

There's a report that President-elect Eisenhower has a "new strategic plan" for ending the Korean war. So stated by the New York Times - which adds that the purpose would be to convince the Soviets that the United States will not quit Korea, or yield its position against the ~~unxi~~ forced repatriation of prisoners of war. The plan, says the Times, would not increase the danger of spreading the war. Nor would it involve larger American forces. Instead, South Korean troops would participate increasingly,

We are not told if this has anything to do with that MacArthur project - concerning which President-elect Eisenhower conferred with General Douglas MacArthur last week.

## VAN FLEET

General Van Fleet, Commander of the Eighth Army in Korea, will not retire on January Thirty-first, as he was scheduled to do. Washington announces that Van Fleet will remain on active duty until next March Thirty-First.

The same goes for Lieutenant General Manton Eddy, Commander of U.S. Troops in Europe. Both he and General Van Fleet have reached the retirement age, but will stay on for a couple of extra months so as to give the Eisenhower administration time to work out its own reorganization of the military leadership of the nation.

2 (General Van Fleet was a classmate of General Ike at West Point - and a letter he wrote to his wife played an prominent part in the election campaign. Up-holding -- the Eisenhower contention that more South Korean troops should be used on the war front, and relieve American divisions. One report is that General Van Fleet might become Chief of Staff - but that awaits a future decision.)

## KOREA

Christmas Eve is quiet in Korea -- with as much of the holiday spirit as is ~~is~~ possible in a dull, disagreeable war. The Reds made a sudden violent attack this morning, but it was beaten off with heavy loss. Some surmise the fanatical thrust may have had something to do with Communist boasting - propaganda talk that the Reds would be in Seoul on Christmas. They'll have to hurry, if they intend to make good that lot of braggadoccio.

~~It's a violent Christmas~~ In Indo-China -

where French forces have launched a great amphibious attack. Supported by air action, French Marines hit the beach in the delta of the Red River, and caught the Communists in a pincers movement. The strategy is to dislodge the Reds from dangerous positions they hold at the South of the perimeter ~~of~~ defending the capital city of Hanoi.

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## HOLLAND

Holland has a spy case -- which has its points of the absurd. At the Hague, the correspondent of the Soviet News Agency, TASS, has been arrested -- after what sounds like a blundering attempt at espionage.

His name is Pisarev, and it was noted that he didn't mix in much with newspaper affairs. Instead, he threw a lot of champagne parties for government employees.

The story tells how he offered money to one minor official for secret information. The government employee took the cash, one hundred guilders, twenty-five bucks. But - reneged. Refusing - to deliver the goods. Whereupon, the TASS correspondent threatened him. Telling him, in the words of the dispatch - "the Soviet Union has a long arm." The sinister threats were effective - but in reverse. The minor official went to the police - and told them about it.

So the Tass correspondent was placed under surveillance, was being watched - when he kept an appointment on a bridge to receive secret documents. The police arrested him - and say they found incriminating evidence in his possession.

(The story is a headline in Holland, but it doesn't seem as if there would be any sensational espionage trial. The prospects are that the TASS correspondent will be simply tossed out of the country, expelled. He doesn't sound like such a subtle, skillful spy.)

## IMMIGRATION

The McCarran immigration law went into effect today, at noon - with a good deal of complication involving ships in our ports. For example, the new French liner *Liberté* has trouble. Many of the crew refusing to answer political questions - which immigration officials asked before giving sailors permission to land for shore leave. Questions concerning communism. So, two hundred and sixty-nine French sailors <sup>are</sup> without Christmas eve leave. Foreign steamship companies are complaining that the routine of the law causes them delay and added expense - ships held in port <sup>(while /</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>)</sup> complicated procedures are carried out.

Well, <sup>is</sup> ~~it's~~ odd how the provisions of a law can have an unexpected effect -- as is illustrated by a story from Germany. In one clause of the McCarran Act forbids the admission, into the United States, of any immigrant with a criminal record. Which sounds reasonable enough, - but, its keeping out the Belgian bride of a U.S. Air Force sergeant.

He has been at an Air Force base in California.

But she can't get into the country. Because of a criminal record. <sup>What sort of crime record? Oh,</sup> The Nazis threw her into a slave labor camp.

It was in Nineteen Forty-two Elizabeth Graps, Nineteen years of age, displayed her Belgian patriotic sentiment by tearing down a picture of Hitler and ripping it to pieces. She was arrested, and the Gestapo found in her possession a fraudulent ration book. The Belgian resistance, at the time, was plaguing the Nazis by counterfeiting documents, like ration books. So the nineteen year old girl was kept in a slave labor camp for three years.

6 All that was in the past, when she married Sergeant Raymond Urabazo, of Anadarko, Oklahoma. Then, when she tried to get a passport visa to follow him to the United States - it was refused. American officials, investigating the case, were deeply sympathetic. But they pointed to the McCarran act and its rigid provisions - which were being applied



in advance.

The crime of insulting Hitler " didn't count!  
but the possession of the counterfeit ration book did.

