

It's a Christmas present, all right -- to get news that the Conference in Moscow has produced something definite.

The decision at which the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three have arrived concerns the making of peace treaties with countries that were satellites of Nazi Germany. These are Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland.

At the previous conference, the one in London that failed, the cause of disagreement centered around the question of peace treaties. The Western Democracies, the United States and Great Britain -- wanted all the United Nations to participate in the peace making. After all, a lot of countries were in a state of war with the Axis satellites.

This United Nations idea was opposed by Russia -- the Soviets contending that the peace ~~treaties~~ treaties with the satellites should be framed by the powers that had made armistice ~~terms~~ terms with them.

That is, Nations of the Big Three, with France added in the case of Italy.

The London Conference of the Foreign Ministers broke up without settling the dispute. So what have we now?

A bulletin issued at Moscow tonight states that the Foreign Ministers, Messrs. Byrnes, Bevin and Molotov, have reached a settlement on the subject of the peace treaties. What's it like? ~~What's it like?~~  
How will it work?

Well, the treaties are to be framed pretty much in accordance with the Molotov idea at London. The Big Three, which signed the armistice with Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary, will draw up the peace arrangements with those countries. A peace pact with Finland will be formulated by the ~~Soviet~~ Soviets and ~~the~~ Great Britain -- the United States never having been at war with Finland. Peace arrangements with Italy will be drafted by the Big Three and France.

Thus far it looks like a clearcut victory

for the Soviets. However, there are concessions. When the treaties have been drawn up, they'll be submitted to a conference x that will be called by May First, and will consider the terms of the pacts. The Nations at the Peace Conference will be able to suggest changes, modifications of the treaties. Then any suggestions they make will be referred to the Big Three, which will make the final decisions and then the treaties will go into effect.

It isn't the United Nations way of peace making, as previously advocated by the United States and Great Britain, But anyway, it is something definite -- all-round peace conference to meet by May first for signing of peace settlements with the satellite countries. The way it is being done may not be a Christmas present entirely according to heart's desire, but I suppose we shouldn't look the Yuletide Stocking in the mouth.

The meeting of the Foreign Ministers is about at an end -- and the decision announced tonight x --

about peace treaties -- represents what they've succeeded in doing. The word from Moscow is that nothing much more is to be expected. There will be at least one more communique, a final announcement, but it isn't thought that this will proclaim anything new and important.

One sign of the end of the conference is a banquet given by Stalin. The Soviet Generalissimo will entertain Messrs. Byrnes and Bevin at a big spread so typical of Russian hospitality -- and all will be festive and cordial. I suppose that for the American and British statesmen it will be in the nature of a Christmas celebration -- although the Soviets don't go in for Christmas. And besides, the usual Russian observance of the feast of the nativity is according to the old Russian calendar, and doesn't take place today anyway.

Last night there was a gay party at the French Embassy. Secretary of State Byrnes didn't attend, having a cold. But his absence was made up for,

vocally at least, by British Foreign Secretary Bevin who has a resonant voice. Bevin led in the singing of an old English drinking song: "The more we are together, the merrier we'll be." And that might have been taken as the hopeful note for international conferences.

Some few discordant notes are heard -- like a new Soviet blast against colonial ~~imperialism~~ imperialism. The Moscow radio today delivered a broadside against what it called "The Reactionary Colonial System." And this was pointed in the direction of Indonesia -- where the British are trying to put down an Indonesian insurrection in Java. New heavy fighting reported today.

And A few Jugoslav sour notes are being sung -- King Peter of that Balkan Country expressing his disappointment at the American recognition of Tito. This recognition, which seals the fate of Peter as a King without a ~~xx~~ crown, is regarded as another victory for the Soviets. The American diplomatic

message reiterates that the Communist Regime in Jugoslavia does not square with the principles of democracy and the Atlantic charter. Nevertheless, we recognize Communist Marshal Tito.

## JAPAN

Here's a report on the war from an interesting source -- the Tokyo Fire Department. The smoke eaters of the Japanese Capital had a close-up of that flaming phenomenon, the fire bombing of Tokyo. So how do they size it up? Size is the word -- size size of the fires.

Official figures were given today which show that in the bombing of Tokyo, more than six hundred and five thousand homes and buildings were destroyed. How many people made homeless? More than one million one hundred thousand families. So says the Tokyo Fire Department -- which should know.

