

L.T. - P&G. Tuesday August 28, 1951.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Last night I got back from flying to Europe, Africa, and South America just under the wire, barely in time to go on the air and I didn't take the time to thank Eric Severeid and Edward P. Morgan who have been on in my place, during these summer weeks. I hope they are listening as I salute them. I hear they did a top flight job.

SUB KOREA

From Tokyo tonight General ~~Matthew~~ Ridgway has sent ~~off~~ his reply to General Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-Huai in answer to the latest red note. ~~The~~ message ~~is~~ was handed to a Communist Liaison officer at ~~RMM~~ Pannumjon five miles below Kaesong just a few hours ago and simultaneously put out over the air from ~~Japan~~ ^{Said the} U.N. Supreme Commander, ~~stated~~ "When you are prepared to terminate the suspensions of armistice negotiations which you declared on the twenty-third of August I will direct my representatives to meet with yours with a view to seeking a reasonable armistice agreement." ~~General~~ ^{The} Ridgway's message which ~~is~~ seems ~~comparatively~~ mild after the heated exchanges of the past few days, ~~threw back the initiative to~~ ~~the Chinese and North Korean Reds. A two thousand~~ ^a ~~word~~ statement issued earlier today by Tokyo Headquarters had blasted the Red demand for a new investigation of the alleged air attack as "a sham of unprecedented proportions."

(Tonight's note from General Ridgway ^{to the Reds} confirms the strong belief at the U N advance camp below Kaesong that armistice talks may resume. Tokyo rumors are that General Ridgway may propose a new meeting place ~~for the meetings~~ -- away from Kaesong.) ~~And the Tokyo grapevine has gone so far as to suggest that the U N Supreme Commander may call for a fresh series of talks with a new set of negotiators from each side.~~

In a ~~daring~~ ~~foray~~ foray up the Han River two British frigates today bombarded Communist hillside positions below Kaesong. In the only other actions of the day South Korean troops threw back eight heavy enemy assaults on the eastern front. Elsewhere ^{the} heavy rains ~~which turned the battle zones into a sea of mud have~~ bogged ~~us~~ down all operations.

IRAN

In London today, Averell Harriman ended his talks with British officials about the Iranian oil question. Before turning his attention to General Eisenhower and the Defense programs in western Europe, he took one last look at the Iranian problem. "I believe a solution is possible, but I also believe that a cooling off period is desirable - the next move is up to Iran," *said Harriman.*

President Truman's special assistant warned that that Middle Eastern oil kingdom is "a fertile field for Communist penetration." However, there is little real danger of a Communist uprising so long as the Army remains loyal." This will be the case, he said, so long as the soldiers are paid. Which would seem to raise the question - how long can the soldiers be paid without ^{the} oil royalties which have kept Iran going? Harriman says, that question is one the Iranians must sort out for themselves.

Soviet, we heard some days ago, has offered Iran a large amount of Russian gold. So the Iranians may think they are sitting pretty.

JORDAN

In Amman, capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a military court today passed sentence of death on six men convicted of plotting the assassination of King Abdullah. Executions by hanging were announced for Friday. That is if the sentences are approved by Jordan's regent, Emir Naif, younger son of King Abdullah. Of the six sentenced, only four will go to the gallows on Friday. The two others, one a former Colonel in the Arab Legion, have fled the country to seek political asylum in Cairo. Due to the Arab League feud between King Farouk's Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom, it seems unlikely that either of the men will be extradited to Jordan.

During ^{the} sentencing the four convicted men sat motionless, in the courtroom. Only at the end of the courts findings did one turn to the other and whisper, "This is our ^{ru} destiny."

(A dispatch from northern Italy states that a local criminal court made a formal demand today -- for the extradition of two former American soldiers, accused in the murder of their commanding officer. This is in the case of Major William V. Holohan of the Office of Strategic Services, who, during the Second World War disappeared, on a mission behind enemy lines in Italy. His two companions, now accused, were Lieutenant Aldo Icardi of Pittsburgh and Sergeant Carlo Lodolce (le-dole-ehay) of Rochester.)

In Italy, two Italian partisans who fought the Germans during the war are being held for trial. Today the court over there decreed that their prosecution will be delayed until there is a settlement of the question of ~~xxxx~~ extraditing the two American citizens.

