

EISENHOWER

Today President Eisenhower called a conference of top diplomatic and military chiefs at the White House. No explanation given - but the purpose, undoubtedly, was to discuss the new compromise proposal offer by the Reds in Korea.

President Eisenhower has just given an address in New York, in which he said this country must have a foreign policy that will promote conditions of life at home and abroad - on which freedom can survive and thrive. He added that his administration's one great purpose - to establish a government whose honor at home will command respect abroad.

In the matter of domestic politics, he expressed the hope of cutting taxes, as soon as possible. This cannot be done, he said, until the nation's bills are paid -- the budget balanced.

Last night at Pan Mun Jom, the Reds made a sudden change, and yielded on two principal points. One - our demand that prisoners-of-war who refuse to go home shall be kept in Korea, while in charge of a neutral nation. They agree to that now. The other - our insistence that they name a neutral nation which they had been refusing to do. They now name - a neutral commission.

That is, They propose five countries - Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and India. The first four - as a sort of supervisory board. India - as the actual custodian of prisoners.

Tonight's dispatch from Tokyo describes the Communist compromise as - ^{bringing} ~~bringing~~ the Korean truce negotiations closer to an agreement than they have ever been." This is echoed in London, where Prime Minister Churchill and his Cabinet are studying the new plan. The offer, handed to our negotiators at Panmunjom last night, was immediately passed along to Washington - and relayed to our allies.

In Washington, the reception is more cautious. There's doubt about having two Communist nations like Czechoslovakia and Poland, on any such committee to supervise the prisoner business. They could join with India, and have a majority - and India might be subject to Communist pressure.

However, the Reds have come to terms part of the way, and the truce talks look more promising tonight.

KOREA - PLANES

The commander of the U.S. Fifth Air Force in Korea takes notice of two things. One, the offer of a hundred thousand dollars for the first Mig flown in and handed over by a Red pilot. That was early last week. The other - there hasn't been an enemy Jet in Korean skies ever since. That is, for the past seven days. So today, Lieutenant General Glenn Barcus declared: "I would assume that this has something to do with the offer."

One purpose of the offer was to create mistrust in the Red Air Force. The assumption was that Communist air commanders would be afraid that some of their pilots might be tempted - might want to win the hundred thousand dollars, together with residence in a free country. So maybe that's *why* the Red Air Force *(is chary)* ~~worries~~ about sending pilots down to Korea. They might just keep on going.

At any rate, not a Mig has come down out of the Manchurian sanctuary for seven days. The weather wouldn't account for it. There have been cloudy days, but there have

also been bright days. It's the longest period during which
Migs have stayed away - since Red China went into the war.

KOREA - MAJOR

The news from Korea states that Major Roy Hall of Brookline, Massachusetts, flew on a bombing mission last night. *— and Colonels —*
Well, lots of majors fly on missions - so what of it? The answer is that Major Hall is fifty-seven years old, and flew on his first mission in the First World War.

Today, he compared the bombing operation last night in a giant plane full of electronics - with the way they did it back in Nineteen Eighteen.

Then they carried their bombs in a sort of milk ~~carton~~ carton, which they held between their legs. When the command came, "bombs away!", they reached down, and yanked out and a bomb, ^{and} heaved it over the side.

"We never got around to having parachutes," Major Hall relates, and adds: "I could have used a chute a couple of times, if I had had one. Instead, I had to stick by my crates, and crash-land them."

The Major also flew on missions in the Second World War. So now he is believed to ^{be} ~~rank as~~ the first veteran of three major air conflicts.

INDO-CHINA

Today confirms last night's news from Indo-China - the Reds in a general retreat from the kingdom of Laos.

French Air Force reconnaissance shows that the Communist army has pulled back as much as forty-eight miles from the royal capital of Luang Prabang. A few days ago, they were only twelve miles away - in what looked like a siege of that city.

The people of Laos ^{attribute} ~~attribute~~ all this to a ^{prophecy} ~~prediction~~ made by a blind Buddhist monk, based on the dreams of King Sisavang Vong - an ^{occult} ~~occult~~ prediction that the invaders would never come closer to Luang Prabang than twelve miles. The French repeat that the explanation is - the Monsoon. The rains are coming, and will turn the mountain streams into raging ~~in~~ torrents. The jungle - into a steaming morass. No good for a military campaign. So the invasion has gone into ^{reverse} ~~reverse~~ - says the French high command.

But what about the Red column that had by-passed the city of ~~Praba~~ Luang Prabang, and pushed on toward the border of Siam? Today's news pictures that enemy force as

being stalled. some twenty-five miles from the Siamese border. It isn't clear what those Communists may do. They may join the general retreat northward - or they may try to stick out the rainy season in a rich rice growing country, the valley of the Nakong River.

