

L.T.-W. WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1954

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At Dien Bien Phu, a slight break in the rain. So, airmen were able to drop weapons and ammunition to the besieged garrison. Also, more volunteers, by parachute. A hundred or so. The siege is now in its fifth day. With the Reds reported regrouping for an all out attack.

But the main thing at Dien Bien Phu continues to be - the rain. Pouring almost continually since Sunday - the start of the monsoon - to last until October. Holding up French air supply attempts and washing out the Communist overland supply line over the mountains from China. Trenches flooded on both sides - foxholes caving in.

A French pilot described the battlefield as "like a wild animal show in a Roman amphitheatre." DeCastries hemmed in. The Reds swarming around, attempting to overwhelm him. The whole scene a quagmire of mud and water - with wreckage everywhere, and the ground bloodstained in many places.

Meanwhile, in Weisbaden, Germany, it's announced that the second phase of our airlift to Indo China is under way. U.S. Air Force headquarters announcing that a number of globemasters took off today from Marseilles, France - to continue the longest air lift in history.

An Air Force spokesman says the planes will ^{again} avoid Indian territory. ~~Just as the first phase of the airlift did.~~

~~Because Nehru refuses to let pilots use the air over his territory.~~

In ~~Colombo~~, Ceylon, an official said that the transports will be allowed to land there for refueling - just as the other planes did. So the globemasters now in the air will follow the path ^{the others took -} ~~of these that went before them - from~~ Marseilles across the Mediterranean, to Saudi Arabia, then on to Pakistan, Ceylon, and Indo China.

An Air Force communique says that the globemasters

will land outside the combat zone. ~~They'll be unloaded~~ -
and then return to ~~their~~ bases in the ^{U.S.A.} ~~United States.~~

In London, a private air firm announces that it is also flying cargo to Indo China. One company official saying that three loads of supplies have been sent from Paris to Saigon. The planes, under charter to Air France.

Meanwhile, it seems that General DeCastries doesn't know how tough a spot he is in. Just listen to this: His wife in Hanoi reports that the General asked her today to send him a pair of rubber boots. The General, wanting them for use when the monsoon hits with all its fury. Which seems to indicate that the General thinks he'll continue to hold out right on through the monsoon.

So what's to be said in Washington, if Dien Bien Phu is overrun by the Red bastion? According to Correspondent Gordry, the military aspect is not the most important. Dien Bien Phu - only one strong point, involving no more than five per cent of General Navarre's complete strength. But it's the psychological and political factors - that have Washington worried. According to Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, millions of Asians might swing over to the Reds.

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WASHINGTON FOLLOW INDO-CHINA

A dispatch from U.P. Correspondent Charles Corddry states that officials in Washington are trying to decide what will happen if Dien Bien Phu falls to the Reds. According to the reporter, *the general Washington opinion is that* ~~the capital is in an uproar because~~ the battle was deliberately chosen by French General Navarre. And, we supported his plan by sending in military equipment - and predicting eventual victory.

So what's to be said in Washington, if Dien Bien Phu is overrun by the Red besiegers? According to Correspondent Corddry, the military aspect is not the most important. Dien Bien Phu - only one strong point, involving no more than five per cent of General Navarre's complete strength. But it's the psychological and political factors - that have Washington worried. According to Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, millions of Asiatics might swing over to the Reds.

So our officials are no longer backing the French choice of Dien Bien Phu. The fortress, said to be too close

to the Red supply lines - and too far from the rest of the French army. General Navarre thought he could disrupt those supply routes. But American critics say that he put too few troops into Dien Bien Phu - leaving General deCastries outnumbered by at least three-to-one.

The U.P. correspondent notes that Washington criticism is mainly hindsight. Our officials, ^{went} ~~willing to go~~ along with the French plan - until ^{the announcement} ~~it became clear~~ that the situation at Dien Bien Phu was becoming more critical all the time.

