

Britain Rebuffs Russia on Rearmament Note

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Weather

FORECAST: Considerable high cloudiness through Wednesday. Patches of valley fog Wednesday morning. Little change in temperature. Low tonight 26-28; high Wednesday 50.
Highest Yesterday: 53
Lowest this Morning: 26

English Decision Reaffirms German Treaty on Arming

Reds Told They Can 'Tear Up Treaty'
London—(U.P.)—Britain refused today to abandon German rearmament and told Russia to tear up their 1942 friendship treaty if the Soviets want to.

A foreign office spokesman branded as rude in both manner and content Russia's threat to abrogate the treaty if Germany is given an army. The spokesman rejected it outright. Russia also threatened to break off a mutual defense pact with France if the National Assembly, now debating German rearmament, agrees to bring the Bonn government into the Western defense scheme.

Good Pact
The spokesman said Britain would be sorry to lose its friendship treaty with Russia because the country felt it was a good pact.

But in straight diplomatic talk, the spokesman "deplored" the Russians' method in threatening to abandon the treaty.

The Russian threat, similar to the one handed France, was delivered in Moscow yesterday to British Ambassador Sir William Hayter.

"Her majesty's government would regret it if the Anglo-Soviet treaty of friendship of 1942 to which they have always attached importance were to be cancelled or annulled by the Soviet government," the spokesman told the daily Foreign Office press conference.

Deplore Manner, Context
"At the same time they deplore both the manner and the context in which that government threatens such annulment," he said.

"The British government cannot accept the arguments used in the Soviet note."

"There is no justification of the Soviet contention that the Paris agreements are incompatible with the treaty. Her majesty's government will continue to pursue their chosen policy of consolidating Western European unity."

The foreign office statement came as Britain took a firm step toward closer alignment with a United Western Europe.

Britain signed today an historic agreement that ties her with the Schuman Plan coal and steel pool.

BRITAIN SIGNS SCHUMAN PLAN PACT
London—(U.P.)—Britain signed a treaty today linking it with the European coal and steel community—the former "Schuman Plan"—which is the first European federal institution with wide economic and political powers.

Britain is traditionally wary about shackling itself to any form of European federation, but the attitude has softened with the coming of the atomic age. Last summer Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden committed British troops to continental defense for the first time.

Author James Hilton Dies of Liver Cancer
Long Beach, Calif. — (U.P.) — James Hilton, English-born author whose novels were best sellers throughout the world for 20 years, died Monday night of cancer. He was 54.

Hilton, who wrote such well-known books as "Lost Horizon," "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," and "Random Harvest," died at Seaside hospital. His former wife, Alice, was at his bedside.

The author's physician, Dr. David Wigod, attributed Hilton's death to "incurable cancer of the liver."

Hilton, several of whose books were turned into successful motion pictures, had been hospitalized since Nov. 21.

Need Realistic Estimate
I wish I could report that the Viet Minh organization which I glimpsed in those three days was feeble, evanescent and hated by the people. But the record of its achievements in nine years all too clearly confirms my own short observations of the efficiency, power and popular support of this Communist built and Communist guided machine of guerrilla government.

If we are not to lose the struggle for the world, we had best make a realistic estimate of the enemy's strength. And the foregoing merely summarizes the strength that I saw.

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ONLY 3 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT
BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

National Assembly In Bitter Debate On German Arming

Paris—(U.P.)—The French National Assembly plunged into a bitter debate on German rearmament today. The odds favored approval, perhaps before Christmas.

As deputies faced up to what will be France's most fateful decision since World War II and

debate swung into its first full day, enemies of the accords which would put 500,000 West Germans into uniform under NATO took the offensive.

Leading off was the man whose motion killed EDC, the European Defense Community plan which was the ill-fated predecessor of the new plan for West European union. He was Rightist Deputy Gen. Adolphe Aumeran.

Sees German Danger
He charged that the new plan was a sinister concoction of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and the Germans.

"Under the pretext of Atlantic solidarity," Aumeran said, "they are asking France to take precautions against the Soviet danger before taking precautions against the German danger."

