

Slight Progress On POWs Told

Commies Show More
Frankness, UN Says

MUNSAN, Korea —(AP)— True negotiators displayed "much more frankness" Wednesday in seeking a compromise on exchanging prisoners—one of the three key issues blocking a Korean armistice—an Allied spokesman reported.

"Some slight progress" was made behind the screen of a news blackout, Brig. Gen. William P. Nuckols said. "But they have not gotten down to brass tacks."

Simultaneously he disclosed a change in the U.N. strategy on the key to the deadlock. The Allies have rephrased their demand from "voluntary repatriation" of prisoners to "no forced repatriation."

"There is no fundamental difference in the two concepts," Nuckols said, but the new term might "be more palatable to the enemy."

"No forced repatriation means the U.N. Command does not endorse and will not employ force to compel a man to go over to the other side if he does not choose to go."

Simultaneously, Nuckols said, U.N. negotiators have been telling the Communists repeatedly "there is every indication that the great majority of their captured personnel now in our hands desire to return."

Stamp Errors Puts U.N. Flag At Half Mast

UNITED NATIONS —(AP)— Stamp collectors envied Wednesday the few persons who purchased U.N. stamps bearing a picture showing the world organization's flag at half mast.

U.N. postal officials reported about 50 of the stamps were put on sale recently by the post office here. They were hastily recalled when the printing error was discovered, but about 20 were sold.

The lucky collectors hope the U.N. "error" stamps will become as valuable as a 1918 United States airmail stamp showing a plane upside down. It is listed at \$4,000.

Easter Parade Starts Early

NEW YORK —(AP)— The Easter Parade really gets started before Christmas. That's when leading candy manufacturers start production lines for the millions of chocolate bunnies that youngsters will see the morning of April 13.

One local "hatchery" is sending out more than 10 million Easter pieces this year including eggs, standing rabbits holding eggs, sitting jack rabbits, hens on the nest, roosters and dolls. It's quite a trick to make them, especially to make them hollow.

How is it done? You fill the mold half full and then for half an hour you rotate it while moving it through a refrigerated tunnel. The chocolate sticks to the chilled sides of the mold. At the end of the tunnel you open the mold and out pops your Easter bunny.

Chapman Urges Dam on Snake

Key to Development
Of Columbia Basin

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Secretary of the Interior Chapman urged Congress Wednesday to authorize federal construction of Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River.

It is the key, he said, to the "principal of integrated development" of the Columbia River basin in the Pacific Northwest.

CHAPMAN told the House Irrigation and Reclamation Subcommittee that he not only was presenting the position of the Interior Department but also was conveying "the support of President Truman for the construction of this vital facility."

The dam was described by Chapman as "a vital link" in the development of the Columbia River system, "to which Congress had long been dedicated." It would be the major unit in the Snake River project in Idaho and Oregon.

Chapman said construction of Hells Canyon Dam as the government proposes would "provide a large volume of electric power urgently required for national security in the long range and for the continued economic growth of the Pacific Northwest."

German Merger Urged by Allies

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The Western powers gave evidence Wednesday of pushing ahead with plans to cement as much of Germany as possible to the Western World regardless of Russia's tactics.

The toughened policy of the United States, Britain and France for dealing with German questions where Russia is concerned was spelled out in a note sent to Moscow Tuesday and made public by the three nations.

THIS 800-WORD declaration, responding to a new Soviet proposal of March 10 to start work on a German peace treaty, did two things:

• It served notice on the Kremlin that Western nations, in close cooperation with the anti-Communist government of West Germany, are firmly committed to using Germany in whole or in part to a "purely defensive European community."

State Department officials who helped draft the note said this meant the European defense community was being formed to enable West Germany to put military forces into Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Western defense army.

• It challenged the Russians to prove the sincerity of their declared interest in uniting Germany by permitting a United Nations commission to go into the Soviet zone and find out what opportunity exists there for holding free elections.

The three powers thus made

clear to the free peoples of Western Germany and other Western countries their decision not to be diverted from the path of rearmament.

OFFICIALS here predicted the new notes would be followed by a long series of exchanges such as has taken place regularly in the past five years.

These exchanges over the years have consistently reflected a hardening of the antagonistic positions of the Communist and free nations.

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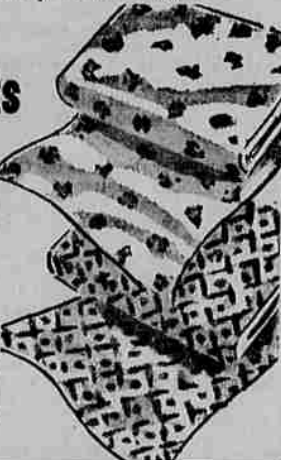
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