

Britain Opposed To Russian Offer For East-West Talks

LONDON (AP)—Britain Saturday cold-shouldered what it interpreted as a Soviet proposal for East-West talks on general far eastern issues.

The British Foreign Office issued a formal statement on a statement made Friday by Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov saying he would welcome negotiations for a settlement of far eastern issues. Malenkov's statement was made in reply to questions submitted by an American newsmen.

British Foreign Office officials took the view Malenkov's statement amounted to a proposal for East-West talks. The officials said their statement amounted to a turn-down for any general discussions but left the door open for an agreed specific issue at the proper time.

Russian Note May Set Price For Americans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia was reported Saturday to have offered—for a price—to free three Americans held prisoner for years inside the Soviet Union.

The proposal, according to informants, was put forward Friday in a note handed the U. S. Embassy at Moscow. Except to acknowledge receipt, the State Department has been unusually reticent about this note.

Secretary of State Dulles, asked about it at his news conference Friday, said he was not yet aware of the note's subject or its content. Later, when enough time had elapsed to allow for transmitting its text to Washington, department spokesmen refused to discuss it.

The three imprisoned Americans are William T. Marchuk, 38, Brackenridge, Pa.; William A. Verdine, 28, Starks, La.; and John H. Noble, 31, Detroit.

Marchuk and Verdine, AWOL from the Army in West Germany, were picked up by the Russians at Dresden in February 1949. Noble, taken as a boy back to Germany in 1938, has been a prisoner of the Russians since 1945.

This week the Soviets released 55 Austrians they had held as World War II prisoners. One among these told Vienna newsmen he had seen the three Americans at a prison camp southeast of Moscow. He said all three appeared in good health and spirits and expected to be released shortly.

The United States has made eight official queries this year concerning their whereabouts. The latest was in October. And like the others made before by U. S. Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen or his aides, it got no response.

Then came the note from the Soviet Foreign Ministry. It was understood to have offered to release the three Americans and to have suggested that the United States do something in return.

There was considerable speculation about what that could be. One theory was that it had to do with 15 to 20 Russian sailors interned on Formosa and reported seeking asylum in the United States.

Convicts Help Malaria Cure, Says Doctor

ATLANTA (AP)—Experiments with prisoners in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary have led to a cure and preventive for malaria, says Dr. Carl I. Pirkle of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The prisoners voluntarily subjected themselves to the bites of mosquitoes infected with malaria to determine the proper usage of two drugs, primaquine and chloroquine, for treatment and prevention of the disease.

SIX YEARS

Dr. Pirkle said it had been discovered previously that the drugs were effective in treatment of malaria. The experiments with the prisoners answered the question of the right combination needed for cure and prevention and how long they should be applied.

About 300 prisoners participated in the experiments, which lasted six years. Each participant was given \$50 and had 30 days cut from his sentence.

Pirkle said no casualties resulted from the experiments.

OTHER DRUGS

Pirkle, the prison's chief medical officer, said some cases of malaria have been treated successfully with other drugs but patients often suffered recurrence of the disease.

The experiments were conducted by the National Institute of Health for the Defense Department. Pirkle said results here were corroborated by other tests at the Illinois State Prison in Joliet.

Malenkov said Friday he would welcome negotiations between interested powers on settlement of far eastern questions.

BRITISH AGREE

"The experience of the Geneva Conference in which the Chinese Peoples' Republic took part together with other powers shows that such negotiations bring beneficial results," Malenkov said.

The British statement declared:

"We agree the Geneva Conference was useful. It was summoned to deal with specific problems Korea and Indochina and on one of them agreement was reached. It is unlikely that a conference to discuss far eastern affairs in general would make progress at this stage.

"Her Majesty's government's policy has throughout been to reduce tension in the Far East. And as soon as all concerned are agreed that a specific question is ripe for further discussion, a conference might prove useful once again."

FORMOSA LISTED

A Foreign Office spokesman refused to elaborate on what far eastern problems Britain might be willing to open negotiations upon immediately.

But the British are known to hope that eventually such explosive problems as the future of Formosa and the division of Korea can be settled through peaceful negotiation.

The Soviet Premier's statements were made in answer to six questions from Charles Edward Shutt, chief of the Washington bureau of Telenews. The questions and answers were published Saturday in Pravda, Communist Party newspaper, and all major Soviet newspapers.

