

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tension rising in Palestine, again. (Tonight the British announced that they intend to execute three condemned Jewish terrorists at dawn tomorrow. Almost simultaneously with that came a statement from Irgun Zvai Leumi, that it will do likewise with two British Army Sergeants, they are holding hostages.)

Tonight, the British Army in Palestine, and the police, are on the alert, with indications that the Holy Land may be on the eve of its greatest crisis in years, and with British authorities considering putting Jerusalem and the entire coastal area under martial law.

Headed for death by hanging are the three confessed members of the Jewish underground: Meir Nakar, Jakob Weiss, and Bashalom Habib -- condemned for their part in the attack in Jerusalem's ancient Prison last May. The three men are sharing the same death cell in that same prison tonight, and their relatives have

already been notified that the death sentence, imposed by military court, will be carried out.

Then, the Jewish underground via, its clandestine radio, spoke out, sending this warning to General Sir Alan Cunningham, High Commissioner for Palestine: "We shall carry out the hanging of the two hostages at the same time our comrades are executed."

The hostages are two youngsters: two young British Sergeants: Nervin Paice, nineteen years old, and Clifford Martin, twenty-one kidnapped at Nathanya on July Twelfth.

Also Irgun, in its broadcast, threatened the British with unprecedented violence if the three Jews are hanged.

All Palestine is keyed up by the news of the impending executions followed by the Irgun threats. Food shops in TelAviv are remaining open late tonight, crowded by panicky housewives who foresee the imposition of rigid martial law and a consequent twenty-four-hour-a-day curfew.

Again no peace in the land of the Prince of Peace.

INDONESIA

A complaint is on its way to Lake Success from New Delhi, India, a complaint from the government of India against the government of the Netherlands. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, head of the Indian Government, seems to be making the cause of the Indonesian Republic his own. For one thing, he has just announced that no Dutch airplanes will be allowed to land on the soil of Hindustan. That if the airlines of other nations transport military aid or material to the Dutch Forces in Indonesia, they, too, will be kept out of India.

Nehru informed newspaper correspondents that he had consulted with the governments of Great Britain and the United States before taking this action, and that they were sympathetic to the steps he was taking. And he believes the government of Pakistan, the Moslem part of India, will take similar action.

India, declared Nehru, stands irrevocably with the rest of Asia against any foreign aggression. That the mere presence of a colonial regime, the presence of foreign

which would make it difficult for ~~the~~^{the} U.N. to intervene.


According to a ~~well substantiated~~ report, both John Bull and Uncle Sam are in favor of sending a mediator or a committee from the Security Council to make peace, and help the Dutch and Indonesians ~~to~~ settle their differences.

But in Java today, the Dutch were ~~still~~ pursuing their hostilities more relentlessly than ever; ~~they are~~ using paratroop~~s~~^s and amphibious forces both in Java and Sumatra. One force, landing from the sea, occupied ~~an~~ an important point on the West Coast of Sumatra at dawn today, taking the Indonesians completely by surprise.

troops in any Asiatic Country is an insult and a challenge.

He scorned the pretense of the Dutch Government that it has been taking police measures in Java and Sumatra. "Their so-called police action, said he, is nothing less than a well-organized war, with bombings of towns on a large scale. The Indonesian people, he pointed out, have no means of coping with this air attack either from the air or from the ground. He added that his government has not yet considered sending military help to Indonesia, because the people of Hindustan are not at war with the Netherlands. But, he announced that he is definitely appealing to the United Nations against Dutch aggression. And that if the United Nations fails to step in, then the U. N. will have no prestige or authority.

The story from Lake Success intimates that Nehru's complaint will have serious consideration in the Security Council. In answer to questions, most of the Delegates appear to agree that the U.N. must do something, and do it soon, before the Dutch wipe out the Javanese Republicans and present them with an accomplished fact,



ADD INDONESIA

The only action taken by our own government so far has been a note to the Indonesian Government, asking for protection for the rich oilfields owned by American interests in Sumatra. The Indonesian Government replied, promising to do all it could, but pointed out that if the Dutch conduct large scale operations near the oilwells and refineries, by employing artillery and bombs, then the Dutch should be held responsible.

