

C.I.-P. & S. Monday, Jan. 17th, 1949.

From the Island of Rhodes comes ~~the~~ news of ~~the first sign of~~ agreement between Israel and Egypt. Those two thousand Egyptian troops, the cream of King Farouk's Army, now trapped at El Faluja, in the Negeb, are to be allowed to return to their country. Marching home under the banner of royal Egypt, with full military honors.

These Egyptian soldiers have spent nearly three months surrounded by the forces of Israel. With food and water running low, enduring much privation. Now they are to go free, when they wish. Moreover, a dispatch from Tel Aviv reports that Israel will allow the United Nations to bring food into El Faluja immediately.

The latest from the Island of Rhodes is that the delegates from Egypt and Israel are sitting in joint session, this after a series of separate sessions with U.N. Mediator Bunche. This is held to be a sign that substantial ~~agreement~~ agreement already has been reached.

ADD PALESTINE

Later word

~~And~~ tonight the Palestine mediator ^{*says*} ~~adds that~~ he thinks ~~the~~ Armistice negotiations between Israel and Egypt will be concluded - successfully, in a matter of days, ~~he~~ hopes. He has asked the Security Council to turn over the job of arranging a permanent settlement ~~in the Holy Land~~ to the three-nation-commission the ^{*U. N.*} ~~United Nations~~ created in Paris, late last year. -- France, Turkey and America, ~~These~~ ~~three~~ to supervise the final arrangements for peace in the Holy Land.

ABDULLAH TO FOLLOW PALESTINE

In Beirut Lebanon tonight it is announced that King Abdullah of Transjordan - the desert King - has entered into what he calls "a gentleman's non-aggression agreement" with Israel. But Abdullah the report says, will not take part in any formal peace talks until assured of being allowed to establish a Greater Syria.

Abdullah's representatives are said to have worked out this non-aggression pact with Israeli agents in Paris, London and Palestine - a verbal agreement, until both nations Transjordan and Israel, consider the time opportune for a formal peace treaty.

BEVIN

From London. The Labor Cabinet to face a new crisis tomorrow - when Parliament reopens. The center of the storm -- Foreign Secretary Bevin. All because of Palestine.

Prime Minister Atlee called a cabinet meeting at Number Ten Downing Street. There today Bevin told his fellow cabinet ministers just how he proposes to defend his policy before the Commons, tomorrow. The Chiefs-of-staff of the British Army, Navy and Air Force also attended.

Both left wing laborites and conservatives are said to be opposed to Bevin.

This morning Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express with its circulation of four million, carried a banner headline appealing to the Laborites. It read: "Rebels: Bevin must go!"

Winston Churchill, leader of the Conservatives in opposition, has flown back from the French Riviera to lead the battle against the Laborites.

As for Bevin, the news dispatch speaks of him as tired; in failing health, the fighting cockney

who rose from a stevedore to the rank of a top cabinet minister. Some of his associates believe he may resign in anger.

SOVIET NEWSPAPER

In Berlin, the part behind the Iron Curtain, the Soviet Zone, a newspaper is in trouble. And the trouble is an old one that often hits a newspaper. Circulation dropping off. And the newspaper is the once famous Taegliche Rundschau that had a circulation of a hundred thousand copies a day - before the cold war started. But the circulation has fallen away to half that.

This Soviet zone newspaper's troubles, we are told, started when four German editors quit their jobs and took the subway to the British sector. Russian editors took their places. Whereupon the circulation slumped. Half of it gone in six months.

So what are the Reds doing about it, to pep up a newspaper losing its circulation? A purge. A British news dispatch reports that now the whole staff of the Soviet newspaper has been purged - even including the Russian Army Colonel - the Editor-in-Chief. And four Soviet secret police of the N.K.V.D. who were assigned to watch the newspaper staff. Even the OGPU men fired.

E. R. P. Director Paul Hoffman wants Germany's industrial Ruhr to produce at least thirteen million tons of steel a year. So he has recommended to our State Department that no more German steel plants be removed to other countries. Under reparations arrangement German factories have been and still are being dismantled and taken out of the country. Up to now the plan has been for Germany to be allowed enough plants to produce ~~only~~ only ten million, seven hundred thousand tons of steel a year.

