Singapore Guards Against Murder and Night Raids by Groups of Communist Terrorists

Editor's note: United Press Vice-President Frank H. Bartholomew is a veteran observer of the Pacific. As a reporter in World War II, he kept pace with Gen. Douglas MacArthur's northward advance against the Japanese. He did front-line reporting in Korea. In China, his airplane lifted from one end of the runway at Shanghai as Communist forces overran the other. The following dispatch is the result of a re-visit to Singapore, one of the early targets of the Japanese in World War II, and a present-day target of the Communists.)

By FRANK BARTHOLOMEW
United Press Correspondent

Johore Baru—(U.P.)—This is the outpost city that guards Singapore against a second invasion from the north, and the pressure against it is growing.

Armored personnel carriers speed along the beautiful waterfront highway under the shadow of the Sultan's palace. Bombing aircraft on their leisurely afternoon bombing runs from Singapore to the Red-infested jungles to the north are in the sky above. On the north, a barbed wire fence, illuminated at night, gives the city a measure of protection against night raids and murder. Just to the south, on the island of Singapore, moving police blocks stop and examine traffic.

Like Singapore, Johore is under declaration of emergency and is an actual police state. Its responsibility is double—to protect itself against the growing external menace of Communists and to protect the great key city of Southeast Asia, Singapore.

Red Menace Grows

Southward from Johore Baru runs the half mile long causeway to Singapore, which is the lifeline of the 1,200,000 people in the British bastion city. The causeway carries the highway, the railroad and the pipeline through which most of Singapore's water supply flows.

It was over this causeway that the Japanese marched only a dozen short years ago to capture by surprise from the rear a city whose fixed gun implacements and fixed defensive thinking were pointed southward toward a challenge from the open sea.

Despite the immigration and customs guards at both ends and the troop carriers traversing the causeway itself, and despite the naval establishment on the Singapore island side to the east, the causeway is as vulnerable today as it has ever been.

The situation faced by Singapore, and by the brood of nine Malay sultans in the states under Singapore's protection, is actually more acute today than it was in the opening days of the war with Japan, because substantial segments of the enemy are already within the defenses and are hard at work to accomplish the downfall of the sultanates and the key city.

In the city of Singapore alone, 21 suspected Communist killers were arrested recently in a span of four days. An arsenal of firearms and hand grenades was captured. In one day, two Singapore harbor police were slain from ambush by Communists. At Selang New Village and Labis 20 miles from here, raiders cut the barbed wire and stole shotguns from the post of the Home Guard itself.

Operations against the Communist terrorists are directed from Kuala Lumpur. They are strict and they are reasonably effective against the external enemy. Some of the requirements are that the rubber plantation workers must be out of the jungles and into their protective compounds sometimes by as early as two p.m., always well in advance of sundown.

After curfew, the bombers blast the jungle up and down the long corridor of the peninsula on a spot-bombing basis, seldom seeing targets but bombing just to make the jungle areas not completely safe for the Communists. After the curfew patrol parties on foot will shoot at anything that moves.

Fifth Column Active

The internal enemies are far more difficult to guard against, the Red agents who mix with the city's teeming thousands during the day and strike out in terror raids at night.

Uprisings in the schools of Singapore, skillfully fermented by the Reds, are giving the authorities increasing trouble. Eight students of the University of Malaya go to trial in the First Criminal District Court in Singapore on August 10, charged with seditious publication. They are importing special defense counsel from London.

The British themselves are convinced that they can hold the city of Singapore militarily, but are admittedly concerned at the effect upon the population of the nine Malay states separating their island from the Asian mainland, of the continuous Communist military and political successes in Indochina.

Incidents Increase

The internal and external Communist pressures against Singapore and Johore intensified almost instantly when the French surrendered 1,600 square miles of the southern sector of the Red River delta and abandoned 2,000,000 Vietnamese to the invaders.

Jungle terrorists incidents increased in Johore.

School uprisings continued in Singapore itself. In one incident students pelted the police with a fusillade of stones. In a second and more prolonged affair, police had to resort to fire hoses to break up a marching throng of hundreds demonstrating between North Canal Road and South Bridge Road and attempting to surround the Fifth Police Court where seven students are on trial for draft evasion. To reinforce the water hose treatment police reserves had to be called out. Police assert the demonstrations to be the work of professional Communists.

LOWERING TEMPERATURE of girl with ice, Washington, D. C. surgeons save her from probable death by closing large hole in her heart. Lower body temperature was essential before delicate surgery could be performed on child. *(International Soundphoto)*

Owners of Freighter Settle Damage Suit

Astoria—(U.P.)—The owners of the freighter Joseph Freuer, which crashed into a Columbia River Packers' Association dock and warehouse here last May, have settled a damage suit out of court.

A company spokesman said the settlement was approximately $100,000. The CRPA has sued in Portland federal court for the same amount in damages to the structures and $50,000 for damage to the contents of the building.

The suit was dismissed with prejudice, following the compromise settlement.

