

EISENHOWER

U.S.P. & G. Fri. Oct. 27 - 1950.

General Eisenhower -- named as the Supreme Commander of the United Defense Forces of western Europe. Today the twelve-nation military committee, meeting in Washington, made the recommendation -- unanimously.

Will General Ike accept. The answer is -- yes. Earlier in the day he was asked what he would do, if the post were offered to him! He replied by saying that his commander-in-chief was President Truman, and added: "I am going to do what I am told."

KOREA

The news from Korea is pretty much the same as last night. Two principle points: Troops of the United Nations driving on toward Manchuria - and persistent reports that Chinese Communists ~~have joined the Korean~~ Reds. One rumor pictures forty thousand Chinese in the forces of the enemy. However, forty thousand would not be so many -- not opposed to a total of one hundred and seventy thousand in the U.N. army ^{that is} smashing relentlessly toward the Yalu River, the border.

TIBET.....1-A

Here's the latest, a despatch from the United Nations, which states: "India has served notice on the Chinese Communists that it will stop backing them for United Nations membership if reports of a Tibet invasion are confirmed.

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TIBET

RETAKE

At New Delhi today the following announcement was issued: "The Government of India notes with considerable concern reports that the Chinese Government has ordered units of the Chinese Army to advance into Tibet". The announcement adds that the Indian ambassador in Peking has been told to convey to the Chinese Government what the announcement calls -- "surprise and regret at this development."

The news of the Red invasion of the Roof-of-the-World has created consternation in India - the more so because Prime Minister Nehru has been playing along with the Communists in Peking. One report is that the Indians may now withdraw support in the United Nations - where they have been backing the admission of Communist China. We've been wondering about India championing the Peking Reds in the U.N., and this may be an explanation -- the hope of preventing a seizure of Tibet - *India's largest neighbor - geographically, that is.*

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in the capital of India, negotiations have been going on between a Tibetan delegation and the Chinese Ambassador to India. The Chinese plan ^{was} for the Tibetan delegation to go on to Peking and there sign a treaty. But the departure of the Tibetans was delayed - the excuse being ^{that} permission had to be obtained from the British - permission to travel via Hongkong. At last, the British permission came, whereupon the representatives of the Dalai Lama were about to leave India. They had gone from New Delhi to Calcutta, on their way ^{to China.} Then the news came: - "Reds invade Tibet."

So the assumption is that the Communists were stringing things along, while the delegation was delayed. Then they started their attack, as soon as the Tibetans got going.

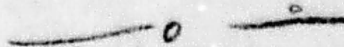
What does it all mean? One guess in India is that the Reds intend to take over the Roof-of-the-World as an accomplished fact - and then dictate a full surrender! Another surmise is that they may be staging a push over the China-Tibet border in order to persuade the

Dalai Lama's Government to come to terms in a hurry.

The actual military moves are shrouded in the obscurities of Tibetan geography. That high Himalayan land is so little known that the maps are vague, and often incorrect - in fact always incorrect. We found all of our maps ~~were~~ ^{on our journey a year ago,} hopelessly off. The despatches declare that a Chinese Red force has reached a point about five hundred miles northwest of Lhasa, the sacred city. A Red column is said to have by-passed the Town of Chando, held by a strong Tibetan garrison, ten thousand troops. The Chinese ^{we hear,} took what is called the Riwochi route, and are approaching the Town of Neiwutsi. The names involved in this campaign might puzzle even a well-informed geographer -- so few people from the west ever having been in those parts.

On our trip to Lhasa last year, we came in from India, and did not traverse that region. Frank ^{A Lodi, Calif -} Bessac, an American student in Mongolia, some months ago fled from the Red sweep in China; He and American Vice Consul Douglas MacKiernan. The American consular

official was killed. Bessac went on, and made his way
— a tremendous journey of 9 months —
to India by way of Tibet. In his opinion the natural
obstacles ^{in that northern region} are tremendous canyons, steep gorges of rivers;
plus the bitter cold and violent winds. He thinks this
is the worst time of the year for a major invasion, and
that the present Red advance may be more in the nature
of a menacing demonstration -- to make the Government of
Lhasa come to terms, and accept Red domination.



~~SECRET~~

The concern of India ^{about Tibet} is easy to understand. Suppose you lived in Hindustan, how would you like to have the Reds in Control of your principle neighbor -- sitting up there on that lofty plateau called the Roof-of-the-World, looking down upon you along a two thousand mile border?

At the time of our journey to Lhasa last year, Lowell, Junior, and I talked about this with high officials in Hindustan. They said: ^{"oh"} "We are lucky, because along that border is the great Himalayan wall, made up of the mightiest mountain ranges on earth. We will guard the mountain passes!" said they.

But this is the air age, the age of supercharged planes. True, only one plane has ~~ever~~ been in Tibet, one lone American bomber that got lost during the war and crashed on the banks of the ^h Bramaputra. The Tibetan plateau is from fourteen to seventeen thousand feet in altitude, higher than the tops of the loftiest mountains in the United States, higher even than Mont Blanc. The air is so thin that

the planes would need runways from three to five miles in length.

Present-day aircraft are not equipped to operate from the Roof-of-the-World. When I was injured on our way from Lhasa, ~~sustaining a broken leg through an accident with a horse,~~ ^{back} ~~there were ideas of taking me out by plane.~~ ^{ward reached the outside} Air Secretary Stuart Symington and Chief of the Air Force General Hoyt Vandenburg did everything they could, but found it ~~was virtually~~ ^{couldn't be done.} impossible. ~~Too much altitude for aircraft - as to~~ ^{world about our dilemma and} ~~illustrated by the fact that I was injured in a~~ ^{rescuing} Himalayan Pass ^{over} seventeen thousand feet high. ~~I had~~ to be carried out on the shoulders of Tibetan monks and peasants, through rivers across the great plateau and then over the Himalayas. ~~get me out.~~ ^{No plane could}

But that question of altitude is a technical problem, which the aviation wizards would not have too much difficulty solving -- devising engines for thin air and laying out flying field runways long enough. There is plenty of space for airports in Tibet. We crossed plateaus as smooth as a table, natural flying fields

that would hold all the sky armadas of the world.

