

L.P.-K. Tues. July 20, '54. Los Angeles.

LEAD

The armistice for Indo China - signed at Geneva, two hours after midnight, Swiss time. Which means that Premier Mendes-France lost out - by those two hours. He had promised peace in Indo China by tomorrow, Tuesday. Which meant - midnight. However, I don't suppose the French National Assembly will call on him to resign - because of the mere matter of two hours.

The signing was delayed briefly, because the technical experts had not been able to ~~finish~~ finish their job of

putting truce terms into final form.

Moreover, the armistice ^{now} they signed is not yet quite complete. The terms cover Viet Nam, the most important State by far. Also - Laos, of lesser importance. Indo China has three States, and the arrangement for number three was not yet complete when the big act of signing was staged. Cambodia ~~is~~ not important in the truce. The signatures for Cambodia to be appended - tomorrow.

But these are all matters of detail.

To all intents and purposes, there is

peace in Indo China. Ending, for the
time being, at least - a war that lasted
for eight years.

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INDO CHINA - ARMISTICE

^{is} The Indo Chinese armistice agreement became a sure thing, today - when a compromise was reached on one final important point; Which concerned - the United States.

At Geneva, the Communist negotiators, demanded that an armistice declaration must begin with the statement that all of the nine powers, taking part in the Geneva conference, were in agreement about the settlement. All - giving it their approval. Which would have included the United States. - but we objected. Washington refusing to put an OK on a truce, which

turns over hosts of people to the rule of the Reds.

Then, a compromise formula was found. According to ~~which~~ ^{which} - [^] the United States does not join in ~~the~~ ^a nine-power declaration, guaranteeing ^{the} ~~the~~ cease-fire. Instead, our government will issue a separate statement, recognizing the truce agreement - and promising not to violate the terms. We promise not to use force or any threat of force - against this arrangement for Indo China. In other words, we refuse to express approval - but we won't do anything to disrupt the settlement.

Under the terms, Viet Nam is divided -
roughly along the seventeenth parallel.

Last week, we heard that France and Britain
would accept the sixteenth parallel, if
they had to. But they did a bit better
than that - the seventeenth parallel of
latitude being farther north. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Giving the Reds less territory.

Actually, the line of the seventeenth
parallel is, generally, along a stream,
the Ben Hai River - which flows down to
the sea.

The important city of Hanoi, ~~is~~ⁱⁿ the
Red River Delta, the rice bowl - ~~is in the~~

- is in the Communist area. The French -
to evacuate Hanoi. The vital seaport of
Haiphong is, likewise, in the Red area.
But the French will retain possession of
Haiphong for ten months - then to evacuate.
On the other hand, the naval^{and} air base at
Turane is well to the south of the seventeenth
parallel - and the French retain ~~that~~
strong point.

The dividing line will place twelve
million Viet Nameese under Communist rule.
Elections to be held in all Viet Nam by
July of 1956.

The states of Laos and Cambodia are included in the cease-fire -- remaining, apparently, immune from Communist domination. At least, that would seem to be in the terms of the truce. The cease-fire is to be supervised by a three-nation commission - Canada, India and Red Poland. Commission - to see that the terms are carried out, according to agreement.

~~So that's the armistice. Full agreement reached - and only one thing remained. The formal signing - at a final meeting of the Indo-China peace conference. The~~

INDO CHINA - WILSON

In Washington, a high level opinion on the Indo China settlement is given - by Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson. He took note of the truce line, as laid out - and the question of defending it. Any defense, he said - "is up to the people who reached the agreement in Geneva."

Talking to a news conference, Secretary Wilson displayed little enthusiasm. His view was that we will not commit ourselves to any defense ~~of~~ of

that armistice line, if trouble should break out again. But he added that this country might undertake a commitment as part of an "alliance." Which would seem to mean - a system of general defense for southeast Asia, kind of an anti-Communist line-up which the United States Government has been urging. (In case of that kind of "alliance," we would, presumably, join in a guarantee of the cease-fire line in Indo China. However, the prospect of a defense pact with southeast Asia - seems dubious.)

Secretary Wilson declared that the effect of an Indo China armistice on U. S. military plans would be, in his words -- "nothing very fundamental." We will go right ahead with our own defense program, as if nothing much has happened. The Secretary added -that we will continue to send military aid to Indo-China, that part of it which is left. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(The Secretary of Defense was asked about movement of U. S. aircraft carriers, which steamed out of Manila Bay. Report has been that they were bound for Indo China - for an evacuation job. Wilson says - No, the carriers are simply on manouvers. There is no evacuation involved.)

A few months ago, Secretary Wilson expressed a good deal of optimism for Indo-China - thinking French forces could get the better of the Reds. He was asked about that, ^{and} replied: →

~~That~~ he was talking, then, in military terms. He said he was afraid he had overlooked the political angle, the local state of mind among the people out there. ^{The} ~~/~~ Reds, he explained, seem to have been successful in persuading the masses of Indo-Chinese ^{that} ~~is~~ the war ~~what~~ - was merely a local revolution. Not -- Red imperialism. Which seems to be the ~~philosophy~~ philosophy behind a good deal that has happened - that the communists were able to put their

propoganda across. Convincing multitudes
of Indo-Chinese -- that the whole thing
was a struggle against Colonialism,
the French overlords.

