

THE WORLD THIS WEEK

If War Comes in Pacific There Will Be No Sanctuaries

Russia Stepping Up War Preparations

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
Associated Press Foreign News Analyst

THE Soviet Union, perhaps frightened by events in Asia, seems to be quickening the pace of its preparations for war. That is one of the more likely inferences which can be drawn from Moscow's open reversal of the post-Stalin policy of more for the consumer.

If there is actual fear among the Soviet Communist leaders that events in China sooner or later will involve them in a major war, the evidence ought to be forthcoming soon. It probably will take the form of a broad offensive outside Soviet borders, carried on by its tools and dupes who make up the various branches of the World Council of Peace.

The Soviet reversal, announced simultaneously with the news that A. I. Mikoyan was relieved of his post as trade minister, is an evidence of weakness and not of strength. It is a clear return, also, to the type of Stalinism which preceded the second World War.

It is a sign of weakness because it indicates the Soviet Communist hierarchy does not dare to sacrifice any of its heavy industry sector, which provides the implements of war, to better the lot of the public. If the Soviet Union's rulers considered their position strong, they would make some attempt to deliver on the promises made to the public so freely after the death of Stalin.

Fear Indicated
At the same time, it is an indication of fear. The Soviet Union cannot be disinterested in the little war raging over the islands off Red China's coast. Should the Red Chinese overstep the bounds and involve themselves in actual war with the United States, Moscow would be gravely concerned. It has a mutual assistance treaty with Peiping requiring the Soviets to go to the aid of the Red Chinese in the event of attack from the outside, and Moscow is already on record with the view that the United States alone is the aggressor in the issue of Formosa.

That does not mean the Moscow hierarchy considers that Soviet involvement in a major war is just around the corner, even though the internal policy reversal keeps in view the notion that an eventual frightful clash between the Communist and non-Communist worlds is inevitable.

Moscow Waits
Moscow's Communist hierarchy may well view as dangerous the events involving Red China and the United States. But it would want to pick the time and manner of its own involvement. That could take much time. It would be no surprise if Moscow were basing calculations on a strictly two-way clash between the United States and Red China which might bog both powers down for a long time. The Soviet Communists

Quemoy and Matsu Groups Block Red Invasion Harbors



QUEMOY and Little Quemoy can bring under fire shipping MATSU and its neighboring Nationalist-held islands sit astride the mouth of the important harbor of Foochow.

U.S. Would Employ Its Total Strength

By J. M. ROBERTS
Associated Press News Analyst

THE United States moved this week to test the idea that a position of strength can prevent a war between the forces of democracy and the forces of communism.

The United States must defend an "island line" in the Far Pacific, President Eisenhower told an enthusiastic Congress, which includes Formosa, the outlying Pescadores, and such other Chinese Nationalist positions along the China coast as are necessary to that end.

The Tachens were not considered necessary, it became obvious at once. Quemoy was listed as important, although there was some doubt among students of military strategy of whether this would be made to stick in the face of determined Red Chinese attack. But the nation was dead serious about Formosa, and it was up to the Reds whether they wanted to attack it at the expense of an all-out war.

This time, it was made clear, there would be no handcuffs on American commanders, no sanctuaries, no padlocks on atom bomb storage doors. The United States proclaimed itself prepared to carry out the idea of Secretary Dulles that, if attack must be met, it must be met with a margin of power larger than that thrown in by the enemy.

Policy Changed
Gone were parts of two policies to which the Eisenhower administration had paid its respects in the past. One of these was that the Chiang Kai-shek forces on Formosa should be kept constantly ready for attack on the mainland as a threat to deter the Communists from further military adventures like that in Korea. The new project was a cease-fire between Red and Nationalist China which would prevent either side from

continuing the only going war in the world.

Also gone was part of the idea that the Reds should be kept completely in the dark as to just what islands the United States would fight for. Formosa became the key. If moves were made elsewhere, they would be met or not met according to estimates of the value of their objectives to the strategic concepts of maintaining the island barrier including Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines.

The nation, to do this, had decided to run the calculated risk of war. The calculation was that it would not come.

Russian Policy
There was the recognized danger that Russia, finding herself more and more barred from the type of expansion made possible by the aftermaths of World War II, might try to push China into a conflict with the United States. It is fundamental Russian policy to encourage such situations, if she thinks she can escape direct involvement, so that more situations can be created from which she can hope to profit.

