

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Edward C. Wayne

Landing of Naval Forces in Iceland Brings Speculation on Future Moves Of U. S. in Setting Up Defense Bases; Shaded Communiques Dim War Picture

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



Dr. J. C. McCracken, superintendent of the American Hospital for Refugees in Shanghai, China, is pictured with two of his charges from the baby clinic. The children seem to be thriving on meals made up of cracked wheat, which they consider a luxury. The Red Cross bags are then cut up and used for making clothes for the children.

ICELAND: A Move

The sudden step which President Roosevelt took in ordering the occupation of Iceland by American naval forces, and the plan to thus relieve the British in the handling of that distant adjunct of the occupied Danish kingdom not only clarified the present foreign policy but brought repercussions on both sides of the Atlantic.

These were both favorable and unfavorable to the move, the British hailing it with obvious delight as "putting teeth" and definiteness into the U. S. policy of insuring arrival of lease-lend aid and the fullest co-operation short of war with Britain.

The Axis powers, as were to be expected, were quoted variously as vigorously opposing such action which, apparently, they did not learn of until it was an accomplished fact. The Germans said the U. S. now had troops "in the war zone" and could expect results; the Italians called it a "provocative" step; and the Japanese called it "de facto American entry into the war."

These sentiments were echoed on this side of the water by the chief opponents of the administration, Senator Wheeler not only being outspoken against it, but drawing White House fire for having announced the rumored objective before it took place, thus, according to a White House secretarial statement, "jeopardizing American lives."

More interesting were the speculations concerning future moves, the Nazi sources recalling in their comment on the President's action the fact that he had spoken previously of the strategic import, from a Western hemisphere viewpoint, of the Azores, the Cape Verde islands, and Dakar, African port.

The President also made clear that geographical definitions of the Western hemisphere, as far as he is concerned, do not make much difference, and that when one is defending a certain section of the globe, it is more important to "outguess the other fellow" than to draw geographical limitations on your activities.

RUSSIANS: A Picture

Gradually, as the Russo-German war moved into the latter part of the first month, a growingly clearer picture of the situation could be obtained.

Stripped of equivocal communiques, and delving behind these with the aid of town names and general lines, here was the portrait of conditions at that period:

The Germans, together with their allies, had attacked along a 1,100 mile front, with initial quick success in the extreme north, in the central district, and a slower success in the south.

This continued, with the Russians falling back and burning towns and supplies as far as possible for about a week or 10 days.

Then the German advance ran into the Stalin line and an entirely different tempo of Russian resistance. It was almost as though a large train had run into a resilient obstacle, which halted it gently and then even began to shove it backward.

The Russian communiques painted this picture as far more favorable to the Reds, and the Germans minimized or ignored things, and spoke of everything being "expected," and "running on schedule." All this, of course, might be true, depending on the schedule.

From other points came data, however, tending to show that the German machine had perhaps not met its master, but at any rate a foeman worthy of its steel, and one that was not going to be a "push-over" in the sense of previous opponents.

Iceland Leader



Shown here is Hermann Jonasson, prime minister of independent Iceland, who approved President Roosevelt's dispatching of American forces to take over defense of the island from the British.

LEASE-LEND: Aid Speeding

A report that President Roosevelt was going to ask for another large lease-lend appropriation to add to the seven billions of dollars, a goodly portion of which was spent and all of it allocated, was coupled with the statement that American lease-lend aid to Britain is now moving at a speedier clip.

The statement was made that a ship a day, approximately, is docking and unloading at Red sea ports, not accounting for such others as may be arriving in convoy in England itself.

If these ships are well loaded with the munitions of war, then the British commands in North Africa as well as on the British Isles should be having measurably strengthened their hands.

The period in which General Auchinleck took over and General Wavell gave up the North African command was followed by a continuance of the inactivity which had marked this stalemate.

But as soon as the Syrian peace was announced, it was expected that the North African battle would be resumed, and that the new general plus his new equipment, would make a determined effort to release the long-besieged garrison of Tobruk.

KNUDSEN: And Rubber

The statement by William S. Knudsen, of OPM, making a tour of the defense production areas, that he had little worry about the rubber situation, despite the fact that the government, foreseeing a shortage, had ordered the tire makers not to use more rubber than they had in the first six months.