U.S. Consular officials in Germany tell  
the wife of the Air Force Sergeant- her only chance is  
to appeal to the German courts for a reversal of the  
Nazi conviction. If that is cancelled out - she may  
be able to rejoin her husband in California.

President-elect Eisenhower names another Democrat to an important post in his administration -- but not such a fervent partisan. True D. Morse of Missouri, becomes Under-Secretary of Agriculture. In "Who's Who" he lists himself as a Democrat, but he has voted Republican for the last twenty years. He's a veteran of mid-western farm affairs - recommended for the office by Ezra Taft Benson, who'll be the new Secretary of Agriculture.

## CRASH

The Air Force announces the result of an investigation of the air crash last Saturday, in which eighty-seven lives were lost. The finding is that, at Moses Peak, Washington, there was a failure to unlock the controls, when the giant Globemaster took off. So the pilot couldn't maneuver the crowded plane - which plunged down to disaster.

The Globemaster has a control handle, which locks both the throttle and the control surfaces. The handle was supposed to be turned, before the plane took off. But it was turned only part of the way, which unlocked the ~~throttle~~ throttle - but not the controls for steering the plane.

## VOYAGE

One of the strangest voyages on record ended in the Barbados today - when a French doctor came ashore after completing a trans-Atlantic voyage in a rubber boat. He was sixty five days at sea, in a craft fifteen feet long - inflated with air. The doctor undertook the adventure to prove a theory. Namely, that you could make the Trans-Atlantic trip - without taking either food or water along.

Dr. Alain Bombard is connected with <sup>the</sup> a museum of oceanography at Monaco, In studies he made, he became convinced that shipwrecked sailors could get along all right on rain water, raw fish they could catch; and plankton, <sup>those</sup> ~~that require~~ the tiny organisms of the sea, which would provide the vitamins necessary for health. The doctor is also an athlete - who once made the channel swim.

In his inflated rubber boat, equipped with a sail, he navigated from Monaco through the Mediterranean, past Gibraltar, to the Canary Islands, off Africa. He left the canaries on October Eighteenth

- for the sixty five day voyage to the West Indies. He had along a supply of American emergency rations - just in case the experiment failed. The rations were in a sealed package. The proof to be - that the sealed container had never been opened.

Today, Doctor Bombard said: "I had plenty of rain. But, actually, I proved that, if you eat raw fish, you don't need to drink water." Sometimes he speared the fish, other times, flying fish jumped into the boat.

He collected plankton by trailing a sort of net. This was all important - the tiny sea organisms containing vitamins necessary to ward off disease, like scurvy, which causes teeth to fall out.

Today the doctor said: "I ate about two grams of plankton every day, and I'm perfectly healthy. No scurvy - look at my teeth." Opening his ~~mouth~~ mouth, he displayed a perfect set of <sup>them.</sup> ~~teeth.~~

But he did get sick, indigestion - from

<sup>And</sup>  
eating too much fish. He says he never wants to look at sea food again.

On landing he displayed his container of American rations, for inspection. The seal unbroken. That, says the doctor, is the proof that his experiment was a success.

( During the sixty <sup>and</sup> five days at sea, he improved his time by listening to a portable radio he had along - ~~xxxxxx~~ tuning in to B.B.C. in London and some Spanish stations. "I can now speak English much better than I could before" he relates, "and my Spanish is better too." He listened to music a lot. The doctor is also a cellist, and says that, out in the Atlantic, he composed two concertos for the cello, and half a symphony.)

He ran into some stormy weather, which ripped the sail on the boat - and he had to mend it. Waves poured over the side, and he had to bail out the craft. But the ~~xxxxx~~ inflated rubber boat remained staunch and intact. His clothes, however,

were in tatters when he landed - the cloth having rotted in the salt spray of the sea.

Sounds like a great voyage - that experiment to prove that, in an open boat, you don't have to have anything to ~~eat~~ eat or drink, but what the sea provides. *! However* that unopened container of rations must have been a comfort for the soul.

## VATICAN

The Christmas message, broadcast to the world by Pope Pius today, was in philosophical terms. It was translated into twenty-three languages. The pontiff, himself, delivering <sup>it</sup> in Latin; -- and the English translation reflects the grammatical staidness of that ancient tongue.

The key paragraph reads as follows: "One would say that humanity today, which has been able to build the marvelous and complex machine of the modern world, subjugating to its service the tremendous forces of nature - now appears to be incapable of controlling those forces. As though the rudder had slipped from its hands -- and so it is in peril of being over-thrown and crushed by them."

Which is much to the point, when we think of the stupendous powers that science has unleashed for war, like the atom bomb, <sup>the</sup> hydrogen bomb. According to anybody's philosophy, these may get out of control.

They can only be contained, the Papal message goes on to say, by morality, religion, christianity.



WHITE HOUSE

President Truman lit the White House Christmas tree for the last time, today, and called upon Americans - to pray for their enemies. "Let us pray" he said, "for a fulfillment of the brotherhood of man!"

And with that - I will add -  
Merry Christmas to all!