For their part, the Dutch announced they had captured one of the most important oilfields ninety miles to the south of Palembang in Sumatra.

SHANGHAI

Shanghai, scene of confusion and terror today.

In that weird international conglomeration at the mouth of the Yangtze, thousands of civilian policemen are on strike, after having precipitated a riot and destroyed a theatre.

Ever since the end of the war, the Shanghai police have been at loggerheads with the Military gendarmes. It all came to a head last night when three men tried to go into the Golden Castle Theatre with only two tickets. The doorkeeper called a policeman who stopped them. Then a group of military gendarmes neaby, beat up the policeman.

When the news of this reached the nearest police station, it didn't take long for a corps of city police to arrive at the theatre -- on the run. A shot was fired. And then the military police let loose with a sub-machine gun, killing four police and two civilians. Five more dying later, and two critically wounded.

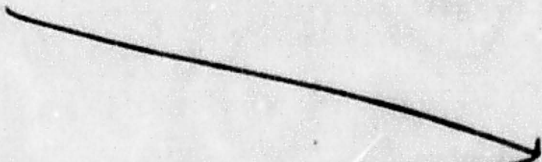
Today, a force of a hundred civilian police marched out, bent upon attacking the military police headquarters,

which have resulted in wholesale slaughter. First they went to the Golden Castle Theatre and made a shambles of that. They smashed chairs, projectors and film boxes, destroyed everything they could, while some stood by with gun ready. ^R Later, the entire force -- twelve thousand ~~police~~ strong, went on strike, saying that they were mourning for their nine dead fellow officers. The consequence, ~~is~~ a snarl of traffic throughout the entire ~~hug~~^g city, one of the great cities of the world. Most of the traffic lights are out, and the Chinese Military Police, apparently are of no help. ~~So~~ American M.P.'s have doubled their patrols. Most Americans and Europeans stayed at home today. ^{Some} in Shanghai are wondering whether the Communists may take advantage of the opportunity.

GERMANY

For months apparently there has been a smouldering antagonism between General Lucius Clay, our military governor in Germany, and the State Department, between General Clay and the British, and between General Clay and the French. Today it came to the surface, erupting in a story from Washington that describes it as a feud between the State Department and the General. Also that it may prejudice the forthcoming conference at Washington this week between British and Americans over the problems of the coal mines in the Ruhr, a conference that has been delayed for months.

General Clay, it seems, wants to step up coal production in the Ruhr, wants to put the Germans on their own feet. Also that he has made no secret of his belief that the British have administered their zone badly, also the French. The British, for one thing, want to socialize the coal mines in the Ruhr, and General Clay is against that. He is also furious at a decision that Secretary Marshall made last



week to appease the French, the decision to delay the British and American Plan to step up Germany production in their zones. ^{Sec.} Marshall made that decision to prevent the opposition of the French from breaking up the Anglo-French-American ~~Eng~~ conference at Paris.

The conference to be held in Washington late this week, was originally intended to deal solely with the problems of coal. General Clay refused ~~to~~ to attend. Whereupon the British also backed out, unless the subject of the discussion were extended to include all ~~of the~~ economic problems of ^{present day} Germany. ~~The consequence is that there is not any much chance that this immediate conference will have any success.~~

The State Department, ^{we hear,} ~~for its part,~~ has been annoyed by stories from Berlin, reporting that General Clay and his staff resent ^{Sec.} Marshall's action and feel squelched because the Secretary apparently has taken over the laying down of policy in Germany. State Department officials feel that it's up to them to make the policy and ^{Gen.} for Clay to carry it out. But ^{Gen.} Clay and his officers think that because they are on the spot they know what is best for Germany.

EXPLOSION

Once again a deadly cargo of nitrates explodes and brings disaster. This time it happened in the French Harbor of Brest, but apparently ~~it was~~ nowhere near ~~to being~~ as serious as the holocaust at Texas City, ~~because~~ The port authorities took prompt precautions.

