

Russians Reveal Plans to Release 3 U. S. Prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soviet Russia notified the United States Saturday she is releasing three more Americans, two on demand and a third voluntarily.

The two being freed by request of the State Department are Army privates who have been missing for more than seven years. They were listed as Wilfred C. Cumish of Amesbury, Mass., and Murray Fields, of Bayside, N. Y.

The Army said Cumish and Fields, the latter also known as Murray Feingersch, are classed in its records as deserters and they will be returned to arrest and trial upon their return to American custody.

Third Unknown

The third man being released, identified by the Soviet Foreign Office as Frederick Charles Hopkins, was not known by the State Department from available records.

The Soviets simply said a man by this name will be freed along with the two soldiers whose return had been requested by this country in a note July 16.

In the past several years the Soviets have released five Americans on specific demand.

The Army said Cumish and Fields were absent without leave when they disappeared behind the Iron Curtain in 1948.

Army officials said in the cases of some other men who have been listed as absent without leave along the Iron Curtain, the Army has merely dropped them from the rolls of active duty after they have been missing for 30 days.

In the case of Cumish and Fields, however, they said, information received from American military authorities in Europe indicated both men left their units deliberately and their local commanders had classified them as deserters.

The Army said when the two are turned over to American authorities they will be subject to the customary investigation that will determine whether their alleged offenses are serious enough to warrant courts martial.

Liquor Probe Report Made By Patterson

(Story also on page 1)

Gov. Paul Patterson issued a statement Saturday detailing a recent liquor commission investigation and subsequent report, which Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton has declared was not made public in all important parts. The governor's statement follows:

"Let's get the facts straight. The liquor investigation originated with reports to me that an employee of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission had stated that if he were taken care of, he could be of assistance in an official capacity to a distiller's representative. One report mentioned a figure of \$10,000.

Ordered Probe

"I immediately ordered an investigation outside of the Liquor Commission itself. Robert Maguire was chosen to head the investigation because his reputation for integrity and ability could not be questioned by any sincere person. He accepted the request as a public service and refused any compensation.

"Maguire spent weeks in careful and thorough investigation of the charge but was unable to find sufficient evidence to sustain the alleged misconduct.

Evidence Found

"In the course of this investigation, evidence came to light that two employees of the Liquor Commission might have received payment for travel expenses to Seattle from liquor interests. Mr. Maguire and Mr. Bobbitt put at the disposal of Mr. Woodworth, Mr. Thornton's Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Liquor Commission, the transcripts covering this conduct by these employees and also reported the same to me. These men were promptly suspended at my direction. Mr. Woodworth, the Assistant Attorney General, then prepared a notice of suspension against the two employees and later presented the case to the Civil Service Commission on behalf of the Liquor Commission, which had suspended the two employees. As a result thereof, the employee, who had appealed, was ordered reinstated.

General Practices

"At my direction, Mr. Maguire and Mr. Bobbitt, while making this investigation, investigated the general administrative practices of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, in order to remove any possibility of complaint. In the course of this, there came to light the closeness of the matter of the Civil Service Commission members and certain employees. The results of this investigation were given to me and I in turn, took them up with the District Attorney of Multnomah county. This information was also presented to the Liquor Commission, Mr. Woodworth and to the Attorney General. Mr. Cios then resigned but subsequently attempted to withdraw his resignation and appealed to the Civil Service Commission. The matter was presented before the Civil Service Commission, with Mr. Woodworth, the Assistant Attorney General, appearing on behalf of the Liquor Commission, and the Liquor Commission was sustained.

No Secrets

"There is no 'secret evidence' and the public's business has been handled according to law by the agencies charged by law. The Attorney General contended in effect that he could supercede the Governor, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, the Civil Service Commission, and the District Attorney of Multnomah County, and make his own investigations. He went to Court to prove his position and was told by the Court that he was trying to usurp powers that were not his.

"The District Attorney of Multnomah county, the proper authority as established by the Court, has had the fullest cooperation from me and my investigators with respect to any possible violation of the criminal laws of the state of Oregon. I wish to reiterate that there are no secret facts or hidden documents. The reports as they have been made have been placed before the Oregon Liquor Control Commission and the Assistant Attorney General assigned to them. Actions have been taken and all facts have been placed before the Civil Service Commission as required.

Full Cooperation

"Now that the District Attorney of Multnomah county has indicated his desire to examine into these documents and facts, he will be given all cooperation and help.

"As far as the Attorney General is concerned, I simply will not be a party to unauthorized investigation that the Attorney General may desire to make in Multnomah county, in Lincoln county, or in any other county. I believe that the laws and statutes of Oregon should be followed by its public officials as well as enforced by them."

