

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Truman Rejects Hoover Demand For a New U.S. Foreign Policy; Allies Approve Army of 750,000

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



Here is another view of a section of the city corridor through which the first marines fought their way to the Hamhung beachhead. Weary leathernecks used every pause to catch a nap, even on the frozen ground. Over 11,000 of them were killed or wounded.

HOOVER:

A New Foreign Policy

Herbert Hoover demanded a new foreign policy for the United States in a major radio-television speech. He urged the U.S. to concentrate on holding the Atlantic and Pacific oceans with the island outposts of Britain, Japan, Formosa and the Philippines. He then warned against sending more men and money to Europe.

The former president's speech created a buzz of controversy in Washington. Democratic officials called it "rank isolationism" and even some top G.O.P. policy makers, including Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio, did not agree in all respects with Mr. Hoover.

This is how Mr. Hoover saw the situation: "It is clear continental Europe has not in three years of our aid developed a unity of purpose and that will power necessary for its own defense."

"It is clear that our British friends are flirting with appeasement of Communist China."

"It is clear that the U.N. is in a fog of debate and indecision on whether to appease or not to appease."

He then went on to outline his seven "principles and action" for American policy:

1. Preserve "this western hemisphere Gibraltar."
2. Hold the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, seeking the cooperation of Great Britain.
3. Arm our air and naval forces "to the teeth," free Japan and help her rearm, and stiffen the defenses of Formosa and the Philippines.
4. Reduce other expenses, balance the budget, and roll back inflation.
5. Aid other nations that show "spirit and strength" in defending themselves against the Communists.
6. No appeasement anywhere, "no more Tehrans and Yaltas."
7. Watchful waiting in Europe pending its own development of "unity and will" to resist aggression.

Much of the criticism against Mr. Hoover's proposals centered around the belief that the Pacific and Atlantic oceans can be made a defense line. Some critics pointed out that failure to continue aid to our friends and allies would isolate us and eventually we would find ourselves without any friends in the world.

President Truman issued a statement shortly after Hoover's speech which amounted to a firm rejection of the former president's demand that troops and money be withheld from Europe.

The President said the Atlantic pact nations had shown they "mean business" about setting up a common defense and asserted the protection of western Europe was vital to United States security.

"Let there be no mistake," Truman said, "The unity of the nations of western Europe and the North Atlantic area is vital to their security and ours."

He then announced that soldiers of pact nations—presumably including U. S. troops—will be training together "within the next few weeks."

EUROPE:

Army of 750,000

The 12 Atlantic pact nations pledged themselves to try to match America's partial war mobilization. They pledged themselves to build an unprecedented international peacetime army of 750,000 men to stop Communist aggression. This is the army that General Eisenhower will command.

The council concluded its two-day conference in Brussels with the issuance of a formal communiqué which included:

1. Establishment of an integrated force under centralized control and command. This force to be composed of contingents contributed by the participating governments.
2. An order to United States, Great Britain and France to start negotiations with the Germans to persuade them to agree to cooperate with the west in limited rearmament.
3. Creation of a new defense production board "charged with expanding and accelerating" rearmament; it will supersede the Atlantic powers old military production and supply board.

It will be many months however before General Eisenhower will have anything more than a token force. But observers agreed that at last the western powers have gotten down to the serious business of building a defense against communism.

CHRISTMAS:

A False Gaiety

The world—that part which still celebrates the Birth of Christ—went all-out for Christmas 1950, but it was a false gaiety. Those parts of the world where there was no strife could not forget that men still died believing in the dignity of man and the principle of freedom.

But people tried to make it a merry Christmas in many lands. In the United States department stores recorded near record sales.

Frenchmen, even while many of them feared it might be the last Christmas before World War III, sent sales records to new heights in the stores, buying for feasting and giving which would hide from their children the frayed nerves of their elders.

Britain, too, was determined to put the best face on matters and enjoy the holiday.

Brussels set the tone for Belgium. The city was gaily festooned for the holiday, the mood of worry successfully hidden and the celebration testifying to Belgium's renewed economic strength.

West Germany tried to forget that she was the object of a tug of war between Communism and non-Communism. Christmas sales hit a post-war peak.

In East Germany there was no observance. There were no displays in the stores and no decorations anywhere except for a few forlorn wreaths here and there, hung up by the less timid householders.

That was the world on Christmas day—divided into two parts, one trying to be happy with a false gaiety, the other grim and foreboding.



Limited Controls

It looks as if the cost of certain key food items isn't going to be controlled very soon, after all.

Price Administrator Mike Di Salle who came to the housewife got a rude shock when he read the price-control law thoroughly. For the farm lobby had neatly inserted certain exceptions to price control, and one of them is grain. In brief, Di Salle has no power whatsoever to control the price of grain or any food made from grain.

So Di Salle will have to go back to congress in January and get the law rewritten.

Aside from this the new price czar has decided that he will not try to control a whole variety of prices, but will stick chiefly to a few cost-of-living items plus basic metals and war production raw materials.

Note—Di Salle arrived in Washington from Toledo, Ohio, to find he had no telephone, no staff, and no full legal power to stop price rises. All he had was a heap of angry letters from housewives. At first he was tempted to buy a return ticket to Toledo, but he has been getting to work at 6 a.m., going to bed after midnight, and is gradually working order out of chaos.

Russian War Plans

Outguessing the Kremlin is extremely difficult these days, but here is how American experts, trained to do this job, size up the immediate war future.

