

Island Of Formosa Again Seat Of Troubles In East

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

As far back as annals run, the strategic island of Formosa off the southeast coast of China has been a seat of trouble at frequent intervals—and history is repeating itself in disconcerting fashion.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek having chosen this big, clam-shaped isle for his last-ditch stand against the conquering Communists, the question arises as to how far the United States should go in defending this position against the Reds. Loss of Formosa to the Communists would create a dangerous position in the American chain of air bases at key points from Alaska to the Philippines.

Opinions differ (and in high quarters) regarding what action Uncle Sam should take. Starting at the top, President Truman is said to have reaffirmed an American policy which would bar any use of U.S. troops to try to prevent the island from falling into Communist hands. However, this reported decision would permit a continuance of economic help, political support and advisory aid for general Chiang.

Will Help, if Appropriates of this policy, well informed sources in Formosa said that American aid, both economic and in military materials, would arrive on the island if the Nationalists could hold the position for another six to eight weeks. This aid, it was added, would be closely supervised by American advisers.

From Tokyo comes word that General MacArthur and his top military planners believe the United States should make every practicable effort to prevent the capture of Formosa by the Chinese Communists. The private opinion of many field officers at American advanced bases is that the Chinese Nationalists, with adequate aircraft, could stand off an amphibious assault by the Chinese Reds.

There doesn't appear to be any clash between MacArthur's view and the policy promulgated in Washington. Both provide for material aid, but not for active military assistance by American forces.

Hoover Backs Aid However, there is a school which would go much further, as witness the statements by former President Herbert Hoover and Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. Both of them advocate the use of American armed forces if necessary to keep Formosa out of the hands of Chinese Communists. They maintain that such a policy is necessary to safeguard America's own security.

Meanwhile Britain is worried about the American policy. Several leading British newspapers have expressed fear that it might strain Anglo-American cooperation in foreign relations. John Bull is preparing to recognize the Chinese Communist regime, while Washington is standing pat. Well, where does all this argument leave Formosa? It seems clear that armed intervention by the United States on the side of the Nationalists against the Communist would mean war for America. Could that be confined to war against the Chinese Communists?

Might Involve Soviet The answer to that is in grave doubt. It might mean war with Russia, which already is powerfully installed in Asia.

There may have been a time early in the world war when the complexion of the Chinese civil

war might have been changed if Nationalist operations had been placed under the close supervision of American military experts. That time is "frankly" gone.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek believes that if he can hang on in Formosa, and wage guerrilla warfare against the Communists on the continent, he can in time retrieve his position. He believes the bad economic situation will help him beat the Reds. All he asks is material (not military) aid.

That's the position pending the projected conference between General MacArthur and the American joint chiefs of staff in Japan next month. The whole question of Formosa is expected to be gone into at that time. Meantime as Teddy Roosevelt advised:

"Speak softly and carry a big stick—you will go far."

Communist Says Harry Bridges At Party Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5.—(AP)—A newspaperman who said he was a long-time Communist testified Wednesday he attended a Communist party meeting with Harry Bridges in Fresno in 1934.

The new government witness was Lawrence Ross, 46, who identified himself in his testimony as presently managing editor of a trade paper in Memphis, Tenn. He didn't identify the paper. He was a Communist, he said, from early 1932 until 1937.

Bridges, head of the CIO Longshore union, is on trial in federal court here, charged with perjury. The government said he lied when, in his 1945 naturalization hearing, he swore he was not a Communist. He was born in Australia. On trial with him, charged with conspiracy, are Henry Schmidt and J. R. Robertson, both high Longshore union officers.

Ross testified that the Fresno meeting was "near the end of 1934."

The witness said he was notified of the Fresno meeting by Elmer Hanoff, whom he identified as then organizational secretary of the Communist party for the district.

He said the first time he heard Bridges speak was in a meeting in San Francisco in 1935. He went there with Hanoff, he testified. The meeting, as he understood it, was for a discussion of the maritime situation as it affected the Communists. He told the jury that everyone there was known to him to be a Communist.

Ross said he heard Bridges speak, couldn't remember what



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he said, but recalls he was "rather impressed."

Ross testified he attended University of Kentucky for two years, starting in 1923; and worked on several eastern newspapers.

Late in 1931, he said, he went to Los Angeles. He testified he joined the Communist party there in January or February, 1932, and

was paid educational director and section secretary.

Ross said he ran on the Communist party ticket in Los Angeles for county supervisor, for mayor, and for Congress. He added he also ran for Congress while in San Francisco, in 1936—always under his own name and as a Communist.

Boyle Cautions Scientists To Not Go Too Fast With Their Marvels

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK, (AP)—"The Joneses have a country place on the moon—why can't we?"

That well may be the plaint of your wife in the year 2000 if science does as well in the second half of the century as it has in the first.

And sooner or later she will badger you into making a down payment on a five-acre plot in some lunar suburb with the idea you will retire there and raise chickens.

But who wants to be the man in the moon? Not me—and probably not you.

I look with a jaundiced eye on all the marvels promised by science for the next 50 years. This suspicion comes from an acquaintance with some of the eerie wonders of the 20th century up till now—automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, the atom bomb, falsies, psychiatry, and vitamin pills.

Ought To Stop It seems to me the Bunsen burner brigade ought to stop for a while and ask themselves, "Whither are we trending?" So far their laboratory miracles

have enabled man to go faster, smell nicer and live a bit longer. They've showed the world how to be sanitary. They put man on wheels and then gave him wings. They've presented him all manner of complicated gadgets that should make life better but don't.

And the real task of scientific social engineering has hardly been touched—how to make man get along with his fellow man.

They have learned to jet-propel bodies, but they haven't taken the first step in jet-propelling the human spirit.

What good would it do if some laboratory Ponce de Leon found the secret of eternal life and gave it to mankind? At present it would be only a curse. As people grew older and older and older they would start biting each other to death from sheer ennui at seeing the same old faces.

Look At Other Things The real problems of life can't be solved with chromium-plated gadgets. What science should concentrate on is how to enable a man to marry the girl he wants and get the job he wants—and stay happy with both after he has them.

It should come up with a general, all-purpose, happiness and kindness pill. If everybody took three H. and K. pills a day, divorces would end, boredom van-

Railroads Want Pay Increase For Carrying Mails

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—(AP)—The nation's major railroads Wednesday asked the government to nearly double their pay for carrying the mails compared with levels at the start of 1947.

The petition was filed with the Interstate Commerce commission. The rail carriers have been pressing the ICC for higher mail pay for the last two years. They contend that mounting operating costs over the last several years make a permanent adjustment in mail pay rates necessary.

Railroad sources estimated that if today's revised petition is approved it will yield the carriers more than \$100,000,000 in excess of what they now get for hauling mail.

The original rate boost petition was filed in February, 1947. That requested a 45 percent hike in rates. The ICC temporarily granted a 25 percent increase while studying the matter. The original plea has been amended several times to ask even higher rates.

Wednesday's amendment asks that compensation be fixed at 95 percent above the January, 1947, rates.

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