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Freed Flier Said En Route To Portland

RED BLUFF, Calif. (AP)—Daniel Schmidt stopped off at a nearby mountain resort Saturday while the death toll at 141 and damage is expected to run into billions of dollars.

The airman, home after 32 months in a Chinese prison camp, filed suit for divorce Friday against Una Schmidt-Fine, contending she was an unfit mother for their 2½-year-old son.

After filing papers here at the Tehama County Courthouse, he moved on to the mountain resort with his mother-in-law, Mrs. Walter Ferguson.

There was local rumors—without any substantial confirmation—that Schmidt, 22, was considering a reconciliation with Una, who has said she married logger Alford Fine, in the belief that Schmidt was dead.

But Mrs. Ferguson said she had not heard Schmidt express any desire for a reconciliation and the airman was noncommittal to a newsman who talked with him.

The divorce suit asked "control and custody" of the son, Daniel Schmidt Jr. Una's attorney, Harold Berliner Jr., said she would contest the action for custody of the child.

Cigar Chewing 'Aids Long Life'

SEATTLE (AP)—Charles S. Otis, 100 years old Saturday, said the reason he has lived so long is because he ate so many cigars.

"I've chewed them since I can remember. I think I started when I was two or three years old," he said.

Otis, who was born in Beloit, Wis. and has lived in Washington State more than 50 years, had a big birthday cake Saturday and gifts of more cigars.

Geneva A-Conference Ends; Bulganin Sees Peace Hopes

GENEVA (AP)—The first world-wide conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy ended Saturday with a prediction by Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin that its work will lead to a further relaxation of international tension.

In a message to conference President Homi J. Bhabha of India, the Soviet leader agreed with an earlier expression from President Eisenhower that the exchange of information should be continued in future meetings.

"It is the unanimous view of all concerned," Bhabha declared, "that this conference has succeeded beyond all hopes and expectations."

Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, called it "one of the most successful projects in international cooperation ever undertaken."

The conference, he said, had exceeded all expectations of the American delegation.

The Russians injected the only sour note when Prof. Dmitri V. Skobeltsyn, head of the Soviet delegation, told a news conference he

Devastation Marks Flood Area



WOOSOCKET, R. I., Aug. 20—The downtown section of this city looked like this after the Horse-shoe Dam broke last night under pressure from the rising waters of the Blackstone River. Lumber from nearby yard caused damage to cars in foreground while street still has several feet of water. (AP Wirephoto)

Northeast Staggering From 'Worst' Flood

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (Story also on page one.)

Eight northeastern states Saturday night staggered under the worst flood in the history of the area. Early reports placed the death toll at 141 and damage is expected to run into billions of dollars.

Gov. Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut, after a personal tour of the worst-hit areas, said, "It will take a superhuman effort to restore this state to the condition it was in before the torrential rains struck."

"It has been absolutely heart-breaking to see the devastation," Evans Clinchy of The Hartford Times, the first newsman to reach tiny Winsted, Conn., said people were "wandering the streets, dazed."

Every Store

Every store front along the main street was smashed in and the street itself, normally a hard, blacktop road, is now nothing but a mass of twisted asphalt, concrete and broken pipe from the city's water system.

The flood cut off the manufacturing city of Waterbury, Conn., and killed 15 persons.

At Putnam, in Northern Connecticut, a burning magnesium plant added new fear to the horror of the raging Quinebaug and Franch rivers.

All night the plant burned fiercely and blazing barrels of magnesium were swept through the flooded streets, exploding continually like bombs.

Terrible Damage

New York, Massachusetts, and parts of Maryland and Virginia suffered terrible damage from the unprecedented deluge. Rural farmland and populous Eastern cities alike felt the crushing force of the swift waters.

Some municipalities were under civil defense or military jurisdiction.

The problem of getting clean water, food and necessities into many stricken areas assumed major proportions.

The 1st Army sent a fleet of nine big 14-passenger helicopters to comb the submerged areas, picking up families still marooned.

Hundreds Saved

Hundreds had been rescued by rowboat, Army amphibians and helicopters from deluged summer camps, villages and farms.

For each known victim of the flood, there were more missing and unaccounted for. Most of the deaths were from drownings. A few were from storm-caused traffic accidents or electrocutions from downed power lines.

The known death toll by states was: Pennsylvania, 74; Connecticut, 41; Massachusetts, 13; New Jersey, 5; New York, 4; Virginia, 3; Rhode Island, 1.

Lewis, Clark Fete Staged At Astoria

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP)—Astoria Saturday staged a three-hour parade to honor the 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition which ended here in 1805.

