

# Indochina to Top Ike-Winnie Talks

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER  
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower probably will urge British Prime Minister Churchill to cooperate in setting up an international conference on anti-Communist defenses in Southeast Asia against communism when the two meet here next weekend.

Churchill and Foreign Secretary Eden are due in Friday. Their talks with Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles will be informal and, aides indicate, as secret as possible.

The Indochina crisis is the No. 1 topic. Others include the organization of a European Defense Community and atomic energy problems.

## French Assault Delta Position

HANOI, Indochina (AP) — Hundreds of French troops made an amphibious assault on Vac Coc Island in the Red River 15 miles west of Hanoi and wiped out an important Communist base for infiltrating the delta, the French High Command announced Monday.

The assault began before dawn Sunday and fierce fighting continued Monday, authorities said. French Union troops reported slaying 38 Reds and capturing 39.

Naval craft packed with infantry landed on the island at 4 a.m. and seized a number of villages where Red troops were known to be hiding. Tanks and artillery joined the infantrymen.

The high command said the troops moved cautiously toward the villages without encountering resistance.

At 5 p.m., the command said, hundreds of screaming Communists rushed from underground hideouts dug beneath innocent-looking bamboo huts and began fighting the French units.

More Communists jumped into sampans on the mainland and paddled fast toward the island. French gunfire sank several of them.

The raid represented growing French striking power derived from regrouping trained French Forces in the Red River Delta into mobile "counterpunch" groups able to deliver devastating blows against enemy concentrations.

East of Hanoi a train loaded with American supplies was blown up only seven miles from the northern capital by rebel mines.

### Bomb Ban Urged

COVENTRY, England (AP) — The lord mayor of Coventry, John Fennell, proposed Saturday that his city, violently bombed in the war, associate itself with Russia's Stalingrad in a joint appeal to outlaw the hydrogen bomb.

### STAKES EXISTENCE

Until about two days ago authorities figured Britain would most likely go along on some move toward creation of a Southeast Asian alliance. That estimate was based on the official belief that Britain had decided the Geneva conference would fail to produce peace in Indochina.

But on Friday and Saturday, France organized a new government which staked its existence on getting an Indochina peace in 30 days. Then the Reds at Geneva offered new concessions to keep the talks going and agreed to military discussions on ending the war in Laos and Cambodia as well as in Viet Nam.

The Geneva developments reportedly brought new hopes for peace to British leaders although Americans remained skeptical.

### SMITH HOME

Eden and the U. S. chief delegate, Under Secretary of State Walter Bedell Smith, flew home Sunday to report. Both stopped en route to see the new French Premier, Pierre Mendes-France.

Smith is due to participate in intensive consultations here. Quite apart from the Southeast Asian problem, the formation of the Mendes-France government provided no encouragement at all here to bolster waning American hopes for French approval of EDC.

A year or so ago Churchill was quite interested in the possibility of taking West Germany directly into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a possible alternative to EDC. At Bermuda last December he dropped his advocacy of that in favor of pressing hard for EDC, which Eisenhower was then insisting upon.

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**BOBO ARRIVES IN RENO**—Barbara (Bobo) Rockefeller smiles broadly as she talks with newsmen after her arrival in Reno, Nevada. After talking with reporters she held a conference with her attorneys. She came to Reno to work out final plans for a divorce from multi-millionaire Winthrop Rockefeller. Reports say she will receive nearly six million dollars.

## Will, Premonition, Spur Investigation

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities Monday intensified their investigation of the mysterious death of the 20-year-old heir to a million dollars after being told the young man revised his will recently to make his fiancée principal beneficiary and had expressed doubt he would live to come into his own inheritance.

Montgomery Ward Thorne was found dead in his studio apartment Saturday. Coroner Walter E. McCarron said there were four needle marks on his arms but no evidence he was a user of narcotics.

### ANALYSIS ORDERED

The coroner ordered an analysis of vital organs.

He said he also has sent investigators to Birmingham, Mich., to interview the 25-year-old daughter of a prominent Birmingham family. He said the girl, an art student, occupied an apartment adjoining Thorne's until Friday. McCarron did not name her.