Paul Hoffman thinks European recovery can be speeded up if those German steel plants are kept in operation, where they are. Thirteen million tons of steel every year, he says, should be Germany's contribution toward European recovery.

Objections are expected from France, as well as from Russia.

CHINA

A report from Nanking pictures Nationalist leaders hard at work on their reply to that Red ultimatum. Some are said to be in favor of asking the Communists for an immediate cease-fire, to be followed by peace talks.

Nanking is expected to fall - perhaps within two weeks. Over the weekend the Nationalists suddenly abandoned their positions north of the Yangtze. Thereby allowing three hundred thousand Red troops to advance without resistance to within a hundred miles of the capital.

From Hong Kong comes news that the guerrilla bands which, since the end of the Sino-Japanese war, have been terrorizing the southern provinces of China - are Communists. The Red radio says today that these bands have been organized into three columns. And that they will attack the Nationalists from the south.

LAKE SUCCESS

At Lake Success today the U N Security Council asked the Dutch government to allow Indonesian leaders to fly to New York to plead their cause; *do it* in person. The Dutch delegate answered that his government is now conferring with Sutan Sjahrir, former Indonesian premier. With him they say they are exploring the possibilities of a permanent peace in Java.

The Security Council, however, voted for the Indonesians to come. They did this after receiving a report from the U N committee in Java. That committee sent word that Indonesian politicians are being held prisoner by the Dutch. Treating them rather badly too.

To which the Dutch delegate at Lake Success replied that their authorities in Java had not obeyed orders from Holland, to free the Indonesian leaders. These are the persons who will be flown to Lake Success, as quickly as possible, if the Dutch will give them safe conduct.

COMMUNISTS

The trial of ^{twelve} ~~eleven~~ of our top ranking Communists ^(began) ~~started~~ in New York today. In the Federal courthouse, heavily guarded by more than four hundred police. The only absentee among the defendants, William Z. Foster, Chairman of the American Communist Party. He is said to be seriously ill. Therefore the U.S. Attorney asked the court to postpone action in his case.

The defendants are charged with conspiracy, to advocate and teach the overthrow of the U.S. government by force -- by violence.

~~The proceedings opened with a series of motions by the defense attorneys. A complicated legal skirmish, so lengthy that it is expected to take several days before the ~~fax~~ court can get around to the selection of a jury.~~

The defense attorney's first objected to the police guarding the ~~maximum~~ courthouse. One of them told Judge Medina that the proceedings were those of a police trial, not a public trial. Another spoke

of "an armed camp calculated to influence jurors". But the Judge denied all the motions: his honor refusing to order the police guard removed. He replied that he remembered how there had been picket lines and demonstrations bordering on disorderly conduct when the defendants were in court on a previous occasion.

The U.S. attorney for the prosecution produced a copy of a communist newspaper with an exhortation to party members to join in a mass demonstration before the courthouse.

~~The Judge refused a ninety day postponement of the trial which was asked for by the defense attorneys.~~

TREASON

In New York's Federal court today, a former U.S. ~~ARMY~~ Air Force Lieutenant, Martin J. Monti of Florissant, Missouri, today pleaded guilty to treason. Confessed his crime in open court. The former airman told how during the war he deserted his post in India and hitch-hiked by air to Italy. There he stole an American fighter plane and flew to Pisa, behind the German lines. Later, from Berlin he broadcast, for the Germans, a program beamed to Allied troops and finally he joined the Nazi S.S. Elite Guard.

Monti told Judge Robert Inge that he worked for the German radio voluntarily. That the Germans did not use physical force to get him to do it.

And so the traitor who was arrested almost a year after he had been honorably discharged from the Air Force, was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison - with a fine of ten thousand dollars. The Justice Department said the confession in court today took them completely by surprise. They were

prepared to bring former Nazi elite guard officials from Berlin to give evidence against him. Also says the Justice Department. It is said that this man Martin J. Monti, is one of the few - if not the only American who ever confessed to the crime of treason against his country.

Rankin was purged under a new rule - that the Chairman of another committee cannot serve on the Un-American Activities Committee. Congressmen Rankin was eliminated by a reformed congressional policy of appointing only lawyers and judges to the Un-American Committee. This because of past charges of unjust procedure thrown at the committee.

