

Display of Force in Berlin Could Easily Mushroom Into War

By JAMES THRASHER

There is something disturbing about the number of newspaper stories on the Berlin crisis dated Berlin, Frankfurt, Paris and London, and the few stories on the same subject dated Washington. There is also something disturbing about the abundance of statements by high Army brass in Germany, and the scarcity of statements by President Truman and Secretary Marshall.

With the dispatch of the first notes to Moscow by the western powers, the Berlin situation ceased to be a local issue and became one of top government policy—which it always had been in fact, if not in appearance. Yet one would sometimes consider that Washington regarded its importance as limited as the area in which this struggle is taking place.

Such an impression is undoubtedly wrong. Yet the Army newspaper Stars and Stripes quoted unidentified American officials the other day as saying that "the only way to determine Soviet intentions is to test Russia and the only test is a 'show of force.' A show of force could be simple—an armed convoy sent to Berlin on the autobahn or an armored train over the Berlin-Helmstedt railway."

A show of force might be simple, but it is quite plain that it could also be dangerous. All it would take would be one trigger-happy soldier on either side, and we might find ourselves at war.

One shot might wash out the comfortable assumption that Russia won't be able to fight a war for four or five years, or that she is having too much trouble in restless Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to want to take on any more. Russia today is almost on a wartime footing so far as mobilized strength and reported war production are concerned. This country is totally unprepared for war except on paper. Our Army is a third below its "irreducible minimum."

Nor is it safe to bank on internal troubles within the Communist empire as peace insurance. It is not impossible that Stalin might decide that war and the threat of common danger are just what his reluctant satellites

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Drowning Deaths In U. S. Average 7,000 Annually

Every 30 minutes this summer someone in American will drown. Whether they are at the beach, a quiet lake or private swimming pool, when autumn's cooler winds drive others indoors, more than 5,000 persons will have lost their lives because of tragedy in the water. This grim estimate is predicted by the Accident Prevention Department, Association of Casualty and Surety Companies, based on the fact that over 7,000 persons drown every year in this country—and most of them meet death during the summer months.

Why? The Association's safety experts say the answer to that one is easy: People take chances. The age group most affected by accidental drownings is the group of children from 5 to 14 years of age. The importance of drowning as a cause of death among youngsters is further emphasized by the fact that it accounts for one-fifth of all accidental deaths in this age group.

Safety Tips Offered:

To avoid tragedy, here are a few safety rules to remember the next time you are at the beach or a pool:

1. Select a safe swimming place free from obstructions, undertows and dangerous currents.
2. Look for and obey warning signs. Swim parallel to shore and stay within roped areas.
3. Wait an hour after eating before swimming. If you are hot, wait until body has cooled off before exerting yourself in water.
4. Know your limitations. Your swimming ability should determine the distance from shore you may go.
5. Swim with others. It's safer and far more fun.
6. Be alert when children are with you. They are accident prone.
7. Before diving, make certain water is deep enough and free of underwater obstructions.
8. Stay out of the water if you are tired.
9. Stay out of the water during a thunderstorm.
10. When swimming in lakes or at beaches where boats are used be careful to avoid colliding with them. Never swim into areas where motor-boats are used.
11. Don't be reckless. The chances you take endanger others as well as you.

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Chinese Pirates Blamed for Crash Of Flying Boat

MACAO, July 29.—(AP)—Police Commissioner Luis A. M. Palletti today blamed China Coast pirates, who bungled their job, for the crash of a Catalina flying boat here July 16 that claim-

ed 25 lives, nine of them North Americans.

The commissioner declined to elaborate but at a press conference he said he was "definitely sure" piracy caused the crash up four miles off shore as the big plane rose for its short hop to Hong Kong, 40 miles away.

The Macao Daily News said Portuguese colony police were working on the following evidence:

Four armed pirates boarded the Cathay Pacific flying boat with the intention of taking over

the plane and holding the rich Chinese passengers for ransom.

The Chinese pirates did not mean to destroy the plane. They brought along their own pilot who was to take over and fly the plane to their hideout.

The newspaper said after the plane reached an altitude of 500 feet, one of the pirates pressed a pistol against American Pilot Dale Cramer's back and ordered him to hand over the plane's controls to the pirate pilot.

One of the white passengers, the Daily News added, tried to

take a gun from another of the pirates. In the confusion, the pirate with the gun at Cramer's back turned and Cramer slammed him with a wrench.

A third pirate, the newspaper said, fired several shots into Cramer's back and the pilot slumped over the controls. The Catalina went into a dive as the frantic passengers ran screaming down the aisle.

The pirate pilot could not reach the controls and the plane hit the water and exploded.

Portland Seeks Share Of Income Tax Surplus

PORTLAND, July 28.—(AP)—Portland moved formally today to get some of the state income tax surplus.

The city council directed its attorney to find some way—if there is any—by which a claim may be made for part of the money with which to reduce local property taxes.

The surplus was made available to the general fund by a 4-3 Supreme Court decision, on

which a re-hearing has been asked.

POLIO ABOVE AVERAGE
PORTLAND, July 29.—(AP)—Seven cases of infantile paralysis were reported in Oregon last week, bringing the year's total so far to 33, the State Board of Health said.

That is far higher than the average of 10 cases a year occurring during the corresponding period of the last five years. The nation as a whole is reporting an increase in polio.

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Graham Crackers Honey Maid 2-lb. 51¢
Soda Crackers Snowflakes 1-lb. 27¢
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Shortening Royal Satin 3-lb. can \$1.11
Flour Kitchen Craft 5-lb. 49¢ 10-lb. 93¢
Flour Gold Medal 5-lb. 49¢ 10-lb. 93¢
Pillsbury Flour 50-lb. sack \$4.15
Gold Medal Flour 25-lb. sack \$2.15
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