But despite the opposition's heavy attack, the odds still favored a pre-Christmas victory for France's fighting Premier Pierre Mendes-France.

Russia Charges Austria Agreement Violated by U. S.

Vienna—(U.P.)—Russia called an extraordinary session of the Allied Council today and charged that the United States violated the control agreement for Austria by placing troops in the French Zone province of Tyrol.

The United States, Britain and France flatly denied the Soviet charge and complained because of the "emergency character" the Russians gave to the meeting. A regular session of the council would have been held Thursday.

There was much speculation as to what Russia was leading up to.

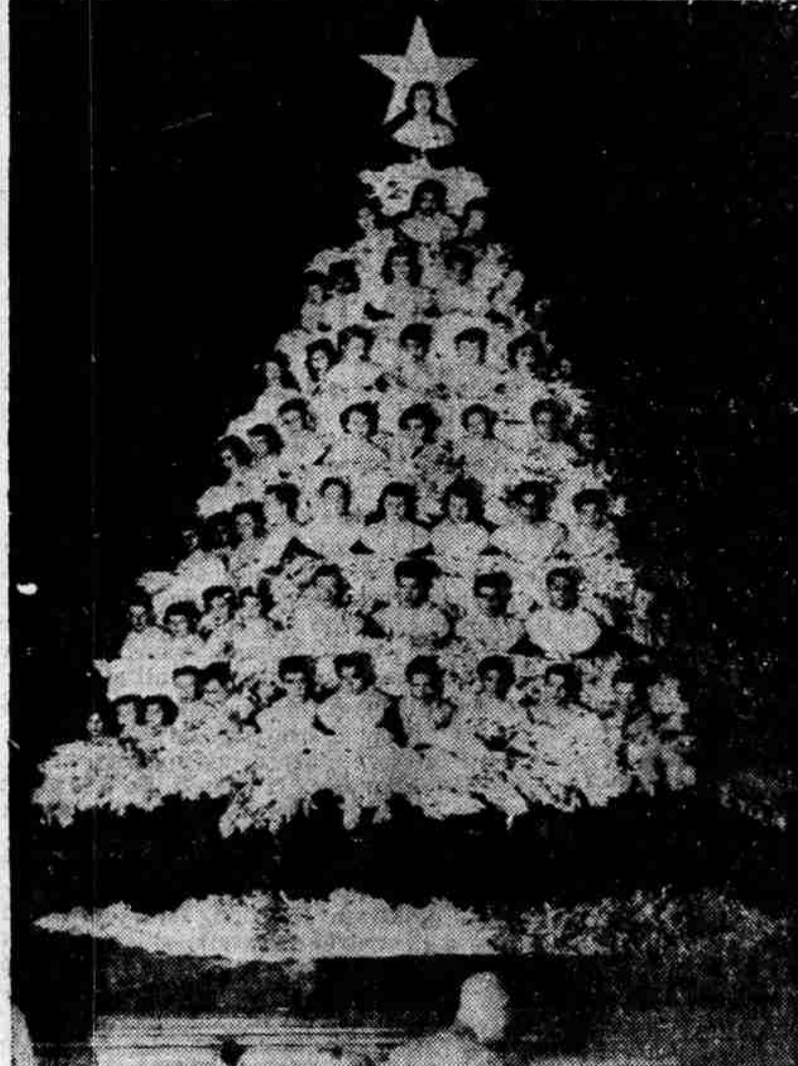
Charges Countered
Soviet High Commissioner I. I. Ilyichiev said the United States sent troops to the Tyrol to "maintain contact between U. S. forces in Austria and their supply bases in Italy." The United States answered that an Army unit near Innsbruck merely maintained highway traffic.

U. S. High Commissioner Llewellyn E. Thompson called the Soviet action an "abuse of Allied Council procedure" and said the Russians called the meeting only for propaganda purposes.

He listed such Soviet practices as maintaining a gunboat in the U. S. sector of Vienna and a barracks in the British sector.

He also pointed out that the Americans had communications in the Soviet zone and the Russians did not object.

The extraordinary session of the council, unprecedented in the eight-year history of four power government in Austria, ended in disagreement after an hour and 40 minutes of bitter debate.