~~The general impression is that - we, in the West, may have exaggerated the danger of the Communist invasion of Laos. Thinking, the Reds would seize that country, and also - invade Siam. Perhaps they never had any such ambitious intention, and were thinking in terms of smaller gains.~~

Today's dispatch from Indo-China quotes the French high command as pointing out - that the ~~Red~~ Communist invasion, even though the Reds are now in full retreat, appears to have accomplished three objectives. They seized the rich rice^{ce} and opium crop^s of Laos, and are carrying off quantities of the cereal and the drug. They established a Communist underground in Laos - the Reds doing an organization job in the territory they occupied. Finally, they forced the French Union to throw

in troops, munitions, supplies, for the defense of Luang Prabang - at the expense of other strategic areas, like the Hanoi delta. The French mustered eighteen battalions at the ~~ex~~ capital of Laos - which might have been used against the Communists in other sectors.

But, at any rate, an invasion, which was causing jitters in the West, appears to be off - at least for the duration of the Monsoon.

STALIN

London has a report that Stalin's son is in trouble with the new Malenkov regime. The London Daily Sketch attributes this to "Moscow reports reaching the British government." General Vassily Stalin - demoted, leaving Moscow secretly. With this, there's an intriguing mention of - "Stalin's will."

The London paper states the following about General Vassily Stalin: "He has been deprived of seniority and in military service for spending millions of Rubles on fighter aircraft development. Secretly, he has left Moscow, taking with him a copy of his father's will, of which he is an executor." The article adds that Stalin's son wanted to make public the details of the will - but could not get Malenkov's permission.

We don't know how much there may be in all this, but it does raise beguiling surmises. Many ^{have given an} ~~reports gave an~~ unfavorable picture of Vassily Stalin, - reported to be drunken and dissolute. Well, if that were true, the rise of a

new regime might easily mean his downfall. Today's report might also signify - dissensions in the Kremlin.

AIR FORCE

The new Chief of Staff of the Air Force is -

General Nathan F. Twining. He succeeds General Hoyt Vandenberg who is retiring. This is the first change of the military high command under the Eisenhower administration.

Note

General Twining is a flying veteran of the old Army Air Corps, having won his wings in Nineteen Twenty-Four. In the Second World War, he commanded the Thirteenth Air Force in the Pacific. Later - the Fifteenth Air Force in the Mediterranean. Recently, he has been Air Force Vice Chief of Staff.

It is understood that General Vandenberg will retire from military service on June Thirtieth. Last year, he underwent an abdominal operation, and asked for retirement.

Word from Washington is that other changes in the high command are due. General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff - scheduled to be replaced. There have been charges that the present ~~Joint~~ Chiefs of Staff are not in complete sympathy with the policies of the Eisenhower administration.

EXPLOSION

Windsor, Ontario, had a tremendous explosion, and later accounts today tell of the luck of two night watchmen. They ^{re} alive tonight by the merest coincidence of a chance and of timing.

William Bucham and Ed Walsh had just stepped out of the building - the huge plant of the Standard Paint and Varnish Company, connected with automobiles. They were outside for a mere minute or so, and were about to go back in - when a ~~the~~ stupendous blast wrecked the building. Chemical fumes from a leaking pipe exploded, and the force raised the ponderous roof right off the building. The shock knocked people out of their beds, a distance of six miles away - and the glare turned night into day. The fire that followed raged for six hours. The two watchmen were knocked off their feet, and injured. They owe their lives to a mere matter of ~~seconds~~ seconds.

DEBUTANTES

Buckingham Palace had a gala reception today, the presentation of some five hundred debutantes to Queen Elizabeth the Second. Including - eleven American girls. The occasion of their lives - but one debutante from River Forest, Illinois, almost missed the party.

Charron ~~Edythe~~ Follett took so much time getting fixed, that the other American girls had gone - when she arrived at the U.S. Embassy to drive to Buckingham Palace. But Embassy officials were sympathetic, and rushed her to the royal scene.

They were welcomed first, by the Lord Chamberlain, Lord Scarborough, and then joined the line of debutantes - "passing the presence", as ^{they say} ~~it is called~~ in royal circles. They filed past a dais, on which stood Queen Elizabeth the Second, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret, and the Duchess of Gloucester. They curtsied - and the American girls did it perfectly. They had practiced plenty.

And so they "passed the presence" - and then filed

out to a tea party.

All of which might not seem so important to a philosopher - but it was the big moment for eleven American girls.

WOMEN

In New York, there's a meeting of military ladies, trying to figure out why there are not - more military ladies. The armed forces are not able to enlist enough Wacs, Waves and Women Marines. Thirty-five thousand women in uniform - but not enough. Recruiting drives launched - but the girls don't come flocking in.

The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service is trying to figure - what to do about it? One suggestion is - military salad bars. They find the chow is too starchy. More salad would enable the military lady to keep that slim figure.

