American Military Forces in Asia Found 'Ready To Go' if War Breaks Out in Korea

Editor's Note: Earnest Hoberecht, United Press vice-president for Asia, has observed developments in the Far East for the past 10 years. He maintains close contact with high American and Allied sources in Tokyo. In the following dispatch, Hoberecht says American forces in the Far East are ready for any emergency that may grow from Red China's imprisonment of 11 American airmen as "spies."

By EARNEST HOBERECHT
United Press Correspondent

Tokyo—(U.P.) — American military forces in Asia are "ready to go" if war breaks out again in Korea as a result of the latest Communist violations of the armistice agreement, high official sources said today.

They also indicated they did not think the fighting would be limited to the Korean Peninsula if the war is resumed.

High quarters said the sentencing of the 11 American airmen by the Chinese Communists is "only one of many" violations of the Korean armistice terms.

American military men emphasized that U.S. forces would not resume fighting in Korea "on their own." It would be a United Nations action and would be taken only on the instructions of the United Nations, it was pointed out.

American forces make up the biggest part of the U.N. fighting power in the Korean area now.

Eyes On Two Fronts

At the present moment, official American quarters in Asia are keeping their eyes on two fronts—the potential battlefield in Asia and the diplomatic battlefront at the United Nations.

Most of the top military commanders are delighted to see the United Nations swinging into diplomatic action against the Chinese Reds. Some of the military men in Asia have been very discouraged by what they have felt has been a willingness to let the Chinese Communists get away with repeated violations of the Korean armistice government.

Some have felt that the failure of the United States and the United Nations to "call down" the Communists has given the impression that the free world is afraid of the Peiping regime.

American military sources emphasized that there never has been a peace treaty in Korea, and that the fighting was halted by the armistice which merely ended the hostilities.

American armed forces have been told they must be ready to fight again at a moment's notice and never to drop their guard.

American ground forces probably would not play as large a role in any renewed fighting as they did during the initial stages of the Korean war, according to the best available information.

Most Ground Forces ROKs

In Korea, the bulk of the ground troops would be Republic of Korea forces—bolstered by American units and aided by top-notch American military advisers.

U. S. naval power would be expected to come into play—both as a blockading force and as hit-and-run striking power. The hit-and-run role would be undertaken by the Navy's fast carrier task forces which could roam up and down the coast of China and launch air strikes of several hundred planes at important Red production and military centers.

Much of the "heavy work" probably would be undertaken by American bombers and at least some of the top American military men in Asia believe atomic weapons would be used.

American military commanders are confident of their ability to deliver some punishing blows, especially if they were not limited as they were during the Korean battles when they could not attack the Red supply lines leading into North Korea.

CIO Radio Operators End Shipping Strike; Pact Acknowledged

San Francisco—(U.P.)—CIO radio operators ended a strike against West Coast shipping early today after shipowners decided to acknowledge a contract drawn up last June.

William Steinberg, president of the American Radio Association, announced that union members have been ordered to report to work immediately.

The action freed some 40 ships operated by firms belonging to the Pacific Maritime Association. Nearly half the ships were in San Francisco Bay.

Called Last Thursday

The radio operators called the strike early Thursday when the PMA refused to acknowledge the validity of a "memorandum of agreement" reached in negotiations last June 21.

Steinberg said the operators would not work unless their wages and working conditions were guaranteed in writing.

The effects of the strike began to be felt immediately as ships reached port. They could not sail again without a radio operator on board.

Steinberg said the PMA sent the union a letter advising that the PMA's board of directors and member companies met yesterday and ratified the agreement of June 21 as well as letters of interpretation attached to it.

However, the PMA made one exception. It said it was not ratifying a disputed section calling for overtime for ships' radio operators when a ship is shifted from pier to pier in port.

Union Will Go To Court

Steinberg said the union will carry the matter to court.

"It is our position that the company has previously ratified our contract, along with this section 22," he said. "The present ratification is a mere subterfuge.

"We intend to take the matter to court in an attempt to have this section legally recognized as part of our contract."

Steinberg said the PMA promised to take no punitive action against the union or its membership by reason of the strike.

At the same time, the union released two Alaska steamship company freighters from Seattle with Christmas supplies for Alaska, and another freighter from San Pedro with military cargo for the Far East.

Appropriation Urged For Columbia Channel

Portland—(U.P.)—Rep. Russell V. Mack (R-Wash.) said today he is urging approval of an appropriation to start work soon after next July 1 on a project to deepen the entrance channel at the Columbia river from 40 to 48 feet.

Although Mack said he did not expect to get the full $8,557,000 needed to deepen the channel, he said he believed enough money could be appropriated to start dredging. "Once we get the project work started it will be comparatively easy to obtain the additional funds to complete it," he said.

The project was authorized by the 83rd Congress. Next step is to get the appropriation.

Butler Will Discuss Party With Truman

Indianapolis — (U.P.) —Paul Butler, the new Democratic national chairman, will meet with former President Harry S. Truman tomorrow to discuss "party matters."

Democratic state headquarters said Butler will leave tonight for Kansas City, Mo., for his first major conference since he was named to the party's top post last Saturday.

Three Women Suffer Minor Hurts in Crash

Three women were treated and released from Sacred Heart hospital early today after suffering minor injuries in a car-truck collision on North Riverside ave., according to city police.

Treated for cuts and bruises were Mildred Elaine Silvey, 24, of 1001 Stevens st., driver of the car, and two passengers, Margaret Elaine Fenton, 27, route 1, box 364, and Helen M. Groves, 38 North Oakdale ave., Apartment 2. They were taken to Sacred Heart hospital by Medford Ambulance service.