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McCARTHY

Things moved fast in the McCarthy situation, today. Beginning with the resignation of committee counsel Roy

Cohn. ⁱⁿ Senator McCarthy - making public a letter, ~~which~~ Roy Cohn steps out.

Later, Senator Mundt stated that, in his opinion, Cohn was not forced out of his job. In spite of the fact - that the letter of resignation came, just as the sub-committee was about to decide ~~on~~ ^{on the} question ^{of} ~~of~~ ousting Cohn. With - a majority of the members in favor of so doing.

Senator Mundt, who acted as chairman in the Army-McCarthy row, said that Cohn told him a week ago that he wanted to resign. Had wanted to, in fact, for months. But he had stayed on because he didn't want to quit under fire. Also - because he was busy with an investigation.

The Cohn resignation was followed by an announcement from Senator *then* McCarthy ~~who~~ stated that he was transferring investigator Donald Surine to his own personal staff. Surine - leaving the employ of the committee, and entering the employ of Senator

McCarthy.

During the famous television extravaganza, it was disclosed that two members of the committee staff had been refused clearance by the FBI. The two were not named, ^{but} the report was that one was ~~they were~~ Donald Surine. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ It was ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ made clear that the refusal of FBI clearance - had nothing to do with ~~his~~ loyalty, or security risk.

The actual reason was never made public.

Today, Senator McCarthy stated that the charge against Surine was made by a convicted white-slaver. Whose purpose

it was - to discredit Surine.

McCarthy declared: "This white-slaver's affidavit was obtained from him behind prison bars, where he sits convicted on evidence Mr. Surine secured against him." So said the Senator, adding -that a Democrat on the committee has the affidavit.

So now Surine leaves the committee, and goes on to McCarthy's personal staff.

~~With~~ The Senator calling him - a former FBI agent with a great record in ~~his~~ the investigation of Communism.

(There still remained the question of Francis Carr, who figured prominently in the charges the Army made against McCarthy and Roy Cohn. All that noise - about pressure against special favors for Private G. David Schine. / ^{So} will Carr stay on the committee job? Senator Mundt said he ~~would vote~~ ^{would vote} ~~no~~ ^{yes}. Carr declared - he will not ~~resign~~ resign. "I am staying, unless I am voted out," said he.)

All this happened as the committee members were about to go into session to vote on the question of a "house -

cleaning." Republican Senator Potter having introduced a resolution - dismissing all members of the committee staff. Except - those whom the committee might decide to retain. Take a vote - on each one.

(All committee members were present, except Senator McClelland of Arkansas - who is back home, campaigning. He - having left a proxy with his fellow Democrat members. A proxy - authorizing them to cast McClelland's vote in favor of the Potter resolution.)

ADD McCARTHY

The committee action, which followed, was an anti-climax. They voted to retain all the other staff members, including Francis Carr. With the exception of Thomas LaVenia, to whom the FBI would not give clearance. In his case, the committee delayed action.

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L.A.
WEATHER

I am in Los Angeles tonight, arriving in a local heat wave. Folks here tell me they have had broiling temperatures for more than a week - although, ordinarily, Southern California has fairly mild summers. However, there has been a blazing sun all day - enough to scorch the 'wings of angels. If there are any left - in the City of Angels.

The news wire reflects the temperature - telling of one of those

typical brush fires, an old story in these parts. Yesterday, ^Abig blaze broke out along the border of California and Nevada, about 40 miles from Reno. 6000 acres of range land burnt out. The brush fire - giving the blaze battlers a tough contest. 200 fire fighters in action with 10 bulldozers, 6 trucks ^{with} ~~of~~ pumps, a lot of other equipment. - Today ^{they} reported ~~fire~~ under control.

Well, it's familiar logic - heat wave, followed by raging fires in the wild country. # # #

BOY

There was a fast rescue job, at Hopewell Junction, New York, today. 100 volunteers - digging as fast as they could, to save a 13-year old boy who fell into a well.

The well was under construction on a farm, the boy, David Ronk, went sliding in - when loose earth gave way. At the bottom, he was caught in a trap of water and fallen debris.

There was no chance just to pull him out - the ^(sideS)~~size~~ of the well might have caved in. So they dug a shaft, cutting

Boy - 2.

in at the bottom of the well. A doctor, meanwhile - urging haste. The boy might not last it out.

So they drilled that shaft - in a race against death. And reached the boy, who was OK - cheerful, in fact. Then there was a temporary halt - and special equipment needed to bring him out safely through the shaft. *And Mike, that was*

^ All parts of ^a ~~the~~ rescue job - done swiftly and skillfully. *You are an expert on things done skillfully - if not swiftly. # # #*