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the great-grandsons of the two explorers, and Lydia Large, the great-granddaughter of Sacajawea, the Shoshone Indian girl who went most of the distance with the expedition, were honorary grand marshals.

Gen. William F. Dean, Korean War hero, and admiral of the Astoria regatta, led the procession which was seen by an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 spectators.

Another participant was Chief Tommy Thompson of the Celilo band which sold the two explorers fish when they passed down the Columbia 150 years ago.

On Sunday, Fort Clatsop, where the expedition spent the winter of 1805, will be dedicated.

Flood Ordeal Described by One Survivor

STROUDSBURG, Pa. (AP)—One of three survivors of a flood which wiped out a vacation camp Saturday and killed 37 persons described her experience late Saturday night.

Mrs. Jennie Johnson of Jersey City, N. J., who lost two boys in the water, said:

"My God it was terrible — all those children (she wiped away tears, choked momentarily and then went on).

"It must be awful to drown. I went down, down and I guess I kept waving my arms trying to fight back to the surface. But I don't know what happened after that. All I know is that something must have hit me in the head and knocked me out.

Floating in Debris

"When I came to I was floating on top of the water and there was junk all around me.

"I grabbed a board, then gave it up for a bigger one. It seemed like hours passed before I finally found myself jammed between two logs.

"I couldn't see anything. It was so dark, but after a little bit I heard Beth (Beth Little, an 11-year-old girl who was at the bungalow camp with the Liddle family-calling for help. I could tell because her voice was so close.

"I realized when I reached out and touched her that we had both been cast up on a pile of debris that was tossed into a heap by the storm. It was like an island of twigs, small branches, cans and other things and the two of us were on it.

Could See Water

"By this time my eyes were accustomed to the darkness and I could see the water. It was so black and so terrible. It was so black and I held on to each other and cried every time we heard a child somewhere in the distance crying for help. Some of them just screamed hysterically. And I could not tell if any of the voices belonged to my own children.

"You can't guess how it feels to sit there and wonder whether your own are going to live or die.

"Beth and I both wondered if we would live through the night but we didn't mention it to each other. We just prayed.

"When day broke we couldn't see anyone in the stream but at about seven o'clock some men came along the shore and saw us.

"They went away at first but came back a few minutes later in a motorboat. They came back to where we were and took us to shore.

"Firemen took us to the hospital but it was hours before I found out that Nancy (her own daughter) was safe.

"Oh God, if only I could have saved my boys."

Smoking 'Bomb' Causes Scare

FRANKFURT, Germany (UP)—Badly frightened Post Office employees rushed a smoking package out of the crowded main railway station Friday and dumped it in a vacant lot.

Firemen and bomb experts called to the scene roped off the area and waited for the "bomb" to explode.

When it didn't after several hours wary demolition men opened the package and found a toy automobile whose battery-powered motor had short-circuited, causing the smoke.

In the year 809 A.D. the emperor Charlemagne issued an edict which outlawed the pressing of wine with bare feet because it was unsanitary.

U.S. Readies Arms Secrets Swap Policy

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is prepared to let Russia make aerial photographs of its worldwide net of military bases if the Soviets will trade information of equal value to this country.

The American position on this point has been developed in preparation for the reopening of disarmament negotiations between the Western powers and the Soviet Union, at New York on Aug. 29.

The United States, Russia, Britain, Canada and France comprise a United Nations subcommittee charged with working out a global plan for controlling and reducing armaments and eliminating atomic weapons from the arsenals of all nations.

The work of the committee has been given a new forward push by last month's Big Four talks in Geneva and particularly by the spectacular proposal last week President Eisenhower made to Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin.

Eisenhower suggested that the United States and Russia trade blueprints of military establishments and permit each to make aerial photographs of the other's territory "from one end of our countries to the other."

This Eisenhower proposal raised a big question which officials at Geneva never answered but which has now been answered by high authorities here.

The question is whether the President's limitation of the exchange proposal to the territories of each country meant that he was deliberately excluding foreign bases.

The answer now supplied is that he had to exclude overseas bases from his Geneva talk because they are on the territories of many other countries from Japan to Iceland and no reference could be made to them without consultation with those countries.

The President's advisors did not want to consult for fear of tipping his hand and destroying the surprise impact of the proposition he made.

In principle, however, the administration was not opposed to considering an information trade with Russia covering overseas bases.

Equal Information

It has now been decided that if the Soviets are interested in a trade, and if they wish to get information about American bases abroad they may do so provided they will give information of their own to the United States and assuming the countries where the bases are located give their consent.

Decisions such as this one, officials said, are being made by the National Security Council, under the President's leadership, as developments in the disarmament planning require.