TP A former American liberty ship, ~~called~~ the Orcan Liberty, caught fire this morning. She carried not only nitrates but corn. The moment the fire ~~made its presence felt,~~ *broke out* the Marine Security Service towed the ship ~~into~~ deep water, ~~as fast as possible.~~ But late this afternoon she blew up, setting fire to many of the buildings along the waterfront in the city of Brest. Most of them were temporary buildings, constructed of wood. The full details are not available because the ~~x~~ explosion immediately cut off all telephone and telegraphic communication with the rest of the world. The government at Paris sent airplanes to investigate, and learned that the gas works also caught fire, and windows all over the surrounding country ~~were~~ were blown out. The explosion was heard twenty five miles away.

EXPLOSION -2

An unofficial estimate has it that twenty people were killed and some two hundred and fifty injured.

TRUMAN

With simplicity, the President's Mother was buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery near Grandview, Missouri, this afternoon. Although she was the Mother of the President of the United States, no pomp attended either the interment or the services at her home. More than two thousand messages of condolence reached Mr. Truman, at Grandview.

Only the President himself and members of the family were present.

The Reverend Welbern Bowman made the services brief, even the eulogy, because the late Mrs. Truman would have preferred it that way. He based his short sermon on the Twenty-Third and Ninetieth Psalms, and read the biography which Harry Truman himself had written, a biography reciting only the bare skeleton of facts about his Mother's life.

The pall-bearers were four of Mrs. Truman's grandsons and two nephews. And the funeral procession consisted of just enough cars to carry members of the family.

Mrs. Truman was buried beside the grave of her husband, which had no headstone nor anything to mark it.

The twelve hundred inhabitants of Grandview observed this as a day of mourning, but at President Truman's own request, they stayed away from his Mother's home. The flag in front of the City Hall flew at half mast and virtually every store in the street was closed from noon on.

At the Summer White House in Independence, the President received just one visitor, the Mexican Ambassador, who flew from Washington to carry the personal sympathy of President Aleman of Mexico. ~~But the Ambassador was not present at the services.~~

~~Among the thousands who sent condolences to Mr. Truman were the King and Queen of England.~~

HUGHES

The row over Howard Hughes' eighteen million dollar plywood flying boat went on and on today. Henry J. Kaiser in the picture also. Accusations and recriminations hurled through the air like flying saucers. One straight at the hitherto unassailed personality of Donald Nelson, once head of the great war production board.

The chief of the Aircraft Division of W.P.B., you ^{or not} may remember, was Merrill Meigs, and he was a witness before the Senate War Investigating Committee today. Meigs said the responsibility for that vast plywood enterprise was Nelson's, and Nelson's alone. That ordnance experts of the Army and Navy considered the idea of building a monster flying boat out of plywood -- they deemed it fantastic. That he, himself, as responsible head of the Aircraft Division of W.P.B. thought it all in vain -- and, he added that he was right.

John Snyder, now Secretary of the Treasury, then an official of the Defense Plant Corporation, at that time howled as loudly as he could that the spending of

money on such a proposition was futile. But that the project proceeded because of the high-pressure publicity that Henry J. Kaiser let loose.

Meigs also testified that the plan was to build three of those great boats. Then that was modified -- just one, with Howard Hughes handling it. Meigs added that Kaiser told government officials and Congressmen that he could build the monster plywood boat in ten months, despite the fact that there were then shortages in all materials.

Meigs said he himself ~~then~~ reported to Donald Nelson that Kaiser's proposal was hopelessly impractical -- a screwball scheme -- but ^{that} ~~then~~ Nelson instructed him to call in several leading manufacturers and explore the idea further. What did the Committee find? Well that group of manufacturers reported that Henry J. Kaiser had developed nothing except publicity.

All this was in the days when Hitler's submarines were playing havoc with our shipping, and Henry Kaiser's selling point was that here would be a way to transport all our cargoes by air -- across the oceans.