From fire to crime, -- *They're* having a crime wave in Japan. This fits the picture in most post-war countries. The Japanese police announce wholesale arrests, more than a thousand persons locked up -- charged with various <sup>*forms*</sup> ~~forms~~ of robbery and burglary.

One spectacular crime was reported at the City of Okayama, where a gang of ten crooks held up

the store of a liquor dealer. They tied up the proprietor and members of his family, and stuffed their pockets with five thousand ~~yan~~<sup>yen</sup> in cash. After which they drank up most of the stock in the liquor store. They guzzled most of the Saki. Not counting other beverages of a more western sort. The ten bandits were hardly able to walk, as they lurched out for a staggering getaway.

And here's word from the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. We are told that Hirohito will ~~not~~ no longer participate in public religious festivals. He will keep his Shintoism within the Palace --- indoors. This was announced today by the Imperial household, and follows the order given by General MacArthur for the abolition of State Shintosim -- the Cult of ancestor worship as perverted to the uses of Japanese Militarism.

I have no doubt that Japan will be well rid of State Shintosim, but just the same there is one angle that causes a slight twinge of regret. The



The announcement made by the Imperial Household states that Hirohito will no longer report to his ancestors.

Hitherto, according to immemorial custom, the Emperor of Japan has from time to time made a solemn pilgrimage to the grand shrine of Ise to report to his illustrious ancestors on affairs of state -- how things were going in Japan. Only recently at Movietone Newsreel we had a picturesque bit of film showing Hirohito at a shrine -- breaking the news to Mikados of the past, the bad news that Japan had lost the war. It must have been ~~xxx~~ embarrassing.

Well, that ancient ceremony is now being ~~xxx~~ abolished, and it seems a pity. Because it always was a quaint and curious thing to relate -- the Emperor of Japan making a report to his ancestors.

berlin churches

From Germany comes a sombre bit of church  
ness -- a Christmas appeal issued by religious  
authorities in Berlin. They ask the people of the city  
to stop tearing up the damaged churches to get wood for  
fuel. — *Don't burn down the churches*

*to cook xmas dinner, is part of the plan.*  
Winter is cold in the ruins of Berlin, and

and there is little to provide heat. The inhabitants  
resort to almost anything to get something to burn,

*even*  
They go to wrecked churches and rip out old masterpieces  
of woodwork. They tear up the floors and chop up pews  
that are centuries old. They tear massive doors from

their hinges, doors with valuable old carvings, and *they*  
*are* even burn *in their own church altars,*  
~~the altars~~

So on Christmas eve the church authorities  
have asked people to stop, ~~and~~ help to preserve what  
remains of the churches.

## PATTON

Tonight General Patton lies among his soldiers. His last resting place is in a row of graves of enlisted men. He was buried on Christmas Eve in Luxembourg -- the country in which he commanded some of his hardest fighting. Patton drove his tanks into Luxembourg in the Battle of the Bulge -- for a counter-thrust against the German offensive that looked so threatening then, the last dangerous kick of the Nazi war machine. His funeral today was attended by the highest military rank, in throngs. The chief mourner -- Mrs. Patton.

## POPE

It was appropriate for the Vatican to name the new Cardinals in a Christmas announcement. A distribution of red hats was expected, no new Cardinals having been created since before the years of wartime - ~~and there was~~ <sup>leaving</sup> a great decrease in the number of electors for the choosing of a Roman Pontiff.

Most of the nominations made by Pope Pius the Twelfth cause no surprise - like the naming of four ~~new~~ new American Cardinals, giving the United States five princes of the church in all. Nor was it ~~xxx~~ astonishing that the list of thirty-two was spread so widely over the world, new Cardinals in Nineteen ~~centuries~~ <sup>countries -</sup> thereby eliminating the traditional majority of Italians in the sacred college. But it is unexpected to find - a Chinese Cardinal. The explanation lies in the increasing importance of Christianity in the Far East.

There is one surprise of omission - no Irish Cardinal named. Of course there is no lack of Irish names in the college of Cardinals - four of the

five Americans being of Irish blood <sup>of Irish</sup> ancestry. But Ireland, itself, so long a bastion of Roman catholicism is left without a red hat. ~~Maxxxx~~ One wonders - why?

