

U.S. Secretary Of State Herter Wins 'Man Of The Week' Title

By PHIL NEWSON
UPI Foreign Editor
The man-of-the-week: U. S. Secretary of State Christian A. Herter.
The place: Paris.
The quote: "We have a strong impression of a general desire for

peace among the Soviet people." In Paris last week, the U.S. secretary of state found himself on the horns of a dilemma.
On the one hand, as advance man for President Eisenhower, part of his job was to convince the reluctant French and West

Europeans that enough of a thaw had occurred in the cold war to warrant a summit conference with Soviet Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev.
On the other, he had to convince the foot-dragging members of the North Atlantic Treaty Or-

ganization (NATO) that the time had not yet come to relax Western defenses which, in fact, must be strengthened if the West were to be able to meet any surprise communist attack.
Convinces French, Germans
As part of the first point, he had to convince both the Germans and the French that the United States would not sacrifice Berlin to the Communists for the sake of an over-all settlement.
"We are determined," he said,

to protect the freedom of West Berliners. He said the "acid test" of Soviet desires to relax tensions would be its attitude toward Berlin and that Khrushchev had been so informed.
He added that the United States expected negotiations to continue through numerous meetings, from the summit on down.
So far as NATO was concerned, Herter's task broke down into two categories.
One was to convince the United

States' prosperous fellow-members that they now must begin more of the financial burden.
The other was to convince them that, with NATO one-third below strength, they must meet their manpower commitments to the defensive force.
Since both would cost in the long run more money, his task therefore became doubly difficult.
"Scandinavian Speaks Bluntly"
A Scandinavian member put it bluntly when he said his people

knew only what they were told, and they were told that tensions were relaxing. Therefore, they asked, why were large defensive forces necessary?
Herter's reply, in effect, was that only with strong forces behind them could Western negotiators hope to reach suitable agreement with the already strongly-armed Russians.
The central figure remains President Charles de Gaulle of

France, the man who insists on a NATO veto but refuses to commit his forces to it. He would be for President Eisenhower to tackle.
For the arthritis-burdened Herter it was yet another in the unending trials that beset an American secretary of state. Herter, then new to the job, demonstrated at the foreign ministers conference in Geneva that he could be tough and patient. Now he must be tactful and patient.



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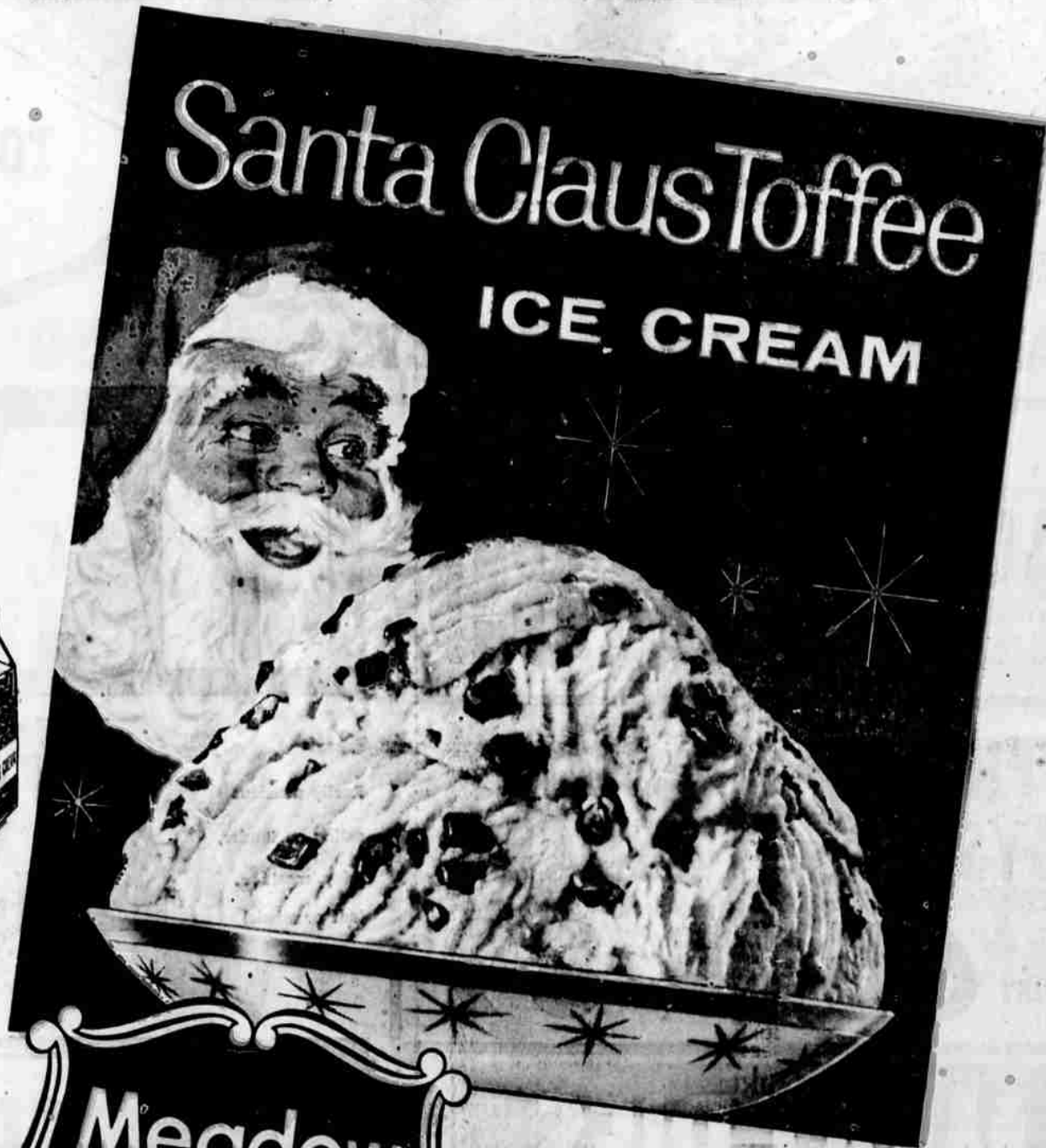
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