The Silvey sedan struck a parked truck about 12:07 a.m. The truck driver, Paul Revere Cavener, Mt. Hebson, Calif., was cited by police for illegal truck parking on city streets between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

The accident occurred between Austin and Edwards st.

Police Cite Driver Following Accident

Cars driven by Lewis William Baker, 30, of 425 Oak st., Central Point, and Vincent Paul MacDonald, 33, of 104 King st., Medford, collided at the intersection of Pine st. and Highway 99 in Central Point yesterday morning, according to city police.

Officers cited Baker for failure to yield the right of way. Both cars were extensively damaged but there were no personal injuries, the report said.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

U.S. Economy Winding Up Second Best Year; 1955 Prospects Good

Washington—(U.P.)—On a rising tempo, the United States is winding up the second best business year in history.

It has been a better "second best" than some government economists had anticipated.

Preliminary predictions for next year joint to another good year, even a little better than this year although still second to the 1953 record.

The outlook is brightened by full-blast auto production, a recent marked upturn in steel output, and forecasts for a continued construction boom.

The strongest point all this year has been the building industry. Consumer spending also has set a record. There has been little or no over-all increase in the amount spent to buy tangible goods, but more for services, such as rent, repairs and doctors' bills.

Getting Better

Measured by either of the two standard yardsticks, gross national product and industrial production, the full year 1954 has not been as good as the record year 1953, but things are improving.

The total value of all goods and services produced in the country—the GNP—in 1953 was a record $365,000,000,000. This year's is estimated to be approximately 2½ per cent less, or $356,000,000,000. The final three months of this year, however, are expected to exceed the full-year average.

Industrial production for the year will average about 124 on the Federal Reserve's index, which uses the 1947-49 average as a comparison basis of 100. Last year it averaged 134. In the closing months of this year, it has been climbing slightly.

Shape of Saucer

In the words of one economist, the 1954 slowdown took the shape of a saucer, starting in late 1953, there was a moderate dip, then several months of relative stability, and now a slight increase and slightly more in prospect.

The story of economic 1954 follows the saucer theory in a numbed of important lines; production consumer spending, business profits.

But there are also several important lines which have been mostly all one way or the other

Total construction has been all up. Business investment in new or improved facilities and new equipment has been down.

Employment trended upward, then steadied, and unemployment has been an upside-down saucer.

Tin Can Alarm System Doesn't Trip Burglar

Davenport, Ia. — (U.P.) —Simon Ales, 70, a night watchman, decided a little ingenuity might prove a great asset in his war against crime.

He installed a burglar alarm system in the television sales store where he was employed by stringing piles of tin cans around the store.

Monday, while Ales was sitting 30 feet away, a burglar stepped through the intricate noise maker and stole $600.

When you need money...

See First National for a Personal Loan

Whether you need funds at Christmas, or for any other reason, see First National about a personal loan. You'll get quick, confidential service, and *low loan rates.* When you need a personal loan... see First National first!

Lowest Rates, Prompt, Confidential Service

Open 10 to 5, Monday thru Saturday

Join First National's Interest-Paying Christmas-Club! Make yours a prepaid Christmas in 1955.

1st FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PORTLAND
MEDFORD BRANCH
"LET'S BUILD OREGON TOGETHER"
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

LOVELY GIFTS for everyone on your Christmas List
Larry Schade's

Come in now and see our complete selection of beautiful gifts for everyone on your list . . . lovely silver for Mother, a watch for Dad, costume jewelry and smart accessories for sister and brother . . . diamonds for that Christmas engagement or wedding.

COME AND SEE THE * Christmas ELGINS from $33.75

$225. Exquisite ten diamond matched ring set.

$125. Sparkling engagement ring set in 14K gold.

$150. Six diamonds flash in this lovely ring set.

$65. Man's impressive diamond ring in 14K gold.

Our Buxton billfold will carry spare keys . . . keep his money safe in a hidden compartment . . . and show up to 21 pictures. Choose from a variety of handsome leathers and colors. $5.00

Credit Terms of Course

OPEN WED. NITES

Longines—slim and beautiful 14K gold watch for her. Lifetime gift to mark a special occasion. $125 FTI

Longines Automatic for him. Wafer thin, accurate. 14K gold case of outstanding beauty. . . . . $160 FTI

All prices include Federal Tax

Free 10-Day Trial! the great new RONSON Electric Shaver

Complete with Genuine Leather Case $28.50

★ Closer, Cleaner, Quicker Shaves!
★ Absolutely Non-Irritating!
★ Really Quiet!
★ Revolutionary "Synchro-Silent" Power Unit!
★ Self-Sharpening!
★ Lubricated for Life!
★ Distinctive Finger-Grip Design!
★ Long-Life Guarantee!
★ Backed by the Famous Ronson Name!

WEATHERPROOF Wyler incaflex

WATERPROOF • 17 jewels • sweep second hand • luminous dial $39.75

Ladies WATERPROOF • 17 jewels • sweep second hand • luminous dial $42.50

Any weather, any activity, anywhere—Wyler Incaflex never has to leave your wrist. Sealed against water, secure against shock.

Reed & Barton SILVERPLATE

"BEL AIR" CANDY DISH Diameter 6" . . . $3.50

"NORDIC" DOUBLE VEGETABLE DISH Length 12" . . . $32.00

"GALLERY" BOWL Diameter 9" . . . $13.95

"EMBASSY" CANDY DISH 5½" Square . . . $8.25

Gorgeous Diamond-Set ELGIN
14K natural gold case, 21 jewels, four brilliant diamonds
$125

Open Wednesday Nights 'til 9

Larry Schade
FINE WATCHES SINCE 1918
9 SOUTH CENTRAL FLUHRER BLDG.