Mr. Knudsen said that the rubber situation was this: that even if the supply of real rubber was cut off, the industry knew enough about synthetic rubber manufacture to pick right up and continue the supply of suitable tires and other articles without feeling the shortage of the actual article at all.

A talk with rubber experts revealed that while some disagreed with Mr. Knudsen, the outstanding majority believe it could be done, and with ease. Said one:

"We can make a tire that will outlast and outperform a real rubber tire right now. All that is needed is for our factories to make slight changes in technique."

"If our supply of raw real rubber were cut off, here is what I think would happen. Factories would be started in construction to manufacture hundreds of thousands of tons of synthetic rubber."

"While we were waiting to get them in production, we have six months' supply of sheet rubber on hand, and for another six months we could operate with mixtures of reclaimed rubber and synthetic rubber, and so, in the 12 or 14 months that it would take to get the new factories built and in operation there would be no lost motion at all, for we have inventories of finished tires that would last about six months."

He could say little about the price of such tires, but some experts thought they might be slightly more expensive than rubber tires at first, until the "know how" had been achieved in making them.

MISCELLANY:

London: Nazi fliers dropping incendiaries and bombs over England were beginning to mix leaflets with them, announcing in the English language, "The Battle of the Atlantic is being lost."

Berlin: A German newspaper editorially commented on the occupation of Iceland: "This is a stab in the back of a nation wrestling with Bolshevism."

Moscow: Women and children, heeding Stalin's request for guerrilla action on German forces in the rear of the front line, are joining such bands. Moscow sources claimed that these bands had accounted for 18 tanks.

London: When the war is won, say British political leaders, a Pan-Slav agreement whereby Russia, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia and Poland will join a united and organized front contiguous to Germany, was envisioned.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

Washington, D. C. MEDITERRANEAN MIX-UP

Inside story on General Wavell's transfer to India, as told in diplomatic dispatches, is that Wavell had been quarreling with Churchill and had opposed political-military moves such as the campaign in Greece and Crete and the expedition to Solum.

More important from the American point of view, Wavell had favored the evacuation of all British forces from the entire Mediterranean area. And U. S. military experts agreed with him—in fact, urged it.

So although in a sense General Wavell is being demoted, yet in other respects he will be in a position to command British forces from an area to which he had urged that British forces retreat.

For some time General Wavell had contended that Britain's position in the Mediterranean was indefensible. The British force of only 400,000 men in the Near East faced a combined Axis total twice as strong—400,000 Germans and Italians in Libya, plus 600,000 Nazis in Greece, Bulgaria and Rumania.

The latter figure has been partially diminished by transfers to Russia; but Wavell argued that the Nazi-Fascist armies could concentrate attack in one place while British troops had to spread out over a far-flung line from Libya to Syria and Iraq. Therefore he disagreed with Churchill on all military moves which had a political motive.

U. S. Worried Over Atlantic.

U. S. military and naval strategists sided with Wavell, were strong for the idea of a complete British withdrawal from the Mediterranean. The strategy behind this was twofold:

1. The British have lost 40 per cent of their original Mediterranean fleet. The losses at Crete were much worse than officially admitted, and even in the Syrian campaign naval losses were considerable. Therefore, American naval men, facing the probability of having to help the British fleet in the Atlantic, did not want the fleet further weakened.

2. The United States is more interested in what happens on the bulge of Africa around Dakar (opposite Brazil) than it is in the Mediterranean.

To this end, both General Wavell and U. S. strategists favored the idea of withdrawing British forces from the Mediterranean entirely and establishing a new line of defense across the very center of Africa—from Port Sudan on the Red sea to Freetown on the Atlantic ocean.

This line of defense meant that about 1,500 miles of the hottest desert in the world would be between the Nazis and the British lines. Over such a desert it is difficult for tanks to operate without heating up; also it is difficult for the average bomber to carry a load over such distances. So it was expected that the Nazis would exhaust themselves in the deep, hot deserts of Africa.

Part of the plan contemplated a highway straight across equatorial Africa from Freetown and later from Dakar to Port Sudan.

Churchill Says No.

However, Churchill was flatly opposed. So were many other British leaders. They felt that the shock of withdrawal from the Mediterranean, traditional sphere of British influence, and from Suez which had been identified with the British empire for years, would be too much for the British public.

This debate occurred before the Nazi attack on Russia and before the British march into Syria. But after the slowness of Wavell's success in Syria, all these factors culminated in his transfer to India.