WITHOUT RUSSIA

Asked if he would welcome negotiations leading to a parley between President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Churchill of Britain, Premier Mendes-France of France and himself, Malenkov said it was necessary first of all to point out that the three Western powers were trying to get together among themselves, without Russia, to settle many world problems, especially those relating to Germany.

"Surely it is clear that such a policy cannot be followed while at the same time illusions of a four-power conference are being scattered among the people of the world," he said.

Prime Minister Churchill in particular has urged such a conference "at the summit," although lately he has not been pushing it for the immediate future.

GREETINGS

In his answers, Malenkov also sent "heartly greetings and best wishes" to the American people on the new year. He reiterated that "peaceful co-existence" and readiness to settle differences with the United States was Soviet policy.

Democrat Would Set Minimum Pay at \$1

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Murray (D-Mont) said Saturday President Eisenhower's expected request for a boost in the minimum wage to 90 cents an hour is a "very good move," but doesn't go far enough.

"They ought to make it a dollar," said Murray who is due to resume the chairmanship of the Senate Labor Committee after the Democrats formally take back control of Congress next week.

TIME TO STUDY

However, Sen. Russell (D-Ga) said he would want to study carefully any proposed increase in the wage floor from the present 75 cents because he said it would mean a raise in farm labor costs at a time when farm prices are declining.

Russell explained that a rise in the minimum wage would result in pay boosts in small southern saw mills and that this, in turn, would lead to higher farm labor costs.

Eisenhower's press secretary, James C. Hagerty, announced in Augusta, Ga., Friday the President would propose a "substantial percentage increase" in the minimum wage in his State of the Union message to Congress Jan. 6.



MAPLETON — The Ott Gossler place was surrounded by a sea of mud Friday morning after a slide nearly took the house on a trip into the Siuslaw River. The debris and dirt which slid down the mountain from Berkshire Creek barely missed the Gossler place and the

nearby Ralph DeMoisey house. Highway 36 and the Southern Pacific tracks were blocked by the slide and a dozen houses were cut off from their water supply when the intake to the Mapleton Water District plant was disturbed.

Woman Says Slide Noise Like a Train

Mrs. Charles DeMoisey and her four grandchildren thought all the noise they heard Thursday evening was from a train, but when they looked out the window, they saw a mountain moving their way.

The house, sitting on a ledge between Highway 36 and the Siuslaw River, was directly in the path of the huge slide which blocked the highway and railroad a mile east of Mapleton.

"We were paralyzed with fright," Mrs. DeMoisey told Mrs. Tom Fithian, Register-Guard correspondent. "The kids were screaming and I didn't know what to do."

She said she was sure the great wall of mud and debris was going to sweep right over the house. She was staying with her grandchildren, while her son, Ralph DeMoisey, and his wife were in Seattle.

About five minutes after she saw the slide coming, she gathered up her four children and prepared to leave. Then came a knock on the door and two men, one of them Ben Boettger, told her she'd better leave.

The men helped the family out of the house and took them to a nearby service station. There, Mrs. DeMoisey discovered that Charles, 2, had on only training pants and a T-shirt. She and Louise, 9, went back to the house for more clothes.

While Louise searched for clothes, Mrs. DeMoisey found a bottle for a younger child. The slide didn't hurt the house. The railroad tracks and the highway diverted it. But five persons won't forget it.

SP Route to Coast Cleared for Traffic

The Southern Pacific's Coos Bay line, closed Thursday afternoon by slides, was scheduled to be open to traffic at noon, railroad officials said Saturday.

The last slide was cleared away Saturday morning. Vern Fields, chief dispatcher at Eugene, said crews blasted a boulder, measuring 15 by 10 by 8 feet, about 9 a.m. and that track repairs under the slide near Mapleton

Johnson Lists Appointments

Mayor V. Edwin Johnson announced city council committee appointments for the coming year Thursday.

The rearrangement of committees becomes effective next Monday, when two new councilmen take office.

The committees, and appointments, are:

FINANCE—Robert P. Booth, chairman; C. F. Shearer; and Carl H. Koppe.

PUBLIC WORKS—Carl H. Koppe, chairman; Robert P. Booth and Jesse J. Godlove.

PUBLIC SAFETY—Jesse Godlove, chairman; Larry Watson and Robert A. Hartman.

AIRPORT—Larry Watson, chairman; George Owen and Warren Shisler.

JUDICIARY AND PRINTING—Larry Watson, chairman; Warren Shisler and Carl H. Koppe.

