

Menon Is Nehru's 'Harry Hopkins'

By HAROLD K. MILKS
 of the Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP)—Gaunt, Venetian, Krishna Menon is Nehru's closest adviser and confidant on world affairs, a position from which he exercises considerable power.

He apparently arranged the Chou En-lai visit to India, sold the idea to both Nehru and the Chinese Communist leader, then planted the suggestion which resulted in Nehru's arranging an invitation for Chou to stop over in Burma en route to Peiping.

Fellow officials in the Indian government are nearly unanimous in their dislike—and fear—of Krishna Menon. It is no secret that Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, while head of a U.N. delegation including Menon, fought bitterly with him and attempted unsuccessfully to persuade her Prime Minister brother to remove him.

OTHER CRITICS

There have been other critics of this Indian with burning, intense eyes and a secretive manner. Even Cabinet ministers have challenged his actions, complained to Nehru of his "dangerous views." But in each case the Prime Minister has sharply checked these criticisms with rebukes to those who made them.

Menon has made himself a major figure who has access to top diplomats of both East and West—even those who don't like him.

He achieved this position primarily by his efforts to mediate the Korean dispute. But he is equally active on most other major problems.

Menon actually has little success at the U.N. in getting most of his proposals accepted. But the prisoner-of-war provisions of the Korean armistice agreement followed closely the formula he submitted in the General Assembly late in 1952, and it was this issue that had held up the armistice.

SCOUT LEADER

Krishna Menon, born into a substantial North Malabar family of South India, was in his youth a Boy Scout leader. He went to London in 1924 as a student under the late Prof. Harold Laski at the London School of Economics and remained nearly 25 years, eking out an uncertain existence as a teacher, writer, and publisher of paperback novels.

In London he found the India League in 1928, led it into a "united front" which included British Communists during the days before World War II. His connection with the "united front" and the tendency of his India League to reflect during the war many official Communist policies caused critics to accuse Krishna Menon of being a Communist. The record fails to support such accusations, though it shows that Menon was generally well left of center. British leaders regarded him as strongly pro-Soviet.

Somewhere, sometime in his life in England, Krishna Menon became embittered. Some associates say years of scanty living in London garrets was one reason. This same taint of bitterness appears in his approach to the United States in connection with international affairs. But he says he enjoys living in New York for U.N. sessions.

One of Menon's pet peeves is the press, particularly the American press. In private conversations, he blames the press for much of the political tension in the world. If the press, he says, would show more restraint and avoid publishing stories he regards as inflammatory, it would be easier for the diplomats to solve the problems they face.

Nehru's friendship for Krishna Menon appears unbreakable. Whatever his past, whatever his future, Krishna Menon appears destined to retain a high place in Indian and Asian affairs so long as Nehru continues to lead the 370 million people of his country.



ROYAL SNIFF — Queen Elizabeth II holds a carnation and samples its fragrance in Windsor Great Park, England. Her Majesty was attending the Royal Agricultural Society's annual flower show and paused with this bloom.

U. S. Rejects Polish Protest

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States rejected Monday as "without foundation" Communist Poland's claim that American planes strafed two Polish ships near Hainan Island in the South Pacific.

The State Department, in commenting on Poland's accusation said tersely: "United States planes have not fired on any ship in that area."

The Polish government protested the alleged strafing in a formal note delivered to the American Embassy in Warsaw Saturday.

In turning down the charge, State Department Press Officer Lincoln White said American air operations in the region "have been solely concerned with search for the victims" of the British airliner "deliberately shot down" by two Communist aircraft July 23.

Asked if American planes had fired on ships "in any area," White replied flatly: "No."

President Nominates Portland Postmaster

WASHINGTON (AP)—Albert M. Hodler was nominated by President Eisenhower Monday to be postmaster at Portland.

Hodler has been acting postmaster at Portland since June, 1953, when he was appointed to succeed E. T. Hedlund, who had died.

Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore. Tues., Aug. 3, 1954 ★ 3A

EKE ASKS FUNDS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower has asked Congress for 25 million dollars to repair merchant-type vessels now in the national defense reserve fleet.

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Yoktown Arrives Manila Bay

MANILA POINT, P. I. (AP)—The U.S. 1st Fleet, which was operating in the South China Sea, continued its presence here today, which have been so "fair weather training" in this area, is the show of naval strength in Philippine waters since the war.

The Yoktown replaces the carrier Tawara, which left here Sunday for the United States.

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