

Island Of Formosa, Where Kai-shek Plans His Last Stand Against Reds, Presents International Hot Potato

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China's big island of Formosa, which has been equipped by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek for the nationalists' last-ditch stand against the Communists, is becoming another international hot potato.

Senator Smith (R-NJ) stated the other day that General Douglas MacArthur recently told him Formosa is essential to the security of America's Pacific defenses. The senator said he believed MacArthur would favor sending U. S. troops to the island to head off any Communist invasion. The Chinese Reds, by the way, are said to plan occupation of Formosa by next summer.

And why should Formosa be essential to America's defenses? Well, the military experts say this island in hostile hands would flank the U.S. defensive arc in that vital area, including our great base of Okinawa.

Formosa lies athwart the entrance to the China sea, between China and the Philippines. Its southern tip is only 250 miles from the northern shore of Luzon, chief Philippine island containing Manila and Uncle Sam's base at Cavite. Formosa also is about 650 miles from Japan proper, and some 400 miles from Britain's big colony of Hong Kong.

Rich In Resources

Formosa (or Taiwan as the Japs call it) is about the size of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Its population is some 6,000,000. The island is oblong in shape—245 miles long and 88 miles across at its greatest width. It has a good harbor and modern transport, though it has a mountainous backbone upon which, incidentally, live savage headhunters. It is rich in natural resources.

This island was ceded to Japan at the end of the China-Japanese war of 1895. You get an idea of how important the Japs regard it from the fact that they

were very strict about foreign ships entering the harbor. Captains were fined or imprisoned for taking refuge there without permission even in a storm.

Opinions As To Value Differ

So there you have the island which is causing global heartburnings. At first glance it would seem that its occupation by the Communists would be a serious thing for America. However, the situation has to be viewed from both the political and the military angles, and on inquiry we encounter differences of opinion. Some military greats insist that American control of Formosa is imperative. Other greats incline to the view that it would be a good thing for the United States to control the island but that it isn't essential since we have control of the sea and the air.

Politically, American control of Formosa is widely regarded as undesirable. Exponents of the hands-off program hold that occupation by the United States would raise the cry of imperialism. The effect on the Asiatic world would be bad.

Political Status Bad

Moreover the political situation on the island is not good. For one thing there are many Communists there, and it is reported that some 2,000 inhabitants have been shot for collaboration with the Reds. This has caused much bad feeling. Discontent has been increased by a deterioration of the general economic situation which followed an influx of nationalist refugees. Many people are out of sympathy with the nationalist cause.

Thus far Washington hasn't made a declaration of policy regarding Formosa, though one hears many unofficial expressions pro and con. The situation hasn't yet reached a critical stage. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has an army of some 300,000 on the island, and he has American equipment for defense. Therefore close observers rather expect Washington to pursue a course of watchful waiting for the time being. It's not the sort of thing that can be rushed.

2 More Witnesses Brand Bridges Red

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9—(AP)—Two more witnesses have testified Harry Bridges was active in the Communist party.

Bridges, CIO Longshore leader, on trial in Federal court for perjury, is accused of falsely denying he was a Communist at in 1945.

Two of his waterfront aides, Henry Schmidt and J. R. Robertson, are accused of conspiracy in connection with his obtaining United States citizenship.

The witnesses are Mrs. Irene Patti Harris, 63-year-old wife of a Longshoreman, and Stanley Benjamin Harris, 41, of Erie, Pa. They corroborated testimony of a previous government witness, John H. Schomaker, a former associate of Bridges.

Mrs. Harris said she was "flabbergasted" to hear Bridges say he was Communist at a meeting she attended in 1938.

She said: "Mr. Bridges, well he made a report on the waterfront, talked about what the Communists had done. . . . Then he made a plea to those there to become members and also he stated he was a member of the Communist party."

Harris, who said he was a for-

Russia Prepares Arctic Areas For Possible War

CHICAGO, — (AP)—The Chicago Tribune, in a dispatch from its Paris correspondent, says Soviet Russia is making "intensive efforts" to prepare its Arctic regions for a possible U. S. war.

The correspondent, Henry Wales, wrote he had obtained his information from two escapees from forced labor projects in the area.

The principal points of Wales' account were:

The two main military bases are newly-created cities, Vorkoutsk and Tiksi, at the mouths of the Potshura and Lena rivers. Other ports have been developed at the mouths of the Dyvna, Ob, Yenness, Ingirka, and Amur rivers.

A strategic railway is being constructed from Lake Balkal to the Bering sea opposite Alaska, but the Red army is utilizing frozen rivers as its chief highways.