In New York, meanwhile, a demand was made, today, calling on President Truman to order an investigation of the case, the charge being that the Defense Department suppressed the facts, keeping the

whole thing secret. This emanates from a "committee to honor the late Major William. V. Holohan" the members of which include Major General "Wild Bill" Donovan, war-time head of the Office of Strategic Services, that "cloak and dagger" outfit.

This case, which is becoming an international sensation, broke into print in the magazine "True" and today I had a talk with Mike Stern, Rome correspondent of True, who dug up and sent over the dramatic disclosure. He told me how during the campaign in Italy, he was a correspondent at the Front, and heard of the disappearance of a Major who had been dropped behind the German lines with a hundred thousand dollars to finance guerrilla operations, and direct the sending of weapons and munitions to the anti-German partisans.

Then, after the war, he heard odd reports from American investigators who had gone to the scene of the mystery - Alpine country of Piedmont and

Lombardy. There they found that the moment you mentioned Major Holohan, the local people shied away, looked frightened and said nothing.

Later on, Mike Stern went up into that region on a story famous a few years ago - the mystery of Mussolini's gold. What happened to it? Well, it would seem the Communists got the treasure ^{that way} taken away by the Duce when he fled, after he was overthrown. But the newsmen, as a sideline made some inquiries about the disappearance of Major Holohan - and he, too, found people terrified of the mention of the missing American officer.

The break came a year and a half ago, when Stern in Rome got word of strange disclosures in northern Italy - which told how Major Holohan had been poisoned and then shot to death. His body was found at the bottom of a lake. Those accused were two Italian partisans and his own two American Army aides, ~~Mr~~ Lieutenant Icardi and Sergeant Lodolce.

Today Mike Stern told me that the Italian police, in unravelling the mystery made little attempt to determine the motive. But he was curious, and found that Major Holohan was commissioned to see that American armament was distributed between Communist and the non-Communist bands, so the Reds would not get it all. The Communists apparently wanted to create an arsenal for a Red seizure of power in northern Italy.

There was one parachute drop, and the Communists grabbed most of it. Whereupon Major Holohan told the Communist leader, Moscatelli, that no more American weapons and munitions would be sent, unless the Partisan command included non-Communists. That was followed by the murder of the American officer.

His two American aides, Lieutenant Icardi and Sergeant Lodolce were left in charge, and scores of parachute drops were ordered. Huge quantities of military supplies were flown in by American planes, and the Communists got everything.

Today, that Red Partisan leader, Moscatelli,^l
is a Communist Senator in Rome -- also the commander
of the Red underground. The Communists are known to
have large stocks of weapons and munitions, and Mike
Stern tells me that these, largely, are supplies
dropped by American planes, after the murder of Major
Holohan.

From France tonight comes word of a terrifying illness sweeping the tiny village of Pont Saint Esprit on the River Rhone. The cause of the illness is ^s unknown, but is thought to come from poisoned flour, and the disease has been named "bread madness." Symptoms are described as "identical to those mentioned by writers of the Middle Ages, ^{and then} ~~under~~ ^{called} the name of the "Divine fire" or "sickness of hysteria," a plague of the Middle Ages. All day today, hundreds of villagers have been flocking to church, to pray that no more ~~men~~ may be stricken.

Victims of this mysterious disease are described as suddenly terrorized by ^{wild} ~~terrifying~~ hallucinations which have already led to three deaths and sent ^{many} ~~more~~ to bedlam.

The news wire tells of one man who tried to throw himself into the Rhone. Before he was stopped by friends, he screamed over and over: "I am dead, my head is made of copper, and I have ~~men~~ snakes in my stomach. They are burning me." Another ~~man~~ man

threw himself from a window, shouting that he was escaping from fire, while a third barricaded his doors, armed himself with a shotgun, and then announced that he was waiting to shoot the monster that was pursuing him.

Tonight the French government has ordered an investigation of this mysterious "bread madness". But food ~~poisoning~~ poisoning experts have so far discovered no definite proof that flour is to blame for this Twentieth Century nightmare plague from the Middle Ages.