As I was being carried out on a litter I had plenty of time to study the terrain and my thoughts often were: "Here's a perfect spot for a plane to pick me up, if only the details could be arranged - permission from the Dalai Lama, fuel supply, the right kind of aircraft."

Lowell Junior and I remarked, more than once, that we hoped, by some miracle, the Reds would be kept out of Tibet. Because, if they did take it over they would be in a perfect spot to threaten India - either through the air or on the ground.

At Lhasa we met two Austrians whose story is included in ^{the} a book about our journey, ~~soon~~ to be published, ^{in 2 or 3 weeks.} They told us how, during World War II they were interned in a British camp in India. They escaped, and made their way to the Himalayas to take refuge in Tibet.

The Government of India, and also the Tibetans, knew approximately where they were. The

Tibetans turned them back a number of times. But all they had to do was go around a mountain, through an uninhabited area, and they were back in Tibet again. After doing this a few times, they made their way deep into that forbidden country. They learned the language and today are trusted officials of the Dalai Lama.

The point of all this is -- that you cannot stop determined people along a mountain frontier of two thousand miles.

So the Indian officials who told us about guarding the Himalayan passes were expressing hope -- not reality.

The infiltration of Communist parties and propaganda into India would ~~be fairly easy.~~ *not be too difficult. And*

today's dispatch from India says the Nehru Government is alarmed -- and will withdraw its support of the Mao Tse Tung Peking Govt. in the U.N.

Tibet -- and whether it is invaded or not -- may determine the fate of Asia in our time.

FRANCE

8 In Paris tonight, the French National Assembly voted to increase the period of conscription from one year to eighteen months. France, of course, has universal military training, this increases the time of armed service by six months. The ~~main~~ purpose is to bring the French standing army up to twenty divisions by Nineteen Fifty-three. The measure was passed, four-hundred-and-seventy to one hundred and eighty-five -- only the Communists and their followers voting "no."

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SUBVERSIVES

The Communist control bill was challenged today by one hundred and thirty-five persons - who appealed to the Federal District Court in Washington. They charge the law is unconstitutional, and demand that Attorney-General McGrath be prevented from enforcing it. The one hundred and thirty-five include people belonging to various organizations, some of which are listed as subversives - and one individual is a prominent Communist, Elizabeth Courtly Flynn, member of the Central Committee of the Red Party. It was expected that the law for Communist control would have to go through the courts - and this begins the process.

TELEPHONE STRIKE

A telephone strike has been called for November ninth -- and it is almost nationwide in scope. The union has issued an order effecting sixteen thousand employees of Western Electric - in forty-three states. So the strike can cripple a large part of the telephone service of the nation. Wage increases are demanded, and union President Joseph Burn states that everything depends on whether an agreement can be reached by November Ninth - or there will be a strike.

CAMPAIGN SPENDING

The Secretary of the Senate received an interesting lot of messages today -- numbers mostly. This is the point in the political campaign where the candidates report on the amounts of money they are spending to get elected.

One report was from Governor Clemens[†]_^ of Kentucky, a Democrat running for the Senate. The Kentucky Republicans are charging that Clemens has invested three hundred and sixty thousand dollars in this campaign and is trying to raise half a million. So what figures does Governor Clemens report? He says he has spent nine thousand, four hundred and seventeen dollars.

/Then there's New York Republican Lieutenant-Governor Joe Hanley, running for the Senate -- whose letter-writing gifts made a furore a week or so ago. His letter told of a promise that would enable ^{him} Hanley to pay up ^{some} ~~his~~ debts -- if he would run for the Senate. So what are his campaign expenditures thus far? His report today states that he received four hundred

CAMPAIGN SPENDING.....2

and nineteen dollars in contributions and has spent --
nothing. Presumably he will invest the four hundred and
nineteen bucks before the election battle is over.
But thus far -- not a cent.

WEATHER

The Pacific Northwest is having a stormy time tonight -- a howling gale sweeping through British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and northern California. Communications disrupted, fallen trees blocking highways -- in a tempest approaching the violence of a hurricane.

On the east coast, chilly weather. In ~~places~~ places like upper New York State, the thermometer hit a new low for this time of year -- as old man winter came blowing in.

The same thing on the other side of the Atlantic -- where snow storms hit Britain, Germany and similar countries. It is freezing in Paris; and, Vienna *already* has four inches of snow.
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RESCUE

In Korea today an American Officer looked at the face of another American officer, and said: "You're the prettiest thing I ever saw." That rapturous exclamation was uttered by Captain Frank Riley of Atlanta, Georgia.

He's a fighter pilot, who was shot down by Communist gunfire on the ground, and made a crash landing in a reservoir, an artificial lake. The water was icy, -- bitter winter having clamped down on Korea. But he was able to swim to shore, which was covered with snow. There he huddled, shivering and freezing.

Then he saw a helicopter, flying over and hovering down. The rescue pilot was Captain Walter Blatt of Wormleysberg, Pa., who was on a fast, efficient job. In a minute, Captain Riley, down there in the snow, was looking up at the grinning face of his brother officer. That was when one American captain said to another American captain, "You're the prettiest thing I ever saw."

12/14
You couldn't blame him could
you Mel'au?