HOUSE PURGE

In Washington today, the House Democrats removed Congressman John E. Rankin of Mississippi and Congressman F. Edward Hebert of Louisiana, from the Un-American Activities Committee. Both had supported the States Rights ticket against President Truman in the November election.

Rankin was purged under a new rule - that the Chairman of another committee cannot serve on the Un-American Activities Committee. Congressman Hebert was eliminated by a Reformed congressional policy to appoint only lawyers and judges to the Unamerican Committee. This because of past charges of unjudicial procedure thrown at the committee.

PRESIDENT'S SALARY

Congress today approved the twenty-five thousand dollar a year pay hike for the President - by a voice vote. So, Mr. Truman now has a hundred thousand a year, with an expense account, tax free, of ninety thousand more. The salary increase, we are told, will give the President a take-home pay of about fifty-three thousand, even if he fails to claim any legal deductions, to which he and everyone else is entitled on his income tax form.

Word is that Mr. Truman so far has only been able to save about four thousand a year on his present seventy-five thousand dollar salary. This because he himself has had to dig into his own pocket for many White House expenses, expenses not covered by government appropriations. His previous forty thousand dollar a year expense account was limited to use for official travel and state functions. Now he'll have that extra fifty thousand for expenses - any expenses. Not necessary to submit details to anybody.

PRESIDENT'S SALARY - 2

It's now up to the President to sign this bill raising his own salary - do it before Thursday.

Vice President Barkley and Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn will get pay hikes of ten thousand each, plus an extra ten thousand for expenses.

When the Presidential salary bill came before the House this morning at least a little opposition was expected - from the opposition - the Republicans. But there was none. ~~Congressman Clarence Brown of Ohio endorsed the measure and that settled it. He is a member of the Hoover Commission for the reorganization of our Federal government. And that commission favors salary hikes for all top government officials.~~ There was some booing in the House - booing in disapproval. But that was all. The booing by the way came from the Democrats - ~~he~~ booing with a faint southern accent.

PIANIST

A new honor for President Truman. A union card made of gold. As an eminent piano player he now gets life membership in the American Federation of Musicians. The golden card presented to Pianist Harry S. Truman, champion of world peace and master of harmony. Presented today by none other than James Caesar Petrillo, who will be music master at the presidential inaugural ceremonies this Thursday.

OXFORD

Oxford University, England's ancient seat of learning held a summer session for bankers ~~ixix~~ last year. Two bankers from every European country, including Soviet Russia, were invited to journey to study modern banking methods. Banking problems in this day and age of frozen currency also include trade by barter.

From Prague, Czechoslovakia, came an acceptance with conditions. Delighted to accept but -- may we send ~~xxxx~~ four representatives instead of two asked Prague. Two bankers and two watchdogs. The University authorities agreed. Then another message from Prague. The Czech delegation for that summer school of banking would have to be raised to six. Six or none.

Finally, two bankers arrived at Oxford; also the four mysterious individuals. So mysterious that it quickly was obvious to everyone that they were members of the Czech secret police. We hear these sleuths did a thorough job. Everywhere the two Czechoslovak bankers went, two of the police went

with them. To lecture rooms, to meals, everywhere.

One day a British economist attending the course in banking sat beside one of the secret police at lunch. Turning to his glum neighbor he said cheerfully: "I say what are your problems in banking?" The question direct just to start a little conversation.

To which the Czechoslovakian flat-foot replied with a sardonic grin: "I am not interested in banking, I am only interested in Czech bankers." To see that they get home safely? I wonder.

RITA

From the French Riviera an announcement to end all that breathless suspense - if it is breathless -- concerning Rita Hayworth and her Prince of India, Aly Khan. Last night, Prince Aly presented his Hollywood Princess to be to his father, the Aga Khan - a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. And one of the wealthiest men in the world. Afterwards Prince Aly told reporters "I am going to marry Miss Hayworth as soon as I am free!" Aly also added: "It must be a Mohammedan marriage, all according to the law of the country in which we are married." And the children from the marriage must be Mohammedans.

Rita wasn't on view - in purdah shall we say? Anyhow from the ~~seclusion~~ seclusion of the Prince's villa she issued a ^{brief} ~~thirteen word~~ statement, handed out by the Prince's butler. Thirteen significant words: "I have only been waiting for him to be free to marry me." So said Rita. And what say you Nelson, O Father of Ivory?