HEALTH AND RECREATION—George Owen, chairman; C. F. Shearer and Robert Hartman.

Booth will be the council representative on parks and playgrounds affairs.

The mayor also appointed Robert H. Lemon, 1280 Mill St., to the city library board. Lemon replaces Shearer, who was appointed to the council in November.

Clare Hamlin and Pauline Burris were reappointed to the city planning commission. Their four-year terms expire Jan. 1, 1955.

Personnel on other boards and commissions remain the same for the coming year.

Grove Family Has 1st Baby

Lane County's first baby of 1955 waited only 42 minutes to look in on the world.

He's a boy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Norton of Rt. 1, Cottage Grove. He was born at 12:42 a.m. at Cottage Grove Hospital and he's the Nortons' fifth son. There are no daughters. The newest son weighs 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

The next 1955 arrival was a son for Mr. and Mrs. Evald J. Nielsen of Eugene. He was born at 4:23 a.m. at Sacred Heart Hospital.

Number three arrived at 7 a.m. at Sacred Heart—another boy, born to Mrs. Jack C. Peterson of Springfield.

Army Cutback To Be Queried

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Russell (D-Ga) said Saturday Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway would be called before the Senate Armed Services Committee in a "very careful inquiry" into administration defense plans, including a projected sharp cutback in Army strength.

Sen. Monroney (D-Okla), endorsing the idea, said he hopes Russell—as chairman of the armed services group in the new Democratic-controlled Congress—will conduct "a full-dress study of military manpower and defense needs."

Russell voiced no opinion on the planned manpower reductions, but he said Ridgway, Army chief of staff, and other armed service chiefs would be summoned to give "a complete briefing on our defense plans."

Senators Kerr of Oklahoma and Mansfield of Montana said they wanted to hear what Ridgway had to say about plans to reduce Army strength by 243,000 men to a new level of 1,100,000 by June 30, largely through sharply trimming "draft calls. A further paring of 100,000 Army men is projected for the year following."

Yesterday the unofficial Army-Navy-Air Force Journal reported that Ridgway had protested the Army cuts in a letter to President Eisenhower.

In a move toward thinning its ranks, the Army announced yesterday it hopes next May and June to discharge 44,000 draftees as much as two months before their 24-month hitch is up. This plan still must get final approval. Also tabbed for early release would be about 3,400 reserve lieutenants.

Monroney said: "I've been protesting this cut since it was first announced. It appears to weaken our strength for perimeter warfare of the type that the Communists have continued in recent years."

FEARS WEAKENING

Deaths Mar Year's Start

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violent deaths brought sorrow to some homes on the first day of the new year.

A survey of violent deaths since 6 p.m. Friday showed 60 persons had lost their lives in motor accidents in the first hours of the New Year's holiday. Two others died in fires.

Deaths by states, with traffic, fire and miscellaneous listed in that order:

Alabama 1-0-4; California 4-1-0; Connecticut 2-0-0; Georgia 2-0-0; Idaho 1-0-0; Indiana 8-0-0; Iowa 1-0-0; Kansas 1-0-0; Kentucky 4-0-0; Maryland 0-0-1; Massachusetts 2-0-0; Minnesota 7-0-0; New Jersey 1-0-0; New York 6-2-0; Ohio 3-0-0; Oregon 1-0-0; Rhode Island 1-0-0; South Carolina 4-0-0; Texas 4-0-0; Utah 2-0-0; Virginia 1-0-0; Washington 2-0-0; Wisconsin 2-0-0.

EARLY EDITION

This issue of the paper was published early to allow employees a half-holiday. News is complete until noon.

Deduction Missed

MACON, Ga. (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Bolin missed a 1954 income tax deduction Saturday by just about the thinnest margin possible. Mrs. Bolin gave birth to a daughter at one second after midnight.

PUBLIC ASKED TO HELP

Egg Supply Floods Market

WASHINGTON (AP)—Starting Saturday, the government wants you to go on a 31-day egg eating spree.

Reason: Hens are flooding the markets with a record-smashing supply. Production is increasing seasonally. And the poultry industry is worried about finding a market for all the eggs—even at today's low prices.

Farm prices for eggs have dropped one-third during the past year. Producers don't relish the prospect of still lower prices.

So an industry-government campaign was officially launched today to persuade you and

other consumers that "January Is Egg Month" and your diet should be adjusted, accordingly.

