

Debate Over Prisoner Issue in Truce Talks Tops Week's Bad News

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The week's balance sheet between the good and bad news in the hot and cold wars:

THE BAD
1. It was so near to peace but so far away in the Korean truce negotiations. More than 300 days after their start, the talks finally had boiled down to the question of voluntary repatriation of prisoners. The Reds wanted all United Nations prisoners returned. The U.N. said, no. For the U.N. it was a fundamental issue. Many Reds surrendered on the promise of protection. To give them back now, probably would mean the firing squad.

Germany Causing Concern
2. On the other side of the world, Germany also was causing concern. The British were fed up and refusing to make more concessions to the West Germans in return for German participation in a European army. On the other hand, there were increasing possibilities the Bonn Parliament, led by the Socialists, might refuse to approve the plan as it now stands. Meanwhile, the Communists busily stirred the muddy waters. They threatened a German civil war.

3. So far, it still was a friendly argument, but the United States and Britain were at loggerheads over who finally should have command of Mediterranean forces under NATO America's Admiral Carney commands now, but the British want one of their own to have the command ultimately—probably Lord Louis Mountbatten. British newspapers accused the United States of hogging NATO commands.

THE GOOD
1. Probably the United States' best informed man on Russia arrived in Moscow to take up his duties as U. S. ambassador to the Kremlin. He is George Frost Kennan, the "Mr. X" who authored the State Department's policy of firm containment of Communism which is

in turn the keystone of U.S. diplomacy. Milwaukee-born, Russian-speaking Kennan regards his job as two-fold: to prevent the Russians from under-estimating U. S. reaction to so-called "local" aggressions and to prevent any mistaken idea that the U. S. is preparing war against the Soviet.

NATO Shaking Down
2. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization gradually was shaking down. Secretary-General Lord Ismay announced a streamlining program which would break the organization down into three main subdivisions: economic, to help mesh the free world's finances and trade; political, to handle relations between member nations on a day-to-day working level; and production, to coordinate defense production and prevent duplication of effort.

3. There were plenty of major differences among the Western Allies, but they continued to present a united front against Russia. France, despite reservations was initiating the European army pact. The U. S., Britain and France were united in the stand that no phony Russian peace offer should delay the contract with a free West Germany, and were in equally firm agreement that the last concession had been made to the Communists in Korea.

Malaria mosquitoes scourged the beautiful Mediterranean island of Cyprus from the dawn of history but modern insecticides in the years since World War II have eliminated the disease.

The Federal Food and Drug Administration's seizures of unfit foods averaged more than 23 tons for each working day during the last six months of 1951.

The first technicolor motion pictures ever taken of the inside of the living heart have contributed new knowledge about the functioning of that vital organ.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

BUYING AN AIR DEFENSE

Washington—One of the sinister symptoms of our times is the way that the greatest issues of national policy either get lost in the political shuffle or are hidden under the fustian cloak of official secrecy. Take, for example, the matter of the air defense of the United States—which is virtually non-existent at present.

On the one hand, one of the two or three dominant facts in the world's strategic picture is the atomic bomb, which may before long become the hydrogen bomb, in Soviet hands. Both the Soviet atomic stockpile and the Soviet power to deliver atomic weapons to distant targets are constantly growing. The danger to this continent is not yet really imminent but it is likely to be very great indeed in two or three years' time.

On the other hand, the entire air defense picture has been dramatically altered by successful tests of new guided missiles and improved radar warning equipment. Where it was nearly impossible, until this year, to defend the United States against atomic air attack, it is theoretically possible to do so today. But we are not doing it. It will take at least two or three years. And if the effort is not begun immediately, the theoretically possible air defense will not be ready when the Soviet atomic danger reaches the stage of being a day-and-night threat to every American. Here is a great issue of national policy which has not even been publicly hinted at.

THE simplest way to express the new possibilities of air defense is in terms of estimated percentages of destruction of enemy aircraft attacking the United States.

The Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, formerly maintained that we could never destroy more than 30 per cent of the attackers. The terrifying feeble existing air defense system cannot achieve anything like this level of kills, except perhaps in daylight and good weather. By night and in bad weather, Soviet bombers could today fly over this country with relative impunity, although it is doubtful whether they would find their assigned targets, and they could not get home again.