There Wavell can concentrate on defense of the most important part of the empire—if the Nazis creep up on the Indian border in South Russia. Also, he will not be in the Mediterranean, for the defense of which he had no great enthusiasm.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

It was a breathless day in Washington. The only breeze was kicked up by the little subway car running between the senate office building and the Capitol. Passenger Hattie Caraway, senator from Arkansas, clutched at her flying strands of hair.

Curly-haired Sen. Berkeley Bunker of Nevada, who succeeded to the seat of the late Key Pittman, never misses a senate session and is assiduously studying parliamentary procedure. Vice President Wallace has called him to preside during his absence more than any other senator.

United Service Organizations have had some big gifts, but none more touching than the savings brought in by one Harry Katz, who emptied on the desk 512 pennies, 44 nickels, eight dimes, and one quarter.

Displayed in the department of agriculture lobby are four practical pamphlets: "Cockroaches and Their Control," "Bedbugs: Causes and Cures," "House Ants," and "How to Control Fleas."

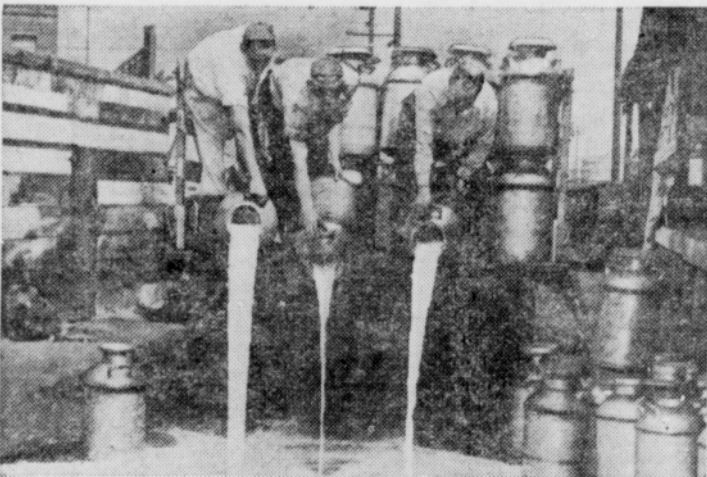
The President has on his desk a new leather briefcase, fastened securely at one end with a steel padlock.

Berlin Offers Photo as 'Proof'



With communiques giving varied reports on the progress of the Russo-German war comes this radio-photo from Berlin which purports to show Nazi heavy tanks rolling through the White Russian capital of Minsk. It was not definitely known the Nazis had pushed this far—but this would seem to be "proof," says Berlin.

Milk Trouble on West Coast



Difficulties with the A. F. of L. International Teamsters' union forced milk producers such as these (above), in the Los Angeles area to pour 28,000 quarts of milk a day down the drains. This was asserted by Clarence Smith, co-operative dairy head. His firm was the sixth dairy to be picketed, and their milk listed as "hot cargo."

Last Honors for Paderewski



A view of the funeral of Ignace Jan Paderewski, renowned Polish patriot and pianist. The casket, draped with the national flag of the Polish Republic, was borne on a gun carriage by an honor guard of the U. S. army. Until it can be taken to Poland, the body will rest in Arlington cemetery.

Mexico Makes Land Expropriation Payment



Mexican ambassador Dr. Don Francisco Najera (right) hands acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles the Mexican government's check for \$1,000,000, in payment of the amount due on account of the claims of American citizens whose lands in Mexico have been expropriated since August 30, 1927, under the Mexican agrarian program.

Sees President



In his first visit to the White House since July, 1939, Constantin Ouman-sky, Soviet ambassador to the U. S., laid Russia's problems before President Roosevelt in an hour's conference. He is shown leaving the White House.

New Post



Sen. Carter Glass, 83-year-old Virginian, is shown with raised gavel just after he was unanimously chosen president pro-tempore of the senate.

Leaves for Duty



Rep. Hamilton Fish of New York, leading house isolationist, and a colonel in the Specialist Reserve, is pictured in his uniform in his office in Washington shortly before leaving for a month's active duty at Fort Bragg, N. C. Rep. Fish saw active service in World War I.

New RFC Chairman



Charles B. Henderson, 68, of Elko, Nev., appointed chairman of \$10,000,000 Reconstruction Finance corporation, to succeed Emil Schram, new head of New York Stock exchange.