No softening of the Peiping line was noted immediately after the American action. Broadcasts said the Reds still intended to take Formosa. But Communist reaction is always slow in major circumstances, and American observers were prepared to wait for some definite clue.

There were those—but not many of them in Congress—who feared the United States was setting up a firecracker in the Far East which, once lit, would blow the top off the world. They feared if the fleet was used to move Chinese Nationalist troops out of the Tachens it would be subject to Red attack, and that such an attack would lead to open war.

But President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles had established reputations of being slow to answer provocation. Self defense would be the role against Red interference until a pattern of intent on war was established. Then the lid would be off anyway, and the gauntlet picked up. Firecracker incidents, such as the isolated shooting down of a plane flying cover, or of individual attacks on ships by Red planes, would be defended against as best possible and then ignored politically.

The Line Drawn
The whole attitude was being taken in an effort to forestall any possible miscalculation on the part of the Reds as to what they could get away with. It was born of the idea that if Germany had expected British and American intervention in the last two world wars she would never have launched them, that if Russia had expected Allied intervention in Korea she would not have given the word for that adventure.

It was the extension of an idea presented by Dulles long ago. Militarily, it envisages no more than was contemplated in the writing of the American-Nationalist defense pact which was presented for Senate ratification before the Reds invaded Yikiangshan.

Deadly Island Chess Game Continues

7th Fleet Ready
The United States was closer to war this week than at any time since the Korean War ended 18 months ago.

The U.S. 7th Fleet—up to full strength with three carriers hastily summoned from the Philippines—stood "at the ready" to carry out whatever moves were ordered in the deadly island chess game being conducted from Washington and Peiping.

Obvious Value
A crucial question for the immediate future appeared to be the status of two island groups held by the Nationalist Chinese with obvious value in hampering an invasion of Formosa.

Quemoy is one, strategically placed with its neighbor Little Quemoy in the mouth of Amoy Harbor and almost directly opposite the southern tip of Formosa. The Red Chinese tried to capture this heavily armed fortress in 1949 and lost thousands of men in the futile attempt. It

was here last September that the "vest pocket" war in the Pacific started—with the Reds showering Quemoy with shells from artillery positions on Amoy. Nationalist batteries have vigorously returned the fire.

Foochow Blocked
The other stumbling block to Red invasion is the Matsu group, composed of four island clusters directly opposite the mainland port of Foochow. This area is opposite the northern tip of Formosa.

Bluff Called
Last week the Communists called this bluff and invaded the tiny island of Yikiangshan, using an impressive amount of power in the attack—including effective air and naval bombardment. Yikiangshan is within artillery range of the Tachens and some 200 miles north of Formosa.

Since Eisenhower did not specifically name either Quemoy or Matsu as inside the line of American defense it appears likely that—after assimilating the Tachens and other islands the U.S. obviously will not defend—the Reds will again put this country's intentions to the test by starting the attempt to clear the harbor entrances of their two important ports.



POWERFUL PUNCH—The aircraft carrier Essex, now in Formosan waters, launches a Banshee fighter-bomber.

FLIERS: Dilemma Decided
Cold Connivance
The propaganda strategists of Red China had the U.S. State Department wrestling with two unpleasant alternatives early this week on the question of visits to Red China by relatives of 17 Americans held in Chinese jails.

Should the State Department grant passports to those who already have positively indicated they wanted to make the trip—and permit the Reds to make more propaganda hay on the prisoner issue—or should they turn down the applicants—and leave themselves open to Communist charges of cruel disregard of human emotions?

Although the early indications were that the State Department would not stand in the way of visits by relatives, developments

FARMERS: Decline Ended
Great Decade Ahead
Most of the difficult postwar adjustment for agriculture that began four years ago has been completed and American farmers face a great decade ahead.

That is the down-to-earth prediction of Agriculture Secretary Benson who says, "The U.S. farm income has about stopped its postwar decline."

In his first appearance before the new Congress, Benson told the Senate Agriculture Committee, "We are in a period of comparative stability."

He predicted that the prices farmers get may be expected to average close to 1954 levels while the prices farmers must pay probably will not change much in the year ahead.