With new weapons and new techniques, however, this defenselessness can be overcome in time, by heavy investment and by great national effort.

In one and a half to two years, we can be reasonably sure of destroying at least three out of ten hostile aircraft, in whatever weather and at any time of the day or night. In two to three years, 40 or perhaps even 50 per cent destruction may be feasible. And in three to four years, we can theoretically achieve a full air defense. This is a defense so strong that even suicide air missions to the most vital American targets will look like a waste of men, machines and atomic raw stuff.

This theoretical possibility of

a near-total air defense squarely rests on two things, however. First, it rests on the newly developed weapons now tested or about to be tested, like the Nike guided missile. Nike is only useful for "point defense" but it has achieved 100 per cent destruction of B-17s flying at maximum speed at 35,000 feet. Nike, and the other guided missiles, and the many other complex devices needed for an effective air defense system, must be ordered and produced before they can be used.

SECOND, near-total air defense rests on having all the parts of the air defense system—radar warning equipment of several kinds, guided missiles of several types and all-weather fighter interceptors in considerable numbers. All these different elements of the system must be available, fitted together in a working machine, and ready to be used at any hour of the day or night for 365 days a year. A considerable training period must therefore be added to the period of production to get a realistic time schedule for building an air defense.

It is urgent to build our air defense in pace with the increasing danger that hangs over us. If near-total air defense is possible, we should have it as soon as possible. But to achieve these ends, several highly disagreeable and difficult measures have got to be taken.

As of now, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have got to make their first really serious and national-minded attack on the production priorities problem. Only careful re-allocation of priorities for machine tools and other scarce items will guarantee adequate production of all-weather fighters, electronic equipment, and the other air defense essentials. If present priorities are held to, all these items will continue to be produced in miserable dribbles, as at present.

As of now, also, some room has got to be made in the defense budget for immediate orders of all the promising new weapons and air defense devices that have been properly tested.

FINALLY, as of next year most probably, a most heavy addition to the general defense budget will have to be made for air defense purposes. The capital cost of continent-wide defense with just one of the guided missiles now being readied is estimated at \$7,000,000. This is the most important and costly of the new weapons now on the way, but many others are also needed. For a near-total air defense, therefore, the over-all increase in the defense budget may run as high as \$4,000,000,000 annually for several years.

A single new plant for the Atomic Energy Commission nowadays can cost close to \$2,000,000,000. There can be no argument about the wisdom of investing \$4,000,000,000 a year, or twice \$4,000,000,000 a year, in an air defense that will effectively protect the people and the industry of the United States. And if this great issue



SEIZED by Communist prisoners of war at Kojima Island off Korea coast, Brig. General Frank Dodd, camp commandant, is held as hostage. (International)

Summer Music Class Program Announced

I. A. Mirick, supervisor of instrumental music in Medford schools, Saturday announced plans for the schools' annual summer band and orchestra school. Classes will start June 9 and July 11.

All sessions will be held in the senior high school band room. The program is open to all who are interested and who have sufficient talent from the 4th to 12th grades, and graduates. Grade school students may register with their school principals, and junior and senior high students may register at their band offices.

A small deposit is required for registration, and will be refunded at the end of the summer if the student has attended 90 per cent of the classes.

is not faced, those who have refused to face it will carry an unbearable burden of blame, when the time of danger is suddenly upon us and we find that we are not defended in the air.

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Classes will include: Junior high band, senior high band, grade school band (for those with one or more years of experience), grade school beginners' band, grade school orchestra, junior high orchestra, and junior and senior high beginners groups. Schedules will be announced later.

In the Philippines, people fight mice with mice. It is done by raising guinea pigs in the house. The presence of the guinea pigs drives rats and house mice away.

The Alaskan fur seal, spending much of its life in the water, does not swim at birth and must learn as a pup.

NO TALENT
Fort Worth, Tex. — (U.P.) — The Truman Sign Co., here has a panel truck with the words under the firm's name: "My Margaret can't sing."

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Contributed in behalf of the Religion in American Life Program by

Medford Mail Tribune