

Grim Determination Of U.S. Succeeds Shocks Produced By Reverses In Korean War

BY JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Some top government officials are saying privately they don't think the Russians will be ready to start a war for another two years or so. Nice, if true. It will give this country another two years to get ready for the worst, if it comes. Meanwhile this country, after suffering bewilderment and a couple of shocks, seems to be entering a period of grim determination.

An army has to be built, our allies are going to be helped, and weapons must be turned out. All this means sacrifices. And every one now seems reconciled to that, more or less.

All this can't be done in a week or months but will need years, as some officials recently have pointed out. So a kind of prolonged determination is needed.

This will be fine — if the determination doesn't turn into complacency — for then we'll be better

prepared for any future shocks that may lie around the corner although not now in sight.

We were certainly before Korea — at least, we certainly were unprepared — thanks in part to the statements of some officials who could lick our weight in wildcats. The only trouble with that was this: we were away under weight. Now we're trying to catch up.

Tidal War Fortunes
This is a run-down on what happened to us and may lie ahead; The first shock came in the summer in Korea when we suddenly found how poorly equipped we were with men and weapons to fight any kind of war, even against the North Koreans.

Then came the months when General MacArthur's troops smashed the North Koreans, and American spirits, which had fallen from the roof to the cellar, soared.

In the fall the Chinese came in and kicked our brains out. American spirits fell into the cellar again. How could this happen to us? What next? Where were we going? What to do?

Talk of quitting Korea snowballed. Now the tide has turned a bit. The Chinese are beginning to look bad. There's a more confident spirit in this country.

And it's just possible that the Chinese Communist leaders will get enough of setting their own Chinese up as cannon fodder while the Russians, without risking a man, stand to gain by any United Nations defeat.

Little the Russians are having a little internal trouble in Europe where some Communists in other countries are breaking away from the Russian philosophy of "all good Communists will die for Moscow."

And General Eisenhower seemed to spread confidence that our western allies would work to defend themselves, without depending entirely on this country.

No Gloom In Confusion
Meanwhile, the defense program has started rolling a bit, but nothing like the flood it should reach a year from now. True, there were weeks of shrill excitement, wondering when price and wage controls would come.

They finally came, almost a month ago, although the government still is fouled up in working out the controls. Since this was expected, it hasn't caused gloom.

And although President Truman has asked for much higher taxes, Congress is taking its time on that.

So all in all — with better news from abroad and the defense program rolling — things are looking up a bit and no one has been crushed by hurt in prices or wages. At least, the full pressure of the controls hasn't been widely felt, yet.

Crisis Possibility Remains
All these things add to a feeling of comfort. And — if we're lucky — we may be able to go on for quite a while, maybe indefinitely, building up strength and not suffering any real hardships.

It's also possible that the picture may not continue so peaceful. It's just possible the Chinese may throw a great force into Korea in a big try to win.

It's also possible the Russians may not sit on their hands, particularly since they have already a great force in Europe — in spite of the pleasant hopes of the unnamed government officials mentioned at the beginning of this story.

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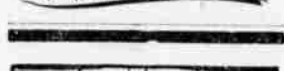
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- Novelty Soaps, Reg. 50c **19c**
- Clearing at
- French Soap, lovely gift item. **99c**
- Reg. 2.00, now
- Refillable Powder Mitts **39c**
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Women's Gloves 99c

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Women's Belts 79c

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