In his flattest statement on the

subject yet, Benson promised that cotton prices will be supported by the government at the same 90 per cent of parity as last year.

The Agriculture Department had been expected to set cotton price props at that level but as yet hasn't taken any official action.

The department also reported that a postwar rush by city folks with spare cash to buy farms as insurance against inflation seems to have subsided.

Heavy buying by such investors has been called a big factor in sharp increases in farm land values, particularly after the Korean War. Since then, there has been a tendency for land values to level off in some areas and to decline in others.

In a report on the farm real estate market, the department said values of the nation's farm land increased 1 per cent between last July and November. While prices strengthened in the central corn belt, they drifted lower in most other states.

The department said land values reached new peaks in Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. Biggest declines during the year were recorded in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states and in Kentucky and Maine.

Sidelights

● Charles Yaklin of Mt. Clemens, Mich., didn't mind so much floating around Lake St. Clair on an ice floe for two hours after the chunk he was fishing from broke away from the shore, but it really peeved him that two fellow fishermen simply yelled "goodbye" as he started drifting away. But Yaklin wasn't the only one with a gripe. "What really makes me mad," said his wife, "is that he didn't bother to let me know he was safe after police rescued him—he just went back to fishing."

● Lindsay Paynter doesn't claim the result was exactly as he expected, but his performance with a gun left little to be desired. A man entered his store at Winchester, Ky., ordered beer, then pulled a pistol and grabbed the cash box. As he fled to a waiting car, Paynter grabbed a gun and fired one shot. The bullet knocked the cash box out of the robber's hand.

● There are all sorts of reasons for calling off basketball games, but Maine came up with a new one this week. The scheduled contest between Union High and the North Haven high school squad—from a Penobscot Bay island 10 miles from the mainland—was postponed because high seas made boat travel impossible.

● The Illinois State Senate eliminated "for reasons of efficiency and economy" four of its committees this week. Among them: the Committee on Efficiency and Economy.

Dates
Tuesday, Feb. 1
Atomic war exercise "Blue Bolt" starts at Ft. Hood, Tex.
Thursday, Feb. 3
Council of World Affairs meets at Dallas.



"WHO'S THAT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR?"

Americas

Troubled Future
The fitfully bubbling kettle of Central American friction was back in the lap of the Organization of American States this week.

The five-man peace committee the OAS hurriedly dispatched to troubled Costa Rica two weeks ago managed to squelch the fighting for the time being, but no one was willing to predict how long things would remain relatively quiet.

Costa Rica appealed to the OAS for aid at the start of the rebellion against President Jose Figueres, charging neighboring Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza had trained and equipped the insurgents.

The OAS sent aerial observers and the peace committee and the United States sent Costa Rica four fighter planes, on OAS recommendation. However, Somoza received 25 Mustang fighters last week—a purchase from Sweden—and announced early this week the first of them were in the air.

What effect the presence of this fighter force—far surpassing the size of any air arm in the rest of Central America—would have remained to be seen.

In Short...

Announced: By the Soviet Union, the end of its state of war with both East and West Germany. The move was interpreted as probably aimed at obstructing ratification of the agreement to rearm West Germany.

Dissolved: The Japanese Diet (parliament) in preparation for a general election expected at the end of next month.

Rescued: Seven Navy airmen after 52 perilous hours in a tiny raft on the Pacific after they were forced to ditch their plane on a flight from Kwajalein to Johnston Island.



THE HIGH COST OF SURVIVAL

People

Victim of Peace
"He was a hero to everyone but himself."
That's the epitaph, supplied by a policeman who once arrested him, for an American Indian hero of World War II found dead near Sacaton, Ariz., this week. The examining doctor's verdict on the cause of death: overexposure to freezing weather and too much drink.

The victim of peacetime glory was Ira Hayes, one of the Marines on Iwo Jima immortalized in the famous picture of the Mt. Surabachi flag-raising.

The 30-year-old Pima Indian was never able to settle down to a job after the war ended. He was found on Chicago's skid row once, wandering drunk and incoherent. He had many chances for steady work, but he said that when things started looking brighter he would get that "craving for whisky and foul up."

"We hit the beach at Iwo with 250 men in my company," Hayes once recalled, "and left with 27 a month and a half later."

"I still think of those things all the time."