Some 300 meteorological stations have been established in the Arctic regions.

Wales wrote: "This information and a detailed description of the operations were obtained from an eye witness who was sentenced to forced labor on Novaya Zembla, but became ill and was evacuated to Vorkoutsk whence he escaped through the Iron curtain to France."

"Other information was given by a political prisoner employed on the project who fled from the concentration camp."

He added, "from bases in Franz Josef land, Dickson Island, and Spitzbergen, the Red army plans operations via northern Greenland to northern Canada within easy range of the United States."

mer Communist, asserted he had attended a Communist party caucus in San Diego in 1935 at which Bridges and Schmidt were present.

The meeting, he said, was held to set up a "progressive" slate of officers for the State Federation of Labor, then in convention.

International Status For Jerusalem Voted

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 9—(AP)—The United Nations special political committee voted Wednesday to make Jerusalem an international city. The vote on the operative part of the resolution was 35 to 13 with 11 abstentions.

The United States and Britain voted with Israel against the proposal.

The 59-nation committee also voted, 32 to 16 with 11 abstentions, to designate the trusteeship council as the administering authority.

Russia, which has a seat on that council, supported the resolution.

The vote in committee was more than the two-thirds majority required for final approval in the assembly.

FORESTRY POST GIVEN

SEATTLE—(AP)—Ralph G. Demoley, formerly of Oregon State college's forest engineering faculty, has been named acting technical director of the Washington State Institute of Forest Products. He will succeed Dr. J. Harry Schrader, who resigned. The institute office is at the University of Washington. It was created by the legislature as an aid to better utilization of forest resources through surveys, research and as a clearing house for information.

In television an actress with blond hair is called a "blizzard head". That's because this tint tends to cause flares in the camera.

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Then Lady Godiva Goes Into Wrong Room, Court Told

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 9—(AP)—So what would you do if Lady Godiva, minus the horse, suddenly appeared in your room.

A 53-year-old city fireman, charged with disorderly conduct, told Judge John S. Barry he considered throwing the lady out. After all, he said, she was uninvited.

"But that didn't seem quite the thing to do—it was pretty cold outside," he continued.

He finally succeeded in persuading the lady to wrap his bathrobe around her. But she wouldn't go home. He admonished. He reproached. He cajoled. He begged.

She stayed. Then her husband arrived and asked if his wife was there. The

WASHINGTON WHEAT

SEATTLE—(AP)—Three carloads of Washington State wheat will be aboard the Dec. 9 Christmas ship to the Orient.

The shipment is sponsored by the Christian rural overseas program (CROP). The Rev. Chester S. Ramsey, state CROP director, said the relief cargo will go to Japan and Korea.

whole thing seemed so fantastic, the fireman said, he answered "no."

Anyway, he told the court, he didn't know the woman's name or the name of the man at his door.

The husband returned with a police officer. The fireman was just denying that the woman was there when she appeared behind him, still wrapped in his bathrobe. Police arrested them.

The woman testified she "blacked out" after drinking two quarts of beer. The husband said the family doctor told him his wife reacted to liquor that way. Judge Barry dismissed both cases.

Itchy Skin Traceable To Variety Of Reasons

CHICAGO—(AP)—If your skin itches, it may be the fault of your family, your job or early life conflicts.

That conclusion was voiced by Dr. Frank E. Cormia of New York in a paper prepared for the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology.

He said studies of 300 patients with nervous skin disorders showed 57 percent had severe dis-

urbances in their family situations, 77 percent reported early life maladjustments while 84 were troubled with long standing conflicts in adult life.

He said treatment of such patients was difficult because of the considerable time required for analysis of individual problems.

The peanut, a member of the pea family, is a native of Brazil.

Dexteros Daphne

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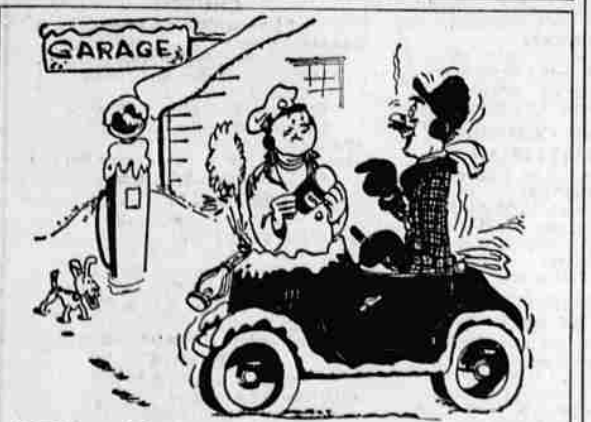


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