

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

# Bulgarians Are Rebuked by Russia For 'Allowing' Nazi Troops to Enter; Turkey Closes Strategic Dardanelles As Crisis Looms in Mediterranean

(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.)

## ENGLAND:

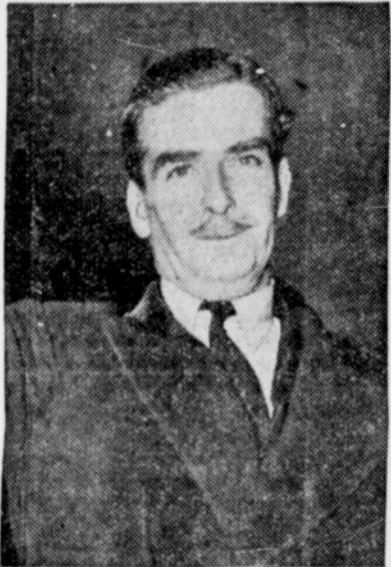
## At Crossroads

The sending of Anthony Eden into Turkey was no empty gesture on the part of England, but a vital move in the war as the nation approached what appeared to be its most dangerous parting of the ways.

The Nazi move in the Balkans, plus the infiltration into Italy, plus the move into Spain, plus the appearance of German troops in Africa, plus the removal of French citizens from the invasion coast, all pointed in different directions and tended to place English war directors on the horns of a dilemma.

It appeared that the British must decide (1) whether to extend and continue their successful drive in Africa; (2) whether to concentrate on defense of the channel and fighting the submarine menace; (3) whether to lighten the African force by sending troops to strengthen the defense of Greece and to the aid of Turkey.

Most British leaders did not believe that all of these varied objectives could be accomplished at the same time. They viewed with dread the possibility that one or another of these German spearheads might



ANTHONY EDEN

The "prime fixer" went to Turkey.

just be a feinting move with the very purpose of causing the British to put their chief attraction at the wrong spot.

There was little chance that the British would do anything that would jeopardize their defense of the Island Kingdom itself. Robert G. Nixon, returning correspondent, described in detail the defense of the entire English coastal territory, north, south, east and west, giving a picture of a nation rather anxiously hoping for invasion than fearing it.

But Britain's Mediterranean and Middle East situation was causing tremendous concern, with the two vulnerable points at each end of the inland sea, Gibraltar and Suez, and with Greece to be aided, Turkey to be strengthened, and African gains to be held and consolidated.

The crucial move in this whole dilemma was the sending of Eden, the prime "fixer" to Turkey. The conference with Turkish leaders lasted only 2½ hours, and ended in a complete accord, it was reported.

First definite action resulting from Turkey's concern over the situation became known when it was announced that the Dardanelles had been closed. Those strategic straits, which separate the Mediterranean from the Black sea, are of vital concern to the axis powers for they form the outlet of German occupied territory to the Mediterranean.

## BALKANS:

## Lose a Piece

Bulgaria lost its autonomy to all practical purposes when Bogdan Philoff and Von Ribbentrop signed a dramatic treaty through which the Bulgars officially joined the Rome-Berlin Axis "for the duration."

This was widely viewed as an unwilling surrender, but a move which could hardly be criticized by fair-minded persons, as it was a surrender to a pistol held firmly to a nation's heart.

Russia, however, felt otherwise. Shortly after the pact was signed and the Nazi troops had entered Bulgaria, that nation was handed a message from the soviet foreign commissariat which in effect expressed displeasure with the Bulgar's attitude. According to the Russians,

they disapproved of the Bulgarian action because it "does not lead to consolidation of peace."

Whether this meant Russia would take any action to prevent Nazi troops from penetrating too close to soviet borders was not immediately learned. London at first did not believe that Russia had any action in mind but looked upon the statement merely as "a mere verbal protest." One thing was sure: The signing of the Axis-Bulgar pact was to have far-reaching effect in the progress of war in the Balkans.

