

TRUCE TALKS LT-RG Mon. May 4th '53

The truce talks in Korea look as if they might be going the way of those former negotiations, which dragged out and ended nowhere. Today, our chief negotiator, ~~Lieutenant~~ ^{Gen.} John Harrison, charged the Reds with stalling - the same as they stalled through previous, futile armistice talks. He warned that we won't go on ^{with} ~~an~~ empty palaver. The Reds using it as - propaganda.

The deadlock still centers around the ^{at} question of - a neutral nation to take charge of prisoners-of-war who refuse to go home. The Reds rejecting Switzerland, and then Sweden. Demanding - an Asiatic nation. They suggested one of four - India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia. Today our negotiators replied - all right, Pakistan. But the Reds wouldn't accept that - even though they themselves had named Pakistan as a possibility.

Whereupon General Harrison told them - ^{"The} ~~time~~ in these discussions is fast running out. Are you prepared to accept Pakistan as a neutral nation? If not, we have nothing

further to discuss with you.

They still kept on stalling, and asked for a recess until tomorrow morning.

One supposition is that, on the subject of Pakistan, the Red negotiators want enough time to consult headquarters - higher-ups in China, or even Moscow. But there's another guess - that they're using the truce talks as a blind, quieting things down, while they push in another direction - like Indo-China. Arousing hope for an armistice in Korea - while striking elsewhere.

INDO-CHINA

News from Indo-China has a new threatening sound.

The Reds, invading Laos, the kingdom of a million elephants,

^{now} are veering away from the capital city of Luang Prabang.

Defending forces of the French Union have massed at that

fortress, and seem to be strong enough to beat off the Communist

invaders. So these ^{- the Reds -} are making a detour, pushing toward the town

of Paksane. The importance is - that Paksane is on the border

of Siam, the land of the white elephant. Which may shape up as

the next objective of the Reds. Reports have been ~~coming in~~

that there may be a Communist attempt to take over in Siam -

aided by a Siamese fifth column.

Anyway, the news would indicate that the invaders

are pushing through the kingdom of a million elephants, bound

for the land of the white elephant.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The amnesty proclaimed in Red Czechoslovakia does not include political prisoners - and that would seem to exclude the chance that William Oatis will be released. The American newspaperman in a Red prison - convicted of what is called a "trumped-up" charge of espionage.

The new Malenkov regime in Moscow decreed an amnesty in Russia, liberating prisoners, and Soviet satellites are following suit. But, in Red Czechoslovakia, the amnesty announced today specifically excludes political prisoners. The jails are filled with politicals - so the decree would seem to be a mockery.

From Kenya, in East Africa, another ~~gory~~^{grisly} report of terrorism by the Mau Mau. They besieged a village, where the native Home Guard had established a strong point. The garrison of nineteen Home Guards fought to the last man, the last cartridge of ammunition - everyone killed.

Meanwhile, the authorities at Nairobi say that ~~members~~^{members} ~~of the Mau Mau~~ have begun to confess - ~~wholesale~~ wholesale. Defying - the blood oath they had to take. Until recently, ~~those arrested~~^{those arrested} refused to talk, in deadly fear of the vengeance of the tribal terrorists. Preserving what the authorities call a - "wall of silence." But now they^a are giving evidence - as many as five thousand ~~reneging~~^{reneging} on the "blood oath", and telling Mau Mau secrets, naming members, the leaders.

Prominent among the informers are tribal girls - who were abducted from their villages and forced to live as fugitives ⁱⁿ of the bush, along with Mau Mau terrorists, pursued by the police. When the going gets too hot, the girls are abandoned by the fleeing Mau Mau. The police pick them up, and now they^a are talking.)

ARGENTINA

A late dispatch from Argentina, states that police have uncovered a "terrorist organization." Communist? Not at all. They say it was operated by elements of the Argentina Conservative Parties - opposed to Strong Man Peron.

This follows a series of bombings in Buenos Aires. Today two men were arrested, charged with placing a bomb in the automobile of Peron's Foreign Minister. That was followed by police raids ^{in which} ~~where~~ an arsenal of guns ~~were~~ ^{is} said to have been seized. All - connected with that Conservative "terrorist organization."

