

Communist Party Strength Reached 5000 In Northwest, Ex-Party Member Relates

SEATTLE (AP) — A former Communist leader says the party reached a top strength of about 5,000 members in Washington, Oregon and Idaho in the years 1936, 1937 and 1938.

Asylum Granted Russian Seamen Who Left Vessel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has decided to grant asylum to some 20 Russian seamen who deserted their ship after it was seized off Formosa by Chinese Nationalists.

Atty. Gen. Brownell, it was learned, is ready to lift present immigration barriers and rule it is in the national interest to admit the men.

The action, however, is virtually certain to provoke a hot protest from Russia which has been demanding return of the men along with their ship.

The defectors are part of a 48-man crew captured last June 23 by Nationalist destroyers along with their ship, the tanker Taupou, as it sailed for Red China.

It is understood that the Taupou along with the 28 crewmen who have chosen to stick to their ship will be turned over to Soviet authorities within a few weeks. The ship and all crewmen are now in Chinese Nationalist custody.

Under an asylum plan now being developed, the crewmen will be screened rigorously to make certain no defectors are Communists and security risks are permitted to enter the United States.

years were "the golden age of the Communist Party's efforts in the Northwest."

Dennett said the party reached its high point in membership, prestige and political power in the years just before the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact, but began to fade with the Soviet attack on Finland.

All of the party's top leaders in the Northwest and 90 per cent of its membership were in Washington, Dennett said.

The Communists' greatest instrument of power, he said, was Commonwealth Federation. Dennett said Communist tacticians, directed by Morris Rapoport, district party boss, manipulated the federation for their own purposes.

The witness said Howard G. Costigan, federation executive secretary, became a Communist in 1935; Hugh DeLacy, former Washington congressman later repeatedly identified as a Communist, became president of the Commonwealth movement, and Dennett was vice president.

Dennett described vividly a WCF meeting in Everett, Wash., in April 1936.

"At that time," he related, "Republicans, as well as Democrats and independents, were beating a path to the door of the WCF to gain its endorsements."

During the convention, Dennett testified, Rapoport sat in an ante-room just off the convention floor, sending instructions by messengers to "those of us who were up near the microphone."

There were between 15 and 20 different people running back and forth, bringing changes in the party line" to delegates on the floor, Dennett said.

The federation, Dennett said, was "liquidated" by the Communist Party during World War II.



REMEMBER THIS PICTURE?—The State Department's revelation of the long-secret official records of the 1945 Yalta Big Three conference brings out this famous photo of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Russian Premier Josef Stalin. The papers revealed details of the deal between Roosevelt and Stalin to bring Russia into the war against Japan. They show that Stalin laid down a set of political demands as his price.

Britain Opposed To Publishing Potsdam Papers

LONDON (AP) — Britain has told the United States it is opposed to any publication of the top secret record of 1945 Big Three talks in Potsdam, the Foreign Office said Saturday.

Washington consulted the Churchill government about releasing the report, the spokesman said.

A spokesman told newsmen British objections were similar to those raised against making public the Yalta papers—that publication was "undesirable" during the lifetime of the principal participants.

The Potsdam conference was attended by President Truman, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill. Clement Attlee, who replaced Churchill as premier during the conference, also sat in.

The conferees planned out the next blows against Japan and began to stake out the future of defeated, occupied Germany.

The Foreign Office said the U. S. State Department sounded out Britain on the Potsdam record before its decision to publish the Yalta papers.

The release in Washington of the secret account of the earlier 1945 Yalta meeting between Churchill, President Roosevelt and Stalin brought angry official and press reactions in Britain. Reports from Washington said the worldwide furor over the Yalta papers has prompted Washington to put off plans for publishing this year its record of Big Three meetings at Potsdam, Cairo and Tehran.

Army Colonel Blames Congress In Peress Case

By G. MILTON KELLY
WASHINGTON (AP) — An Army colonel testified Friday it was Congress who promoted Irving Peress to major — if Peress' advancement from the rank of captain technically was a promotion.

Officers Discount Child's Story About Killings

LAS CRUCES, N. M. (AP) — Officers have discounted the story of a four-year-old girl who told them she saw her mother and a man slain by another "man in a black suit."

Police say they believe murder and suicide explain the deaths of Mrs. Monica Vasquez, 42, and Arthur C. Peterson, 60, Las Cruces farmer.

The slain woman's daughter, Dolores, her brother, Ricardo, 2, and Romana Murphy, 3, Mrs. Vasquez' grandchild, spent three or four days with the bodies, found in a dry arroyo near the Rio Grande Thursday. The children led woodcutters to the bodies.