The signing had been prefaced by the infiltration of uncounted thousands of Nazi troops in civilian clothing, and two days before it all happened, Nazi generals, also in plain-clothes, practically took over the leading hotel in Sofia as their headquarters.

The day before the signatures were placed on the historic document Britain issued a warning that she would withdraw her embassy if the treaty were signed.

The next step was the cutting off of all telephonic communication between Bulgaria and the outside world. In all this, the blotting out of another autonomous country was carried out in the true Nazi method, the blueprint being followed in every detail with mathematical precision.

The following day the city of Sofia was in German hands, completely under German control, the British ambassador had asked for and demanded his passports, and Bulgaria's home rule was ended.

## MARTIN DIES:

## Steps Out Again

The Dies committee, quiescent for several weeks, stepped back onto Page One when Representative Dies charged that American Peace Mobilization, Inc., which in Washington is largely made up of government employees active in opposition to the lease-lend bill, receives its chief support from Communistic "front" organizations.

Public meetings against the lease-lend bill were being run by the "Keep America Out of War Committee," but the sponsors of the meetings, when asked what other groups were involved, would only answer "and other peace and labor groups."

Mr. Dies said chief among these was the Mobilization body, and he cited that one of its vice presidents is Vito Marcantonio of New York, the only American Labor party member in congress who has been voting against national defense and



MARTIN DIES

He stepped back to Page One.

appropriations measures ever since the congress convened.

The Dies committee, during previous investigations, pronounced to be a Communist Front organization the American League for Peace and Democracy. Mr. Dies said that from what he had learned so far, the Mobilization chapter in Washington appeared to be the successor of the League for Peace, which became defunct after getting the Red label from the Dies body.

Executive secretary of the Washington chapter of Mobilization, Inc., was Mrs. Sarah A. Montgomery, wife of the consumers' counsel for the AAA. Dies served a subpoena on Mrs. Montgomery to bring her records before the committee.

Subpoenas were served for several weeks on the chapter, Dies said, without avail in getting the records before him. He continued to demand them, and would continue to do so, he said.

## Washington Digest

# England May Get Food Under 'Lend-Lease' Bill

Increasing Shortages Now Appear Likely; Roosevelt Opposed to Censorship Of 'Defense' Information.



By BAUKHAGE

National Farm and Home Hour Commentator.

WNU Service, 1395 National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—In the past few weeks the tall figure of a Hoosier farmer has been seen frequently entering and leaving the White House. This was not so strange to us who watch the busy portals because the man was Secretary of Agriculture Wickard. Like other members of the cabinet, he is called in for frequent conferences with the President these days. Cabinet officers and other government officials have been helping the President plan the concrete steps to be taken to aid Britain under the lend-lease bill.

But what a lot of us did not guess was just what Secretary Wickard was up to. The purpose of those visits has not been officially announced, as I write these lines. But it can be safely predicted that he was working out plans with the President to include farm products among the first supplies to be loaned or leased to England.

Secretary Wickard was able to achieve his purpose partly as a result of his own persuasiveness, and partly for other reasons that I will explain later.

Here is the tip-off on the plan the secretary discussed with the President, in Mr. Wickard's own words. It is pretty easily expressed but if you know how, you can read between the lines. This is what Secretary Wickard said in a public speech during the congressional battle on the lend-lease bill:

## Overproduction Held Unlikely.

"Frankly speaking, there is little likelihood that we will produce too much meat, butter, cheese, milk and other dairy products in the months to come. I have an idea that all we produce in the South and elsewhere will be needed.

"The reports about the British food situation are not too encouraging. The British have lost their sources of food supply on the continent. They are handicapped still further by their shipping losses. The English may want some of our food and want it pretty soon. If they call on us, I think we will answer the call."

Almost all of the products to be sent to Britain under the lend-lease plan will be proteins (meat, milk and milk products and eggs). There will be, however, some cotton, wheat and tobacco, but these commodities will constitute a minor part of the shipments. The practical arguments for sending proteins are obvious:

1. The extra physical demands on fighting men require a greater protein diet.

2. These products up to now have been shipped to England all the way from Australia, New Zealand and the Argentine. Two trips can be made from New York to Britain while one is being made from these distant points.

