

In Panama or Colombia U.S. Studies New Canal

By BEN F. MEYER
Of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The United States sounded out Panama and Colombia about a study of sites in those two countries for a possible new Atlantic-Pacific ship canal. It was learned Thursday.

Experts say the Panama Canal, built in 1903, will become obsolete or so jammed with traffic by 1980 that a new canal will be needed.

Augusto Guillermo Arango, ambassador of Panama, and Carlos Sanz de Santamaria, ambassador of Colombia, were called to the State Department this week to ask that the Kennedy administration plans to let Congress be authorized to make the canal studies. Once that is obtained, the two governments will be asked for formal authorization to make the surveys.

A bill asking congressional authority for studies in Panama and Colombia, and also to determine if it would be practical to increase the capacity of the present canal, has been under scrutiny of the Budget Bureau.

President Roberto Chiari of Panama was in Washington last week and told newsmen he and President Kennedy talked about possible new canal sites, but not in detail.

At one time, government engineers also considered Nicaragua and Mexico's isthmus

as possible canal sites, but the proposal to be sent Congress has been construed to mean that Panama and Colombia offer the most promising sites.

Panama has two potential places for new canals, both between the present canal and the Colombian border. One would begin on the Atlantic side at the sheltered Gulf of San Blas, connect with a major river about midway across the isthmus, and follow it to the Pacific. The other, would start on the Atlantic side and tie into the Sabana River and end in another protected area, the Gulf of San Miguel.

The Colombian site, near the Panama border, would utilize the Atrato and Truando rivers to cross a land area of about 90 miles, against about 50 miles for the Panama sites. The present canal is 40 miles long.

All three sites, one informed source said, would lend themselves to the idea of a sea level canal, which would eliminate the need for the costly locks system used in the Panama waterway and speed transits through the canal.

From 1951 to 1961 cargo moved through the Panama Canal increased from 31.3 million tons to 65.2 million, and the number of crossings by ocean-going vessels rose from 5,593 to 10,806.

Indonesians, Dutch May Resume Talks

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Diplomatic officials said Thursday the United States had proposed that Indonesia and The Netherlands resume negotiations here next Tuesday on the future of West New Guinea.

They said the way appeared to have been cleared for talks on the long-standing and bitter dispute by United Nations Acting Secretary-General U Thant's message to Indonesian President Sukarno that the

Dutch accepted without qualification the Bunker plan for settlement.

This plan, formulated by retired U. S. diplomat Ellsworth Bunker, provides for transfer of sovereignty over the territory from The Netherlands to Indonesia over a two-year period. Dutch officials there would be replaced by U.N. administrators who, in turn, would be succeeded by Indonesians.

The Dutch announced last Sunday they accepted the plan "in principle." But Sukarno asked Thant Wednesday for specific new assurances that The Netherlands agreed to a provision calling for a self-determination plebiscite of the native Papuans only after Indonesia gained control.

Thant replied Wednesday night that The Netherlands accepted the entire plan "without qualification."

Bunker, who presided as mediator at meetings here last March between Dutch and Indonesian, again will serve in that capacity. The secret talks again will be held at a country estate a few miles from Washington.

West New Guinea has been in dispute between the two countries since 1949, when the Indonesians won their independence. The status of primitive West New Guinea was not settled at the time, but was to have been determined by negotiations within a year.

The Netherlands and Indonesia failed to reach agreement and the case has been before the United Nations a number of times.

Red Buildup Reported On Mainland

WASHINGTON (UPI)—High American officials said Thursday a large-scale Chinese Communist buildup on the coast opposite Quemoy and Matsu may be in preparation for an attack against the two Nationalist-held islands.

On the other hand, they said, the Red troop movement could be a defensive move sparked by recurring Chinese Nationalist threats to attempt an invasion of the mainland, which Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek lost 13 years ago.

Officials said intelligence reports during the past two weeks disclosed a large-scale movement of ground troops into Fukien Province near Quemoy and Matsu. The two islands are just a few miles from the mainland but 100 miles east of Chiang's stronghold of Formosa.

Some officials said they felt Chinese Communist chief Mao Tse-tung might be preparing an assault on Quemoy and Matsu to distract U.S. attention from Southeast Asia.

The situation was described in the highest quarters here as "dangerous." The White House was said to be keeping an extremely close eye on developments.

Intelligence details gave few specific details. However, they said the buildup appeared to be considerably larger than the last big operation in 1958, when the Reds leveled a heavy artillery barrage against Quemoy and Matsu.

Current intelligence reports do not mention any great buildup in the Red air force in the area as in 1958. Nor is there any mention of landing craft necessary for a serious assault.

The factors led some officials to conclude that the Red operation was purely defensive.

The United States has been concerned lately by the increasingly frequent threats of the Chinese Nationalists to attempt an invasion of the mainland.

Edwards entered the dispute last month after the carriers walked out of negotiations on proposals made by a presidential commission to overhaul work rules.

After meeting with Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg, the parties agreed to mediation of the issue, including one recommendation that would eventually eliminate the jobs of some 41,000 firemen allegedly "featherbedding" on diesel engines. The unions represent more than 200,000 workers.

It was believed the bargainers were discussing pay scales rather than the work rules issue.

Earlier this week, Roy E. Davidson, head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, warned the carriers not to introduce any carrier proposals unilaterally.

West Berlin Police Told To Fire Back

BERLIN (UPI)—West German police Thursday were under orders to return Communist fire from across the Berlin wall and to continue to give refugees fleeing to the West covering fire if necessary.

This policy was spelled out by West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt who told a Social Democratic meeting Wednesday night:

"We cannot tell our police officials: 'If someone shoots at you stay calm or wave with a handkerchief.'"

"One can still say that murder is murder," he said. "Our conscience doesn't permit that even children can be killed at the wall."

Brandt said Communist shooting at refugees violates the Hague conventions of war and German law.

The East German Communists charged Wednesday night that recent incidents along the East-West Berlin city border now have reached the stage of "aggressive acts."

An East German government declaration published by ADN, the official news agency, said so-called "provocations" on the part of West Berlin "are aggressively acts aimed at dangerously increasing tensions in Germany and the world and delaying vital understanding on the German peace settlement and solution of the Berlin problem."

The Communists protested the shooting by West Berlin police one month ago of a Communist border guard who was firing at a 12-year-old boy swimming in a stream.

'I am Furious, I am Furious,' Shirley Says of Dance Story

MOSCOW (UPI)—Actress Shirley Maclaine Thursday was issued a visa to attend a film festival in Czechoslovakia. She denied reports that there had been difficulties in her travel plans.

"Somebody's making this up," she said when she heard the reports that she had had trouble getting the visa.

"It's not true. There's been no delay in the visa. In fact, I got it this morning without even submitting the required pass-ports."

"I am furious, I am furious," she said of the reports, "that quotation is terrible. I have never danced the can-can naked. Why should I want to dance it in Kremlin Square?"

She told newsmen that a pocketbook containing plane tickets, film, some private papers, and a ring belonging to her secretary, Loretta Lee, was missing from the Leningrad hotel she stayed in but she refused to say it had been stolen. The purse contained no money.

She denied both these reports, too.

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port pictures. Everybody's been very nice."

Miss Maclaine said she would fly to Prague Friday and then go to the Carlsbad Film Festival, to which she was invited.

The reports of her visa trouble followed an earlier report that she had threatened to dance the can-can naked in Kremlin Square.

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