They^are consulting the cosmetics industry - to improve the make-up of the girl soldier and sailor, painting the face and powdering the nose.

There's a display of military women's fashions in Rockefeller Center. "We emphasize the high heels and the feminine touches as much as possible in the display," says a girl lieutenant of Marines.

One trouble is - marriage. "I think," says a lady officer, "the reason we don't get enough girls is because they would rather stay home and try to get a husband."

Another explanation is given by Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, a member of the Committee. "It's the parents who are reluctant, not the girls," says she. And Nelson, Committee Member Mary Gibbons puts it this way:- "Men just don't like the idea of women in uniform." And she adds:- "That goes for husbands, fathers and sweethearts."

SOUTH

The weather continues to play havoc in the South - two new tornadoes in Mississippi today, with floods far and wide in Dixieland.

The twisters hit near Corinth, and at the town of Laurel, doing damage but causing no casualties. The deluge is worst at Louisiana - where the water poured into the capital city of Baton Rouge today. The result ^{of} - _^blinding rains, day after day, which have sent streams over their banks, and washed out hundreds of homes.

The second week of stormy weather in the Deep South, and the damage is piling up into the millions.

ROBBER

Down in Texas there's a sheriff, who suffered a supreme humiliation. Seldom, has an insolent outlaw ever inflicted such an indignity on an officer of the law.

The robber first broke into an oil company plant at Cleburne, made off with a tank truck, and went on a wild ride. At Walnut Springs, Texas, he slugged a couple of night watchmen and stole an automobile. ~~Then~~ The sheriff, summoned to the scene, picked up the two night watchmen, but then all three were held up by the bandit, at pistol point.

The crook drove the sheriff to a lonely pasture - and, there, made him take his clothes off, coat, shirt and trousers. Then he put on the sheriff's clothes, and off he went - taking with him his own ~~own~~ clothes. Which left the sheriff in ~~his~~ the altogether underwear there on the lonely pasture. It was raining, too.

The officer had to walk a long way to a farmhouse, where he Just about arrived - the most humiliated sheriff in the world, soaking wet, and in his underwear.

DIAMOND

A dispatch from New Delhi states that India may ask Great Britain to give back - the Koh-i-noor diamond. The request to be made either to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, or to the Queen herself. Behind it all - a fantastic tale.

The history of the one hundred and six carat Koh-i-noor can be traced back to the Sixteenth Century, when the wondrous diamond was the pride of the Moguls of India. Later, it came into the possession of a potentate named Mohammed Shah, who was captured in battle by Nadir Shah of Persia.

Nadir Shah demanded all of ~~the~~ Mohammed ^{Shah's} jewels, as a price for his life. The prisoner agreed; but, he couldn't bear to part with the Koh-i-noor. He held it out, and hid the great diamond in the folds of his turban. But the secret was betrayed to Nadir Shah.

So the conqueror invited his prisoner to a banquet, and asked: "May I try on your turban?" Mohammed ^{Shah} could not refuse.

Nadir put on the turban and asked: "May I keep it?"

Again, Mohammed could not refuse.

So that's how Nadir Shah got the diamond - so delighted that he gave it the name the stone has kept ever since. The Koh-i-noor meaning -- "mountain of light."

But in time, Nadir Shah was murdered by an Afghan chieftain, and he took the diamond - which then, in a series of crimes passed, from one to another, among the Princes of India. Finally, it came into the possession of the East India Company, which then ruled Hindustan, and the Company presented the Koh-i-noor to Queen Victoria.

She had it placed in the royal crown of England; but it could be taken out - and Queen Victoria sometimes wore it as a brooch. It was in the crown of Queen Mother Elizabeth, at the famous coronation of George the Sixth and Elizabeth, back in Nineteen Thirty-Seven. Now, it remains in the Queen Mother's crown, and will not be worn by her daughter, Elizabeth the Second, at the coronation a month from now.

Today, legal authorities in London doubted that India has any legal claim. They say the Koh-i-noor passed through so many illegal hands, in robbery, violence, treachery, murder - that it would be difficult to establish any Indian right, under the law.

Just to keep this glittering theme a-going, the dispatch from New Delhi states that India also wants to get back - the Peacock Throne. But that's a puzzle. Where is the Peacock Throne? It was once the glory of the Mogul empire, a golden seat flanked by two bejeweled peacocks with out-spread tails - peacock tails encrusted with sapphires, rubies, emeralds, pearls. In those days it had a value of more than thirty million dollars. The peacock throne, like the Koh-i-noor, was stolen by the Persian conqueror, Nadir Shah. What eventually happened to it is a mystery. Years ago, it was reported to be in the royal treasure of Persia.

Nelson -

But now, let's go from the legends of the Koh-i-noor and the Peacock Throne, to something more modern.