GENEVA

Talks on an Indo Chinese ^a ~~peace~~ ^{at Geneva} ~~to begin in~~
will commence
~~Geneva~~ on Friday or Saturday. The West and the Soviet Union
agreed to this today. According to a French spokesman, the
opening date depends on the arrival of representatives from
the three Indo-Chinese ^a states - Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

The agreement to discuss an armistice - signed by
the French ambassador to Switzerland, Jean Chauvel, for
the West - and Soviet ~~Embassy~~ Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei
Gromyko, for the Russians.

The chairmanship of the talks - to alternate
between British foreign Secretary Eden, and Soviet Foreign
Minister Molotov. The West, refusing to permit Red China
to preside over any of the meetings.

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EISENHOWER

At his news conference today, President Eisenhower issued a formal statement about the Geneva Conference. The President, putting his remarks briefly and in writing - instead of speaking at length about the discussions from which Secretary of State Dulles has just returned.

The President remarked that Mr. Dulles will report on the Geneva Conference himself. Also, some issues are still pending over there - where we are represented now by Under-Secretary Bedell Smith.

First of all, Mr. Eisenhower pointed out that Geneva has produced no surprises - and the fears of the free world have proved unfounded. *That is* ~~and, in the President's words,~~ "it has not been a 'five-power' conference - as the Soviet Union tried to make it." *That was the way the President put it.*

And that ~~Here's how the President sees Geneva. In the first~~
place, the Korean problem has been set aside as insoluble at this moment. Because the Red plan would turn all of Korea into a Soviet satellite. And the West rejects this, ~~solution.~~ The

President adding, that Secretary Dulles says the plan is unacceptable both to South Korea and to the U.N. nations that took part in the Korean War.

Discussions about Indo-China -- still going on.

Mr. Eisenhower remarked that the Indo-Chinese problem is mainly up to the governments concerned - France, Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. ~~These discussions are continuing.~~

Then he

~~Mr. Eisenhower~~ ended his statement by mentioning the proposed "Nato" for Southeast Asia. The President ^{*printing out*} ~~commented~~ that such an alliance could not be formed overnight. The main thing being - that most of the free nations concerned are interested, ~~are~~, interested in the collective security.

VISHINSKY

Russia's representative at the U.N. goes home.

Vishinsky, sailing aboard the Queen Elizabeth; saying he'll be back in six weeks or so.

But at the U.N. there's speculation. Will he return?

He's over seventy. And, Malenkov may want to replace him. If so - maybe we have seen the last of the man who was the chief prosecutor in the Stalinist purge trials in the 'Thirties - and who has done so much storming and ranting at the U.N.

PARAGUAY

In Paraguay, an army revolt against the government.

So stated in a dispatch from Clorinda, Argentina.

Clorinda is across the Paraguay River from the city

of Asuncion, capital of Paraguay. Arrivals in from Asuncion

report that President Chaves and members of his cabinet

have taken refuge in the military college. They say the army

split on the issue. One faction, still supporting Chaves.

They add - that a big battle seems imminent.

Normal communications with Paraguay ~~partially~~

cut off. No telephone or ~~at~~ radio service. Ferry boats

suspending ~~their~~ services across the Paraguay River. And

from Clorinda, the city of Asuncion appears to be deserted.

That's the latest ~~about~~ the attempted coup by the

Paraguay army.

NIKE

Washington, to have a vast umbrella of anti-aircraft guided missiles. The Nike missiles - which intercept and destroy enemy planes. The Nike, termed by one Congressman "unbelievably fantastic."

Until now, the Nike has been top secret. But "Business Week" was given security clearance by the State Department.

At Lorton, Virginia - not far from Washington, there will be an underground concrete compartment -- storage for missiles and fuel -- and maintenance facilities. The Nike, to be raised to the surface by an automatic elevator - from which they can be fired directly.

The Lorton installation - will give Washington an anti-aircraft umbrella twenty-five miles in diameter, and sixty-thousand feet high. In that area the Nike missiles will track down and destroy planes.