DEFENSE

Word from Washington is that President Eisenhower will cut military spending, the next fiscal year, to the tune of two billion, one hundred million dollars. Previously, we heard that the Administration would slash the Truman military budget by five billion. There's no contradiction in this. President Eisenhower will ask Congress for five billion dollars less, and will use money left over from ~~the~~ previous appropriations. ~~That will be a cut of two billion, one hundred million dollars from the money spent on defense by reducing the number of men in the armed services, and by reducing the spending, which would be a cut of five billion dollars less.~~

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The Washington word is that there'll be a cut in the number of men in the armed services - a cut of nearly two hundred thousand. ~~The total for new troops and military equipment to be reduced to three million, three hundred thousand.~~

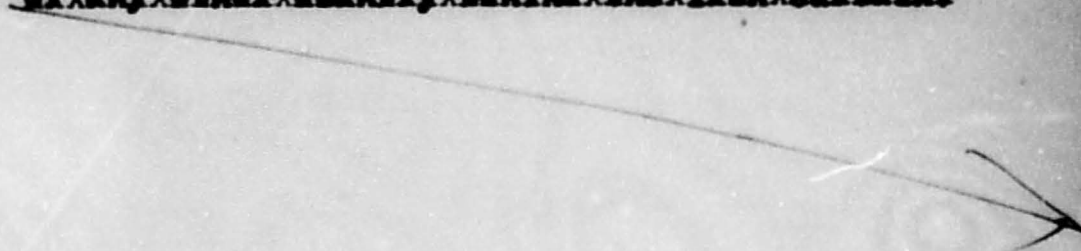
are
Already, the draft calls [^] for a lower figure. For June, thirty-two thousand to be ~~is~~ inducted - as compared with fifty-three thousand for the previous months of this year.

SHIPS

A Senate Committee, today, was told - of one hundred and ninety-three ships trading with Red China. Ships under the flags of Western allies - making as many as six hundred voyages to Chinese mainland ports last year.

So stated by a Senate investigator, who added that eighty-two of the vessels were owned by firms that carried cargoes for the United States government.

Committee Chairman Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin denounced this, and government officials agreed with him. They said ~~our government~~^{we} should stop doing business with shipping firms that trade with Iron Curtain countries, like Red China. ~~Or any other country behind the Iron Curtain~~



ADD SHIPS

But, later, two Administration officials stated - it is not the policy of the government to cut off all Allied trade with Red China. Kenneth Hansen of Mutual Security, and John Leddy of the State Department, said that some trade with China might be justified, if we get something more valuable in return.

Whereupon Senator McCarthy said - he wanted to know if this represented the policy of the State Department. He broke up the hearing - pending an inquiry with the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles.

UNIONS

In Washington, an agreement between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. - which is regarded as a step toward a unification of the two great labor organization. The agreement, made between A.F. of L. President George Meany and C.I.O. President Walter Reuther - proposes a pact whereby the two labor groups would stop raiding each other. That is, one trying to get control of factory unions from ~~the other~~ ^{the other}. This practice of "raiding" has been the big bone of contention in the past, and, if it were stopped, there would be a much better chance of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. joining in one giantanic organization with twelve million union members.

COMMUNIST HEARING

A New York hearing, held by the Committee on Un-American Activities, had a highly theatrical atmosphere today - Band Leader Artie Shaw appearing as a witness. With tears in his eyes, he said he had been duped by the Communists, had let them use his name. He said he never joined the Party; but added, ^{he} "suspicion of me is quite justified."

In his testimony, the Band Leader mentioned his many marriages - the wives including Actresses Lana Turner and Ava Gardner, and Novelist Kathleen Winsor. Previously, Kathleen Winsor had stated that Artie Shaw tried to make a Communist of her.

He stated that the Reds tried to recruit him as an under-cover worker for Communism - at the time when he was a member of the Hollywood Independent Committee for the Arts, Sciences and Professions. "I signed something that would enable me to go to meetings," he related. ^R They told him to write down a false name, an alias, and he did. He insists it was not a Communist Party card ^{that he signed,} but he doesn't remember exactly what it was.

"The whole thing," he says, "was done in a cloak-and-dagger ~~XXXX~~ atmosphere."

He attended three meetings in all, and joined a large number of Communist Front organizations. But in all this he was duped.^{So} - said Artie Shaw, with tears in his eyes.