No. 1 Soviet strategy will probably be to grab off weak and isolated nations one-by-one.

No. 2 will be to lure the United States into committing men and resources in a big war in Asia. In this case Russia would throw enough armament into the battle to aid local Communists to hold down American strength.

No. 3. While we were tied up in Asia, Russian armies would drive across western Europe. The latter move is not expected this year, however. The Kremlin wants to entrap us in other areas first.

A summary of Soviet war strategy can be paraphrased as follows: "Russian policy is to expand its borders as far as the indifference or timidity of its neighbors allow, and to hold or draw back when met by determined resistance, and wait for a new chance to spring at its victims."

Next probable Soviet victim will be French Indo-China, already torn with Communist revolt. Siam, Burma and Malaya would probably follow.

Another weak spot which may fall to Russia without a battle is Iran. Already, Soviet pressure has caused Iran to ban rebroadcasts of the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting company on local radio stations. Meanwhile, a secret Russian station has been calling Kurd tribes to revolt.

Truman and MacArthur

President Truman came into a cabinet meeting some time ago carrying a copy of the New Republic, the liberal weekly magazine.

During the cabinet session, Secretary of Defense Marshall complained about the difficulty of getting cooperation from General MacArthur. He indicated that MacArthur was a law unto himself. Truman listened, finally held up a copy of the New Republic.

"This is the way to handle that bird," he said.

Cabinet members, after the meeting, immediately sent for copies of the magazine. It contained an article by former Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes criticizing MacArthur for violating directives from Washington.

Happy Chandler's Tears

Senate colleagues always knew Baseball Commissioner A. B. (Happy) Chandler as one of the happiest men in congress when he served as senator from Kentucky. But his smile turned to tears at his annual banquet for major league club owners in Tampa.

Happy had just been informed by his guests that his \$65,000-a-year contract would not be renewed.

No one was expected to show up for the banquet that followed, but Chandler went through with it nonetheless. News reports "that the party "proceeded without a hitch" were wrong. It started at 8:00 p.m.—two hours late. All but New York Giants' Horace Stoneham and St. Louis Cards' Fred Saigh came. Saigh is the big gun behind Chandler's ouster.

The unhappy host refused to take his customary seat at the head table but sat by himself with his back to his guests. Several times he was forced to leave the room to wipe his eyes.

Chandler, sitting alone, said he was sitting where he felt he belonged. Once he sent out for a box of cigars and presented them to Joe Cronin of Boston as an ironic gift for Cronin's anti-Chandler vote.

The atmosphere was tense and electrifying. Hardly anyone dared speak to other guests.



STUDENTS RIOT OVER APPEARANCE OF ONE-TIME NAZI . . . West Berlin police are shown removing a rioter to a patrol wagon as they broke up a riot at a Berlin theater recently. Groups of students participated in the demonstration which was in protest of the appearance of Werner Krauss, one-time Nazi state actor. Police were forced to turn hoses on the students, who retaliated with rocks. A number of the demonstrating students were arrested and an unknown number of persons were injured in the rioting which lasted more than an hour in a Berlin that is very sensitive to reminders of Hitler's regime.



NO FORMAL REPLY FROM PEIPING . . . India's Sir Benegal Rau (seated right) tells newsmen that the Chinese Communists have replied only evasively to the appeal by 13 nations that they halt short of the 38th parallel in Korea. Rau has received no formal answer from the Peiping government, but discloses that Communist China's spokesman told him that "the United Nations would be able to judge for itself from events in the field what the response to the appeal would be." Rau said he had not lost hope that the Peiping response would be favorable. Standing next to Rau is B. L. Sharma, India's U.N. delegation advisor. Another peace try was planned.



A BOUNCING BELOITER . . . Bill Bartz, veteran Beloit college cager, seems to be taking his work seriously this winter. The six-foot-two inch junior from Benton Harbor, Mich., is fitting into the plans of the highly-regarded Beloit team this hectic basketball season. One of Bartz' specialties is agility on the floor and ability to handle the ball from any position—a low crouch or a high leap. Beloit is in Beloit, Wisconsin and ranks high in net circles.



ENVOY COMES HOME . . . Alan C. Kirk, United States ambassador to Moscow, arrives in New York with his wife aboard the liner, S. S. Liberté. He said he is returning for consultations with the state department concerning the world war situation and possible Russian activity in the Korean dispute. There were hints of another Big Four meeting, with Stalin or a Stalin representative meeting representatives of the U. S., France, and Britain.



SHYEST GIRL . . . Posing appropriately is Christiane Couture, a commercial secretary, who was chosen "Miss Timidity of 1950" at the first anniversary ball of the Timidity Club in Paris. She is secretary of the club.



ARMY CHIEF . . . Army Secretary Frank Pace conferred recently with the senate appropriations committee on the 18 billion dollars extra the military has asked for defense. The army is going ahead with preparedness.

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CIVIL DEFENSE

House Votes Plan to Build Shelters

The house voted 247 to 1 a civil defense plan that would cost an estimated \$3,100,000. More than two thirds of the total amount would go for bomb shelters, with the federal government paying half of their cost and local and state governments putting up the rest.

The plan was sent to the senate and quick approval was expected. A somewhat similar program had

been approved unanimously by the senate's armed-services committee.

One member of the congressional atomic committee, said it was estimated that first-rate civil defense measures, plus 12 minutes' advance warning of possible attack, might reduce casualties in an atomic attack by as much as 50 per cent. For this reason an adequate defense was imperative.