Lorton, the first of some forty installations - to be set up throughout the country. This to be done in the next couple of years.

HEARINGS

Senator McCarthy testified today. But he was only on the stand for a few minutes. Asked about that much discussed part of a secret F B I report on Fort Monmouth, he said he got the document from an officer in the intelligence department. And then flatly refused to identify that officer.

There was a sharp exchange between McCarthy and Army Counsel Welch. But it all ended on a quiet note.

The hearing ended with Army Secretary Stevens on the stand again.

STEVENS

President Eisenhower gives his full support to Army

Secretary Stevens. ^{it} The President made ~~this~~ clear during his news conference ^{that he will} ~~not~~ stand with Stevens in the dispute with Senator Mc Carthy.

Mr. Eisenhower told reporters that he has not lost any confidence in Secretary Stevens. The President was asked if he approved of the way ^{the Secretary} ~~Stevens~~ has conducted himself at the hearings. The chief executive ^{declined} ~~refused~~ to answer that one directly - but he ^{said} ~~stated~~ that he has no reason to be dissatisfied with the way Stevens ^{is running} ~~has run~~ his Department.

^{Pres.} Last week ~~Mr.~~ Eisenhower said he hoped the hearings would end quickly. Today, he clarified that remark. He asserted that the dispute between McCarthy and the Army has hurt our national prestige. But he added that the nation might derive some benefit from the investigation. ^{He added} ~~and he declared~~ that he never meant ^{to suggest} that the Committee should cut off the hearings - before it gets proper answers to the main issues of McCarthy versus the Army.

TRUMAN

Democrat
Former President Truman returned to Washington today. Mr. Truman, in the capital to attend the National Committee meeting of his party. A U P correspondent went aboard his train at Silver Spring, Maryland. The reporter describes the ex-President as "in a chatty mood." Mr. Truman only being serious on the subject of Indo China. He refused to give an opinion, ~~because he~~ Says he doesn't have all the facts. *party* ~~The executive committee was told that both Roosevelt~~

~~and Gordon~~ One thing Mr. Truman was emphatic about - McCarthy versus the Army. Saying, "I'm sorry to see it," ~~Mr. Truman~~ *He* ~~called~~ *called* the hearings "a disgrace to the Senate." Sounds ~~as if he's ready for a typical Truman style slam bang attack~~ ~~on the~~ ~~off~~

Democrats

In Washington, the Executive committee - is

already at work. Today it voted to refuse support to James

Roosevelt and Robert Condon, who are running in the

California primaries. The vote, taken at a secret meeting.

Roosevelt, ~~is~~ involved in a sensational divorce action

- Condon, ~~was~~ denied clearance for atomic tests - because of

alleged Communist associations.

party
The executive committee was told that both Roosevelt

and Condon were endorsed in California. But even so, it agreed

with National Chairman Mitchell; - neither to have the support

of the party.

1/2

So the National Labor Relations Board was asked to
decide. Today the N.L.R.B. handed down its decision. The
"inside" man - to be an actor. Which sounds like a wrap-up
in show business for "Clear the Elephant" - no longer a
sign-head, ~~will~~ an actor.

ELEPHANT

In Chicago, the controversy over "Elmer the Elephant" has ended. "Elmer the Elephant", being the mechanical star of a T.V. show for kids. The controversy was over - who has a right to be Elmer's "inside" man? Who should handle the wires and pulleys that move Elmer's trunk and eyes and mouth and tail?

At first, ^a~~the~~ stage-hand worked inside Elmer. But then ~~the~~ T.V. station fired him - on ^{the} grounds that the "inside" man should be an actor rather than a stage-hand. ^{The station hiring} ~~an~~ actor ^{instead.} And the stage-hand's union at once protested - called it unfair labor practice.

So the National Labor Relations Board was asked to decide. Today the N.L.R.B. handed down its decision. The "inside" man - to be an actor. Which sounds like a step-up in show business for "Elmer the Elephant" - no longer a stage-hand, ^{now} ~~but~~ an actor.