Dolores told officers a "man in the red car" killed her mother and then Peterson. She said the man wore a black suit and gave her 50 cents.

Peterson was clothed in a gunmetal grey suit, officers said. A red car near the bodies belonged to Peterson. Mrs. Vasquez had been shot in the back of the head and Peterson was shot above and behind the right ear. Near at hand was a .22 caliber rifle.

Peress to major — if Peress' advancement from the rank of captain technically was a promotion.

Col. Ruluff Leverich gave that view to the Senate investigations subcommittee which is searching in public hearings for the truth about why Peress got a promotion and honorable discharge after having refused to tell the Army whether he was a Communist. Repeated Senate investigations of the case have made "who promoted Peress?" a by-word in Washington.

Leverich, chief dental surgeon at Camp Kilmer, N.J., also testified that at the request of Army intelligence he kept Peress under personal "spot check surveillance" but observed no action — "none whatsoever" — he could report to Army Intelligence.

As to the promotion, the colonel said there was a question at the time whether Peress' advancement was "a promotion or a grade readjustment" under a law passed by Congress.

Peress, a New York dentist, had

been called to service Jan. 1, 1953, with the rank of captain.

Leverich noted that Congress passed a law in June 1953 providing for advancement in such cases to a grade commensurate with experience and training. Leverich said it was under this statute that Peress became a major while Army intelligence officials were recommending that Peress be fired out of the service as a security risk.

Sen. McClellan (D-Ark), the subcommittee chairman, questioning Leverich, said that "As I understand the testimony so far" a letter never did reach the promoting authority — the action resulted from the law.

"That is correct," Leverich responded.

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U.S. Air Force Denies Placing Troops At Adana

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U. S. Air Force has set up support elements and made some training flights to an air base at Adana, Turkey, but has stationed no units there.

The Defense Department reported that much—but no more—Friday night when asked for comment on reports from Istanbul, Turkey, that the Strategic Air Command had moved unannounced into the new base near Russia.

The reports said the base, only 25 minutes flying time from a Soviet fighter air field, was being occupied under agreement with the Turkish government. They said the agreement, still to be announced, provides for joint Turkish-American use of the field.

The Turkish reports, quoting sources not directly identified, said U. S. planes already had staged training flights from North African bases to Adana, and that movement of maintenance personnel to Adana started two months ago. They said 600 maintenance men eventually would be stationed there.

Turkey has a half dozen good jet fighter fields built with U. S. money. The Adana base, which has a 12,000-foot runway of heavy-impact concrete, was built by U. S. engineers at an estimated cost of 18 million dollars.

It is 1,300 miles closer to Russia than Wheelus Field, Libya, which has been the closest major U. S. bomber base.

CAPTURE RARE FISH

PARIS (AP) — The French News Agency Friday reported the capture of an adult female coelacanth, the fish that has come down virtually unchanged from prehistoric ages. This specimen, 67 inches long, was taken off Anjouan Island of the Comores group in the Indian ocean.

U. S. farm families use about the same percentage of their incomes in the purchase of food as do city families, says the Twentieth Century Fund.



WHAT'S IT? — Don't know why, but sculptor Jose de Rivera calls his creation "Construction." The New Orleans-born artist says it is made of chrome, nickel and steel. "Construction" was displayed at the University of Illinois.



SALUTING TV—A Paris skyline cluttered with TV antennae is shown on this new French stamp, paying tribute to television. In the center is the Eiffel Tower. The green, 15-franc stamp will be issued on April 18.

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D Buick Roadmaster	19.7

Cars pictured represent best mileage of each make.

The sixth annual Mobilgas Economy Run which finished Wednesday at the foot of Pike's Peak, after covering 1323 tortuous miles from Los Angeles in 2½ days, proved one thing for sure: when American car manufacturers added horsepower, they didn't sacrifice mileage.

The 21 American cars, which were equipped with automatic transmission and certified absolutely stock by American Automobile Association, averaged an impressive 21.5 miles per gallon. This was achieved even though the average horsepower increase of 1955 over 1954 models was 17.6 per cent—an average increase of 26.7 horsepower.

The route chosen by AAA represented every road condition a motorist would normally experience in a year. Each contestant ran at maximum legal speed to meet time requirements. He adhered to normal driving rules and traffic conditions; to see that this was accomplished, he had at his side an official AAA observer. Each car, competing against others in its price class, was in top condition—properly fueled with Mobilgas and lubricated with Mobiloil.

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