Noting that egg industry leaders haven't asked the government to set a floor price through price support buying, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson says the least consumers can do is eat a lot of eggs to help out.

The egg-eating campaign, he says, should get "every possible assistance from consumers."

He has ordered department officials in the field to give the campaign a plug, wherever and whenever they can.

A special promotional brochure put out by the Agriculture Department says:

"Besides being friendly to your budget, eggs are friendly to you—they make an excellent contribution to your nutritive needs."

Agriculture officials predict that egg production this month probably will be about 270 million more eggs than last January's record supply.

The government revealed yesterday it soon will take about 12 million eggs off the market. The Agriculture Department said it would buy up two million pounds of eggs in dried form for distribution to the national school lunch program.

Local Woman Believed Lost In Willamette

Police in the Eugene area had the busiest New Year's Eve on record as one woman apparently died and a number were injured in traffic accidents.

The body of Inez Wilson, 38, of 607 Highway 99 No., was believed to be in a car that plunged into the Willamette River, two miles upstream from Jasper.

Survivors of the crash said that Mrs. Wilson was in the back seat when the car left the road and that they did not see her escape.

Those who survived are Mrs. Wilson's husband, John, owner of the car, and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Stevens of Rt. 3. The car left the road and traveled about 150 feet before going into the water. Officers said the accident occurred about 2:39 a.m. Saturday as the group was leaving a party and apparently going to another one.

Deathless '54 Earns Bouquet For Two Cities

Mrs. Stevens was treated for shock at Valley-Lane Hospital and then released. The other two survivors were not treated.

Sheriff's officers, assisted by state police and tow-truck operators, attempted to find the car by probing with poles but could not. The river, swollen by recent rains, was too swift for use of boats at night.

But dragging operations were begun soon after dawn in about 25 feet of water.

Mrs. Stevens, 21, told officers she was driving. She said she had not been drinking but that she was not familiar with the Willamette River. She said that when the wheels got off onto the soft shoulder she was unable to regain control of the car.

Lowering River

The Army Engineers soon after the crash stopped the flow through Lookout Point dam to lower the water level at the search scene.

Survivors of the crash were not certain that Mrs. Wilson was trapped in the car. It is possible she may have been thrown out into the water, they said.

This was the first fatal accident for the year in the state.

Two injury accidents occurred in Eugene a short time earlier, however.

Pearl V. Thomason, 48, of 250 E. Broadway, received serious injuries at 2:15 a.m. when the car her husband was driving crashed into a light pole not far from the Thomason home.

Eugene police said that the Thomason car, traveling at between 55 and 70 mph, struck a pole at Broadway and Hilliard St., driving the engine back into the front seat.

The driver, Vernon LeRoy Thomason, was not hurt, but his wife was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital by Eugene Ambulance.

Police said she suffered a broken leg, multiple rib breaks and severe scalp lacerations. Her condition could not be determined late Saturday morning.

Her husband was cited for reckless driving.

INTO MILLPOND

When the new year was only 25 minutes old, a car driven by Edgar John Nolan, 20, went out of control at 1st Ave. and Seneca Rd., plowing Nolan and a friend into a millpond.

But Nolan and the girl, Barbara Daugherty, 16, of 700 Brooks Dr., swam and crawled out. Both were taken to Eugene Hospital and Clinic, and both were scheduled for release Saturday or Sunday. Attendants said there were no serious injuries.

"They were more soaked than anything," a nurse commented.

Eugene police, who cited Nolan for violating the basic rule, said that the car stopped just short of the pond and tipped, throwing both occupants out the door.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

There were many other accidents, but no injuries requiring hospitalization.

Police said New Year's brought the heaviest late-night traffic they can recall. Roads were quiet about midnight, but autos crowded Eugene streets and highways around Eugene and Springfield between 1 and 2 a.m. as partygoers headed home.

State police made one drunk-driving arrest and Eugene officers made four. One man, fresh from a party, was subdued in Eugene only after three citizens and a city officer came to the aid of a state policeman attempting to make the arrest.

FREAK CRASH

In Salem the birth of a baby who later died caused a freak crash. Don H. Berryhill of Salem was rushing his wife to the hospital early Friday for the birth when the child was born. Mrs. Berryhill said "The baby's here!"

Her husband turned to look and his car collided with another car. The parents were not seriously injured.

In Oregon, the only accidental death reported since New Year's Eve began is the local one.