - U.S. engaged in germ warfare.- Another - stating that American troops in Korea had packed three hundred children into a building, set it on fire, and then machine-gunned mothers trying to rescue the children.

His repeated refusals to answer caused Congressman Scherer of Ohio to hurl the charge of - treason.

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower, today, called for action by the Democratic Congress - on a series of legislative measures, including school and highway construction, civil rights, and foreign aid. The White House does not put a "must" label on the legislative program, but the President says he considers it "very important for Congress to act before it adjourns."

HOUSING

The Senate, this afternoon, passed a bill authorizing the construction of one hundred and thirty-five thousand public housing units per year - for the next four years. ~~In addition~~ In doing so, the lawmakers rejected a more conservative housing program offered by President Eisenhower. The Senate bill now goes to the House of Representatives.

PENNSYLVANIA

Governor Leader of Pennsylvania says Adlai Stevenson should receive more than two-thirds of the Pennsylvania votes on the first ballot at the Democratic National Convention. The Pennsylvania delegation will have seventy-four votes - with Stevenson getting fifty or more, according to the Governor.

He told a news conference today that he will not use pressure to line up solid support for Stevenson. He won't try to get all seventy-four on the first ballot. "But," he adds, "I intend to use all the strength I can muster - so that he will receive the greater portion. He received two-thirds of the Pennsylvania vote in Nineteen Fifty-Two," ~~the~~ Governor Leader adds, "and we ought to do better this time."

Pennsylvania Congressman Francis D. Walter is in outspoken opposition to Stevenson, and the report has been -
In the Pennsylvania delegation that the Congressman might try to line up votes ^A against him.

WEATHER

Last night, we heard of a phenomenal drop in temperature in Canada, Quebec. From seventy-one to nineteen - in twenty-four hours. Which bit of news has a logical follow-up, today - the Canadian cold wave moving south. Cities of southern Canada and northern New York State report record-breaking cold for the last week in May. At Ottawa - twenty-seven above zero. The previous low mark was twenty-eight - in Nineteen Twenty-Five.

At Saranac Lake, the thermometer dropped to a record-breaking low point of eighteen. Cities like Albany and Syracuse report freezing weather.

All of which comes as a climax in a cold, unseasonable Spring. The crops are backward, retarded by weeks of sub-normal temperatures.

At Rochester, the lilac time festival will be held - the latest in its eight year history. Today, the City Park Directors inspected the fifteen hundred lilac bushes in Highland Park, and announced - the week long festival won't begin until June First.

The weather-man says - it'll be another cold night,
with no warming up until tomorrow afternoon.