NOT AS I DO

MIDDLETON, Conn. (UP)—I. Robert Traversé, a gun expert, was lecturing a high school assembly on the dangers involved in handling firearms. A gun he was displaying accidentally discharged. Traversé suffered a burned right hand.

Salem Man, 71, Tours Europe With Cyclists

Paul Deuber, a retired employee of the State Highway Department, and a 71 still an active member of the Salem Chemeketas, is on a trip to Europe — he is a native of Switzerland. The Statesman has received a letter from him at Geneva describing his trip back to the land of his birth.

He crossed the United States by bus, visited with relatives in Rhode Island and at Montreal. There he joined a Quebec group who sailed from Quebec on a ship of the Greek line, Landing at Southampton the party took to bicycles. Deuber writes:

"The English landscape north and east toward London is very beautiful and there is not much evidence left of the bombing." While at Salisbury we visited the remains of what was evidently a worshipping place of a people who lived at Stonehenge 4,500 years ago. Great stones are standing upright ten to 15 feet high with stones almost as big on top of them. During all our travels so far we noticed many buildings with straw roofs. Quite a difference between England and Switzerland for instance where in the town where I was born 71 years ago no straw roofs were left at that time and only one covered by shingles, the rest all with tile or slate."

Red Dean

"While admiring the cathedral in Canterbury we met a very interesting personality. He was dressed in black, tall and had black leggings from the knees down. Instantly recognizing us as Americans he introduced himself as the dean of the cathedral which was built in the 13th century. A great deal of the rock, the dean told us was brought on barges from Belgium and all the tall dark marble columns from Italy. After he left I quickly asked somebody for the name of the dean. This assistant pastor seemed surprised and asked: 'Have you not heard of the famous Red Dean of Canterbury known in all the world for his red leanings?'"

Visited Dever

After a visit in London where Deuber found a niece who is a nurse in a hospital, the party bicycled to Dover, then took the Channel crossing on a day when the water was unusually calm. From Ostend they went to Bruges and on to Ghent and then to Brussels.

"From Brussels we took the train to Cologne in Germany. Here we were fortunate to find the big red hotel yet and very excellent. On its walls the record said that it had been built by American money. It holds about 400. Only cold water, but as we pay only about 30 cents American money for overnight one can hardly expect more. The Cathedral was badly damaged during the war, but much of the damage has already been repaired. The German I remembered came in very handy here and I could help out the rest whenever my vocabulary fell short . . .

Young Interest

"In all my travels so far I could not help but notice the keen interest of the hostlers, especially those under 20. Their eyes would just shine for the joy they experienced in their travels and everybody was glad to help and get along with whatever there

was. The hostel movement in my estimation is doing a great deal for everyone participating and will bring a greater understanding between nations."

Deuber adds a postscript that "On the 7th of August I noticed Norman Winslow's and Gus Moore's name on the register at the foot of the Matterhorn."

River, Harbor Group Urged Funds Hike

COOS BAY, Ore. (AP)—The Northwest Rivers and Harbors Congress Saturday urged an increase in appropriations for river and harbor maintenance throughout the nation of 15 million dollars.

This was one of 10 resolutions adopted by the group at its closing session here.

The organization also voted to support only projects of national and regional status and to act as proponent only of those projects which have been studied by the Corps of Engineers.

G. N. Palcott, Olympia, Wash., was elected president for the coming year and his city was chosen for the 1956 meeting.

W. L. Williams, Portland, was named first vice president and Carl J. Stettin, Olympia, secretary-treasurer. New trustees are: Frank Pasco, Coos Bay; C. S. Roff, Pasco, Wash.; V. A. Johnson, Everett, Wash.; L. C. Sherwood, Hood River; and N. R. Whitcomb, Willapa, Wash.

Stanley R. Allen, Newport, was elected president of the Oregon State Port Authorities. Palcott will head the Washington group for a second term.

Sawyer Says Businessmen Ban Ridiculous

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former Democratic Cabinet officer denounced Friday what he called a "ridiculous outcry" against businessmen working in government for free while drawing regular salaries from private corporations.

Charles Sawyer described Secretary of Commerce Weeks' Business Advisory Council (BAC) as a group of "wonderful people" performing "an unselfish and patriotic service."

Sawyer, who served as secretary of commerce under President Truman, thus lined himself alongside his Republican successor in a defense of government activities of the so-called WOCs.

"The abbreviation stands for 'without compensation' and refers to men who take unpaid federal advisory posts without giving up their private compensation.

The average person who attends a convention spends \$93.69 in the convention city says the American Hotel Assn.

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