What about the big Flying boat now? That eight engined affair, weighing two hundred tons? It's at Terminal Island, California -- on the ground -- hasn't flown yet.

The upshot of the testimony given by Meigs today was that high-pressure publicity was just as effective in wasting the taxpayers' money as fraud or corruption might have been. Meigs of the WPB says there was no corruption involved.

And that somehow brings us to you, Nelson.

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Then Meigs went on to say that there was no fraud or corruption in connection with it. However, part of the high velocity blurbing employed, was the constant whisper that Henry J. Kaiser was exceedingly close to the White House, meaning close to F.D.R. He said Kaiser was the man who obtained the first contract and Meigs added that upon orders from the armed services, he placed top drawer production secrets at the disposal of Kaiser.

Meigs also testified that the plan was to build three of those great boats, Then that was modified -- just one, with Howard Hughes handling it. Meigs added ~~th~~ that Kaiser told government officials and Congressmen that he ~~do~~ could build the monster plywood boat in ten months, despite the fact that there were then shortages in all materials. And that Kaiser started selling his idea in public before W.P.B officials had even heard of

it, before he even had so much as a plan or a blueprint.

Whereupon Meigs pointed out to him that there was no magnesium available, and no engineers. To which Kaiser grandiously retorted that he would build a magnesium plant for himself, and educate his own engineers. Meigs said he himself then reported to Donald Nelson that Kaiser's proposal was hopelessly impractical, -- a screwball scheme -- but Donald Nelson instructed him to call in several leading manufacturers and explore the idea further. What did the Committee find? Well that group of manufacturers reported that Henry J. Kaiser had developed nothing except publicity.

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Howard Hughes, who now owns the huge plywood blying boat -- if it can fly -- after he took over the contract, also obtained an additional twenty-two million dollar contract to build army photoplanes.

Senator Brewster of Maine today replied to the scorching letter that Howard Hughes published in West Coast newspapers, the letter in which Hughes accused the Senator of having bummed fourteen hundred dollar ' worth of airplane trips out of him, "bummed" being the word Hughes used. Round trips from Washington to West Virginia, and Wastington to Columbus, Ohio, last February. Senator Brewster replied that this was the first time he had heard about having received a bill for it. Hughes, said he, had asked to see him on a certain date in February, and he replied that he had speaking

engagements on those particular dates. Then Hughes proposed to fly the Senator in his ~~own~~ own plane in order to be able to talk to him. The transportation, said the Senator, was Hughes own proposal.

This controversy, added Senator Brewster, is a revealing indication of Mr. Hughes' methods, and he said further: "You might add this, that Mr. Hughes tried to get an exceedingly attractive hostess to make the trip with ~~ix~~ us to Columbus, and she absolutely refused to go along."

Before long, there will be testimony from Howard Hughes himself. The millionaire airman has announced that he is ready to appear at any time.

Merrill Meigs, wartime WBB aircraft head, in his testimony today said that he had warned Howard Hughes at the time he took over Kaiser's contract, that if the project failed, the public and politicians would hold him responsible even if the original idea had come from Henry J. Kaiser.

Meigs, today referred constantly to his diary and to notes of telephone calls and conversations held while he was a ~~R~~x WPB top man.

The much discussed missing witness, a press agent named Meyer, is not really missing and will shortly appear before the committee, again. For he has already appeared once, at a secret session, telling about the parties where cuties and models helped entertain.

Fred Otham of the United Press, says he knew Johnny Meyer when he was a press agent for Hollywood producer: that Meyer seemed to know everybody in Hollywood and never seemed to write or place any publicity, just appeared at studio parties, organizing champagne gatherings, saw to it that the Hollywood starlets had their pictures taken with the proper celebrities, and so on. Otham says that when he himself left Hollywood he thought he was all through writing pieces about champagne and blondes. But in Washington he found himself at it again -- and who should turn up as the organizer of parties and blondes, but the same Johnny Meyer.