Unfortunately the protein commodities which are needed by England are not the ones we most want to sell. They do not constitute our great surpluses, disposition of which has caused the biggest headaches in the department of agriculture since the farm problem was tossed in the government's lap.

## Surplus Produce Unaffected.

Furthermore, they are the products which, later on, when the defense industries expand, we will need at home because if all our unemployed were working full time and eating three meals a day, we would not have enough proteins at the present rate of production to satisfy them. The things we do want to get rid of—the things of which we have enough and to spare—are not as greatly affected by increased employment. Department of agriculture experts here will tell you any day that in prosperous times there is not an important increase in the use of cotton, tobacco and wheat.

But as far as the British go, they have to consider first things first, and they have all the cotton, wheat and tobacco they need, or they can get these products as conveniently from their own dominions as from the United States.

So this new "lend-lease" market won't solve the problem of farm surpluses. Nevertheless, it will absorb some of them, for the government is insisting that along with the proteins, some of the surplus products will be included in the commodities we dispose of under the lend-lease plan.

How long this new market over-

seas will last no one can say. It is impossible to predict how long the emergency will last or what the fortunes of war will be. But the effort of the New Deal planners is to build up an increasing demand at home for the things the farmer raises. As Secretary Wickard says on every occasion when he gets the chance:

"Whether they lose or keep the foreign markets, farmers must try to increase consumption in their best market—the domestic market."

## President Discusses News Control With Reporters

Imagine the head of a European state sitting for half an hour while he was questioned by a group of newsmen on any subject they chose, including the government's confidential transactions!

And, yet, that happens twice a week in Washington at the White House press conferences. There the President sits at his desk covered with papers; members of the White House staff sitting about him, two secret service men standing inconspicuously behind him, between the stars and stripes and the presidential flag.

To us in Washington, the White House press conference is routine. But a recent meeting was so democratic, so unlike anything that could possibly happen abroad, that it stands out clearly in my memory.

Mr. Roosevelt started it. The question which the American public ought to think about, as he put it, had to do with the ethics, morals and patriotism of making public matters which might be injurious to national defense. First, should a member of congress divulge testimony before a secret committee session; second, should a newspaper publish or a radio station broadcast such information.

The issue was raised by the publication of testimony given by the chief of staff, General Marshall, before an executive session of the senate military affairs committee in connection with a shipment of army bombers to Hawaii.

## Censorship Not Desired.

The President said he had neither the desire nor the power to censor the news, but he wished us to consider whether it was ethical, moral or patriotic to publish any information which the heads of the army and navy believed should, in the interests of national defense, be kept confidential.

The newsmen did not question the advisability of withholding from the public important military secrets, but they showed plainly that they resented any suggestion that the freedom of the press be interfered with.

One correspondent said frankly that the chief of staff ought not to tell things to congressmen which he did not want to get out because such information always leaked. The President replied, quietly, that naturally, one did not like to withhold any information asked for by congress.

Another reporter asked how the press was to know what information, once they had received it, ought to be withheld, and what could be printed. The President answered this could be determined by what the heads of the army and navy felt would be injurious to national defense. The President admitted he had no specific proposal to suggest. No definite conclusion to the discussion was reached at the interview.

The incident had one effect. Shortly after the meeting, a writer who is usually excellently informed, stated that the President had turned down flatly a plan to place all information concerning defense under what amounted to a censorship board. It had been long known that such a plan was placed on the President's desk at the time war broke out abroad. The President turned it down then. When it came up the second time, he again turned it down. Later, Lowell Mellett, administrative advisor to the President, said no plan of censorship was being considered.

If war comes, some method of regulating the publication of military information will probably be put into effect. But until that moment, the press and radio will fight for freedom of speech, the spoken word, or the written.

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