



Washington, D. C.

RUSSIA AND ALLIES

SAN FRANCISCO. — To the average outsider, the most difficult thing to understand about this conference is the attitude of the Russians. Poor press relations, plus a few inept moves have melted down a large mountain of goodwill built up by the valor of the Red army. In a few short days they have destroyed much of the favorable sentiment in Latin America, and through no fault of ours, won us more friends below the Rio Grande than we ever had before.

One of the things Molotov did in San Francisco was to invite two prominent Latin American delegates to dinner at the Russian consulate, along with a few carefully selected Europeans. Latin guests were Mexico's tall, handsome Foreign Minister Padilla, and Chile's aristocratic Foreign Minister Joaquin Fernandez Y Fernandez, who is rapidly assuming a new leadership in Latin America.

Molotov drank a toast to Chile and her new establishment of diplomatic relations with Russia.

"There are so many Chileans who want to become Ambassadors to Moscow," joked Foreign Minister Fernandez in return, "that it is one of my greatest problems." Mexico's Padilla, apparently on excellent terms with Molotov, said: "All Latin America would be pleased if our sister republic, Argentina, was admitted to the conference."

Molotov, in mellow mood, seemed to register no objection.

Mood Changes.

But a day later the mood was different. Padilla arose in secret session to propose Secretary Stettinius as permanent chairman of the conference. Molotov promptly objected. He pointed out that four countries had invited the other nations to attend this conference and that the representatives of all four host countries should rotate as chairman.

Foreign Minister Padilla then delivered a recitation of previous precedents where the nation which served as host also acted as chairman. When he had finished, Molotov, who had already pointed out that four nations were hosts, got up and remarked:

"I am glad to be instructed in diplomatic procedure by the delegate of Mexico, but apparently he prepared his little speech before he heard my view."

Padilla, who had not read his speech, was taken aback. He mumbled something about always being prepared when he attended a conference and sat down. After a long, hot debate, Molotov won his point. But the manner in which he jumped on the Mexican lost him friends. A lot of Latins, jealous of Padilla's brilliant oratory, previously had been opposed to him. But Molotov veered them in the opposite direction.

Next day, in secret session, Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia, a nation cooperating with Russia, pointed to the vacant chair of Poland and moved that the Lublin government be admitted. Foreign Minister Subasich of Yugoslavia, also close to Russia, seconded the motion. Whereupon, Anthony Eden white-faced and prim, emphatically opposed. There followed more hot debate.

Finally, to break the deadlock, Foreign Minister Spaak of Belgium proposed a compromise resolution expressing sympathy with Poland and hoping that she could be admitted soon. Genial, rotund Ambassador Caceres of Honduras, a great friend of the U.S.A., rose to second Belgium.

Whereupon Molotov cracked back: "Notwithstanding the support of the Republic of Honduras, the Soviet Union stands by its position."

Delegates Startled.

A note of biting sarcasm rang through Molotov's voice which startled the delegates. It sounded as if the powerful Soviet Union, representing the greatest land-mass in the world, was trying to put the tiniest republic in Latin America in its place. Again, Russia lost more friends. And later when the vote was taken on seating Lublin Poland, she lost that also.

These are some of the things about the Russians that take a lot of understanding. On the other hand, when Molotov, after winning his point on rotating the chairmanship, finally sat in Stettinius' place, he did an excellent job. He got off a little gag about being glad the conference would now have an opportunity to hear Russian and proceeded to handle the session in most expert manner.

CAPITOL CHAFF

☛ The post office department plans to start a new drive to stop the public from shipping bottled liquor to servicemen overseas. . . . Shipment of liquor overseas is illegal, and when the post office catches it, the liquor is sent to veterans' hospitals. ☛ Postal authorities are also alarmed over the big increase in the number of soldiers' allotment checks being stolen from mail boxes. . . . One postal inspector in New York arrested 18 people in a single day for stealing checks.

Surrendering Million Nazis to Allied Officers



The first documents of unconditional large scale surrender of German forces were for Italy and southwestern Austria. Right, Lt. Gen. W. D. Morgan, on behalf of Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, signs the instruments of surrender of the German forces. Left, representative of General von Vietinghoff signs surrender of southwest command, which includes northern Italy and the Austrian provinces of Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Salzburg, and portions of Carinthia and Styria.

Devastation Caused by Rocket Bombs on London



This area of devastation was caused by a single V-2 rocket bomb that struck London's Stratford street. Dead 2,754, injured 6,523, was the toll reported in England. Allied armies report that they are equipped to turn rocket bombs loose on Tokyo and other centers of Japanese empire. This photo was just released, following lifting of veil on the final German desperation campaign. Churchill revealed that 1,050 of these missiles had fallen on England prior to March 27, 1945.

Krupp Munition Plant Wrecked



View showing the ruins of what was the largest armament works, the Krupp plant in Essen, Germany, after being bombed by American forces. Insert, Alfred Krupp.

Armless She Drives



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Chip Away Memorial

Chip by chip the tombstone marking the resting place of famed Kit Carson, western scout, was disappearing, so caretakers of the memorial cemetery at Taos, N. M., erected a wrought iron railing around the grave site. Souvenir hunters were the offenders.

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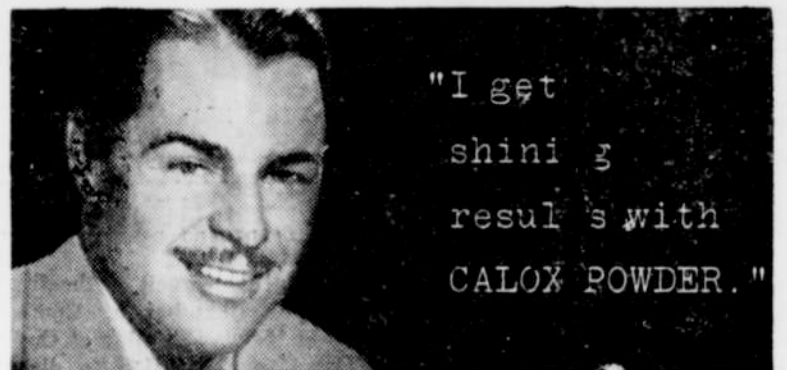
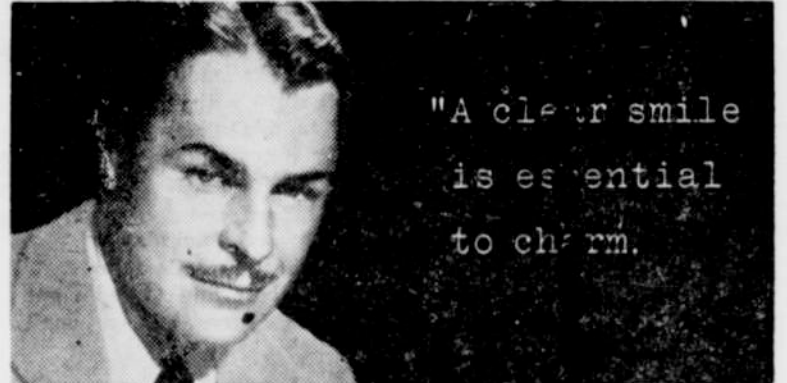
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