Four Portladers Held On Narcotics Charges

Portland — (U.P.) — Four men were held in Portland city jail today on narcotics charges following an intensive police roundup of persons connected with dope peddling.

Chief of Police Jim Purcell said a "continued relentless drive" will be carried out against narcotics peddlers.

Those arrested on charges of violating federal narcotics laws by selling heroin were Pio Redaloso Riego, 50, a fisherman, Paul Lawrence Payton, 21, and L. B. McGowan, 32, a musician.

David Earl Burgess, 34, was arrested for possession of heroin.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

Smog Changes Color Of Man's Necktie

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — University of Southern California scientists studied with intense scrutiny today a fickle tie belonging to down cast engineering student James Sharpless.

The distressed student said that when he left home for school Thursday his tie was a bright coral color. By the time he reached class it had turned an ugly purple.

A diagnosis was conducted by Dr. Joseph Smatko, head of the chemistry department, who informed saddened Sharpless that his tie had been a victim of smog.

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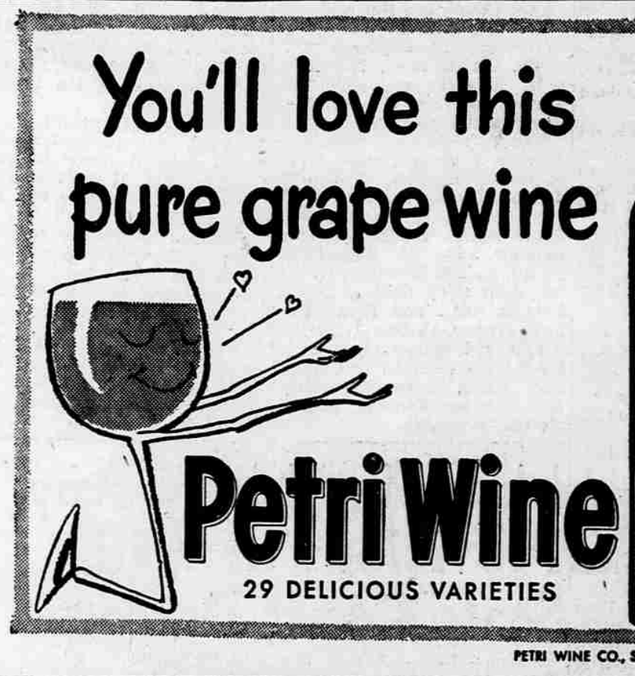

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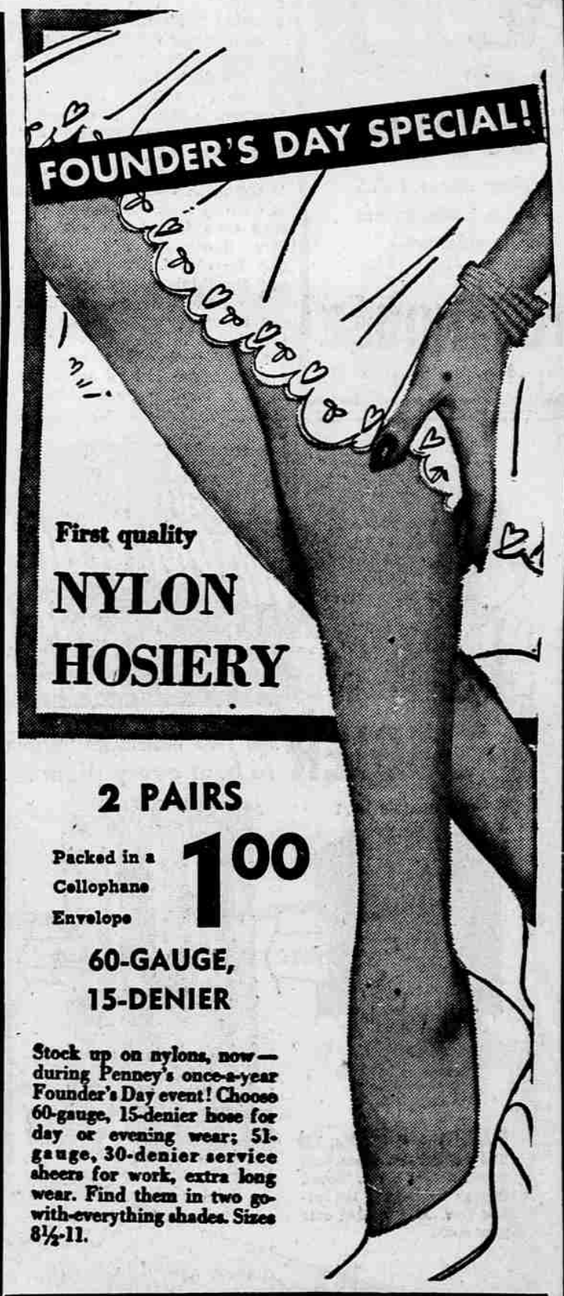

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