Today, Christmas Eve, Pope Pius the Twelfth followed the naming of the Cardinals with a Christmas message -- in which he gave a warning against Totalitarianism, the despotic rule of governments over lives of their citizens. "The typranny of the total state must be brought to an end in the world," declared ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Pontiff.

FRANCE

In France all the evening newspapers tonight reported a thing not yet officially disclosed - devaluation the ~~announcement~~ of the franc. There is journalistic unanimity in saying that an announcement will be made tonight ~~or~~ or tomorrow morning - an announcement that the value of the franc will be cut.

Right now the unit of French currency is, at least theoretically - fifty-francs to the dollar. The cut will be drastic - the value of the franc to be fixed at four-hundred-and-eighty to the pound, or about a-hundred-and-nineteen to the dollar. A devaluation move by the De Gaulle government has been talked of for ~~some~~ weeks. Now it is about to happen - according to the French newspapers.

U.N.O.

A vigorous declaration on the subject of a site for the United Nations was made in Washington today -- by Prime Minister Frazer of New Zealand. He's on his way to the first meeting of the General Assembly of the U.N.O. which will be held in London ~~and~~ on January Tenth. At this meeting the Assembly will finally decide on <sup>a</sup> permanent site and the New Zealand Premier favors Hyde Park, home of the late President Roosevelt.

The question has been a subject of lively debate. First it was a question of -- Europe or America. America won out. Then -- would it be East Coast or West Coast? The decision was -- East Coast. And now, the U.N.O. has still to make up its mind -- what place on the East Coast of the United States will be the permanent site of the United Nations Organization?

The New Zealand Premier was, to begin with, in favor of the West Coast -- nearer to New Zealand. Not so far for New Zealanders to travel. But, since <sup>he</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>on that,</sup> lost out, the site on the East Coast that he

favours is -- Hyde Park.

In Washington today, Prime Minister Frazer stated that he is going to the meeting of the U.N.O. Assembly in London to fight for two things. One the abolition of the veto power of the Big Three. He says the absolute veto, which was adopted at the demand of Soviet Russia, is undemocratic and against the spirit of the United Nations \*\* -- and an injustice to the smaller countries.

The other thing that he intends to champion \* is -- the Roosevelt Home Town.

The kind of argument that he is going to put up before the assembly of the U.N.O. was illustrated in Washington today, when he gave a sort of ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ rehearsal. Championing the town in Dutchess County, he sounded like a local Dutchess County booster: "A more beautiful place couldn't be found," he exclaimed fervently. "Hyde Park is only sixty miles from New York, with marvelous highways, the scenic Hudson and the beautiful Catskills." ~~Atta boy~~ *That's the spirit,* Mr.



Prime Minister, we inhabitants of Dutchess County appreciate that.

## CRASH

The Army Air Force is investigating the strange case of a C-47 Transport Plane which flew for a thousand miles without a crew, and crashed near Chillicothe, Ohio.

The big plane, with a six-man crew, was on a routine flight from Denver, Colorado, to Lincoln Nebraska, when it got into trouble -- icing conditions. The controls became sluggish, wouldn't work -- because of accumulating ice. The crew bailed out near Dwight, Nebraska.

The automatic pilot was set, which steered the plane mechanically -- and that provides the curious angle. The automatic pilot was set for a course to the Northwest. That should have taken the plane up toward Montana. But, ~~xxx~~ somehow, the plane without a crew reversed its direction, and flew the opposite way -- to Ohio. There, it came ~~dx~~ down smash -- bang on a farm.

The local farm people, hearing the crash, investigated. They found the wreck, but no crew.

They supposed that the airmen must have bailed out somewhere in the vicinity. They started a search, the Sheriff organizing a rescue party. The hunt was on for miles over the countryside. Then the word came <sup>that</sup> the big plane had flown a thousand miles without a crew.

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A Christmas declaration has just been issued by the White House -- as President Truman leads the nation in a prayer of thanks for this first peacetime Christmas in four years. "I don't believe," says the President, "That there is one problem in this country, or in the world today, which could not be settled -- if approached with the teaching of the sermon on the mount."

And that seems an appropriate note on which to end a broadcast tonight -- our 1st Xmas eve.  
1/2 since the end of the greatest war of all time -- which gives all of us reason to rejoice -- that the war is not still on.  
And Merry Xmas to all.