'a caustic tongue lashing.' According to those present at the meeting, the President told the Czech that he would have nothing further to discuss with him until Czechoslovakia releases the American newspaperman, William Watts. Secretary of State Dean Acheson will meet the new Czech Ambassador tomorrow, and is expected to say the same thing - more bluntly. Dr. would I not 'more relatively'?

The second caller, Hipolito Jesus Paz, the new Ambassador from Argentina. Although

ENVOYS

President Truman had two visitors at the White House today. Both were new envoys, coming to present their credentials. The first, Vladimir Prochazka, Ambassador from Czechoslovakia, who was in and out in less than five minutes. The new Czech Ambassador told reporters that Mr. Truman had received him in "a friendly fashion - relatively." The emphasis would seem to be on the word "relatively," for White House Press Secretary Joseph Short said later that the President gave the new Czech Ambassador "a caustic tongue lashing." According to those present at the meeting, the President told the Czech that he would have nothing further to discuss with him until Czechoslovakia releases the American newspaperman, William Oatis. Secretary of State Dean Acheson will meet the new Czech Ambassador tomorrow, and is expected to say the same things - more bluntly. Or, should I say "more relatively?"

The second caller, Hipolito Jesus Paz, the new Ambassador from Peron's Argentina. Although

Paz, as Argentine Foreign Minister, supported the suppression of the Independent newspaper "La Prensa," President Truman showed him [^] great deal more friendliness than he did his earlier caller from Red Czechoslovakia.

ATOMIC

The Atomic Energy Commission disclosed in Washington today that a further series of super-secret tests will be held in the near future, at the Las Vegas proving grounds in Nevada. These latest tests will involve both atomic and conventional high explosives. For security reasons, no other details are given. In Washington, however, it is believed that the experiments will include tests of the latest atomic charges for artillery shells and guided missiles.

COPPER STRIKE

Despite President Truman's appeal to copper strikers to return to work, ninety five percent of the nation's copper industry remained idle today. In Denver the striking International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers has agreed to attend a meeting of the Wage Stabilization Board in Washington tomorrow. Tonight union delegates throughout the country are headed for the capital, for tomorrow's talks.

ODDITIES

In San Diego, California, Donald Dunfree had an argument with his wife, and felt so blue about it -- he decided to end it all. To make sure, he ~~was~~ chose two ways. He'd take sleeping pills - also drive his car over a lofty cliff. One or the other would work, he was sure - if not both.

So he gulped the sleeping pills, and started on a wild dash in his car - to the cliff. But, just as he approached the precipice overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the pills took effect, and he fell asleep. His car stalled, ^{Nelson,} and stopped at the edge of the dizzy drop.

~~Today he was charged with "driving an automobile ~~at~~ while under the influence of narcotics." Which is a new version of the old line - driving while under the influence of alcohol.~~

And another variation of an old theme is found at Baltimore -- where Patrolman Albert Schultz stopped an automobile, which had just driven through five red lights. In the car was a soldier, and the cop said:

In Tokyo General Mathew Ridgway is still working on his official reply to Generals Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-Huai. However, the Supreme Command's information office today set the tone for the official allied attitude towards the latest Red note. In its two thousand word statement, Tokyo headquarters blasted the latest Red demand for a new investigation of the alleged air attack as "a sham of unprecedented proportions." Referring to the alleged bombing and strafing, the announcement stated that "the original evidence was so transparent as to immediately indicate its fraudulent nature." It then went on to say that, should the investigation be reopened by U.N. observers, "it is probable that much more convincing evidence of a bombing attack will be presented." In other words, ~~by~~ the Reds have by now no doubt ^{have} had time to set the scene by letting off a few well placed napalm bombs.

Nevertheless; there's still strong belief at the U N advance camp below Kaesong that ^{the} armistice talks ~~may~~ ^{will be} resumed. Tokyo rumors are that General

Ridgway may propose a new meeting place for the talks -
away from ^{there at} Kaesong, where neutrality violations have
been alleged by both sides. The Tokyo grapevine even
goes so far as to suggest that the U.N. Supreme
Commander may call for new talks with a new set of
negotiators from both sides.

Meanwhile in Korea summer cloudbursts have
gm turned the battle zone into a sea of mud and
bogged down the savage fighting on the east central
front.