Jay Slough, who said he had been young Thorne's lawyer for some time, told Detective Capt. Harry Penzin that Thorne less than 10 days ago changed his will to make Miss Maureen Ragen, 18, chief beneficiary and executor.

Penzin quoted Slough as saying Thorne, grandson of a former president of Montgomery Ward & Co., "was afraid he would never live to collect his inheritance. He asked me to assure that there would be a very thorough investigation . . . if he died."

Slough said Thorne would have begun receiving \$1,000 a month

income from the estate of his father, Gordon C. Thorne, after this 21st birthday in October. The father's will provided the income would jump to \$3,000 a month at age 30 and the son would be allotted the principal of his inheritance—estimated at a million dollars—at age 35, the lawyer said.

Miss Ragen, to whom young Thorne's new will left half of his estate, is the granddaughter of the late James M. Ragen, racing news-service publisher who was shot down by gang assassins in 1946.

### COLLEGE FRESHMAN

The new will directs the remainder of young Thorne's estate be divided among relatives, including one-eighth to his mother, Mrs. Marion Thorne.

Mrs. Thorne, fourth wife of Gordon C. Thorne, whom he married in 1929 after she, a nurse, cared for him through an illness, was sole beneficiary under the son's original will, Slough said. That will, the lawyer said, was drawn soon after the boy's 18th birthday.

Young Thorne, a freshman at Fordham University, and Miss Ragen had been planning to be married in December, Slough said.

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## One Youth Dead In Iowa Floods

DES MOINES (AP)—Floods hit more areas in Iowa Monday. Raging waters claimed one life and caused hundreds of fresh evacuations.

A flash flood in this capital city drove scores of families from their homes and closed U.S. Route 6 through Des Moines.

The torrential rains in Iowa and northeastern Nebraska were part of a belt of thunderstorms running eastward through northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin and lower Michigan.

Walthill and Winnebago, Neb., small towns south of Sioux City, Iowa, were flooded. Flood water in Nebraska blocked highways 275 near Norfolk and 35 at Windsor and was threatening the town of Pender. Two tornadoes were sighted in Nebraska but no damage was reported.

The storms brought only limited relief from the stagnant, sultry heat that in Chicago, on this first day of summer, approached a record 11 straight days of 90° degrees or higher. Similar readings or higher were the rule Sunday from the storm area southward to the Gulf, and were expected again Monday.

The western Dakotas, eastern Wyoming and northwest Nebraska were a bit cooler, but to the west and south it was even hotter. Sunday readings of 110 were common in the desert Southwest, and Yuma, Ariz., had 115.

Most of northern Iowa was polkadotted with small lakes created by torrential rains. Crop experts said damage would run into millions. Highway and rail traffic were interrupted at many points.

The north-central Iowa city of Fort Dodge was among the new flood emergency points. Sioux City, in western Iowa, and Mason City, near the northern border, rode out flood crests and now face new crises.

Monday was the beginning of the second week of daily outbreaks of thunderstorms, occasional hail and high winds ranging up to tornadoic proportions. Rains have ranged to 10 inches and downpours of 5 inches or more have been common throughout the northwest and northern sectors.

Alfred Anderson, 18-year-old farm youth, disappeared while at (ADVERTISEMENT)

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tempting to swim his horse across the raging Iowa River to reach some stranded cattle.

Developments included: Des Moines — Police boats evacuated more than 50 families along Four-Mile Creek after a 5-inch rain fell near Ankeny, just north of Des Moines.

Sioux City — A 21-foot crest passed at midday Sunday on the Floyd River after more than 500 families had left their suburban homes as a precaution. A new peril rose after 3½ inches of rain fell in five hours Sunday night. More hard rains fell in the Floyd Valley above Sioux City.

Mason City — a 4-inch downpour in four hours last night cut off all highways into Mason City and caused new flooding.

Fort Dodge — the Red Cross used all available trucks yesterday to evacuate 30 homes when the Des Moines River rose swiftly to flood stage.

In Western Iowa, between Sioux City and Council Bluffs, thousands of acres were inundated when dikes broke near Turin and Kennebec.

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