TREE WITH A VOICE—Colorado's Denver High School students pyramid into a human Christmas tree that sings as they appear on stage for annual Christmas presentation.

Sam Sheppard Jury Nearing 100th Hour

Bulletin
Cleveland—(U.P.)—Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was convicted today of second-degree murder in the bludgeoning slaying of his pregnant wife.

Cleveland—(U.P.)—The Sheppard wife-murder jury buckled down today in a final try to decide whether it's to be life, death or prison for the handsome Dr. Sam.

Nearing the 100th hour of having the fate of the osteopathic brain surgeon in their hands, seven husband and five housewives returned from lunch and resumed their mulling in the jury room.

They had told the judge they believe they can reach a verdict today.

But they gave no hint of progress, and Judge Edward Blythin

Carson, George Named to Senate

Portland—(U.P.)—Joseph K. Carson Jr., unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor, and Harry George, local attorney, today were appointed to the state Senate vacancies created by the Nov. 2 election.

The vacancies were created by election of Richard L. Neuberger to the U. S. Senate and of Jack Bain as a Multnomah county commissioner. Both appointees are Democrats and had been recommended to county commissioners by the county Democratic central committee.

Carson is a former mayor of Portland and member of the U. S. Maritime Commission. George has practiced law here since 1930.

BID AWARDS DUE
Award of bids on several city-owned buildings on municipal airport property will be considered tonight at a meeting of the Medford City Council, according to City Superintendent Robert Duff.

Cancellations at Local Post Office Reach Record Mark

Monday Total Hits 85,000

Cancellations at the Medford post office hit an all-time high yesterday when the total reached 85,000, according to Postmaster Moore Hamilton.

The previous record was 77,000, set last year at Christmas time.

"We're over the hump now," Hamilton said this morning. He indicated that yesterday's total was the top of the outgoing mail, and from now through Christmas day, most of the post office's heavy work will be on incoming mail.

No Mail Held Over
Throughout the rush, the Medford post office has been able to "keep current" on each day's mail, and it has not been necessary to carry over any from one day to the next.

The Medford post office will deliver Christmas parcels on Christmas day, the postmaster said.

In addition to the regular post office crew, an additional 25 men have been hired this year to handle the Christmas rush.

As is usual, the local post office has borrowed vehicles from the forest service and other federal agencies to facilitate delivery of parcels since the start of the Christmas rush.

Yule Tree Lights Stolen in City

A total of six thefts of outdoor Christmas tree lights in the upper east side area have been reported to city police yesterday and this morning. The value of bulbs taken by thieves may run as high as \$50.

Those making reports this morning were William V. Johnston, 5 Valley View dr.; Clara Fanger, 7 Windsor ave., and Elbert Lenox, 2330 East Main st.

Similar reports were submitted to police last night by B. Brant Bartels, 35 Valley View dr., and Evelyn N. Schuler, 33 Valley View dr. Earlier yesterday, Mrs. C. Reese Braley, 245 Valley View dr., reported the theft of lights from a decorated tree in her yard.

Approximately nine lights were taken from the outdoor tree at the Bartels home, and Mrs. Schuler told police that some 30 bulbs were taken from her tree.

About seven bulbs were taken from the tree in the Fanger yard, and Johnston told officers that about 45 lights, valued at about \$22.50, were taken from his tree between 8:30 and 10:45 p.m. yesterday.

Sixty five bulbs, valued at \$11.70, were taken from the tree in the Lenox yard.

Red China Planes Bomb Tachen Island

Taipei, Formosa—(U.P.)—Red Chinese planes bombed Tachen Island today in the first air attack on a Nationalist Chinese position since the signing of the Nationalist-American defense pact.

The Ministry of National Defense said it was the second such attack against Tachen, northernmost anchor of Chiang Kai-shek's chain of defensive islands. The first occurred on Nov. 1.

Seven Russian-made Red Chinese planes dropped 10 bombs on the island.

A communique said Nationalist warships and land anti-aircraft batteries drove the planes away with intensive fire. No damages or casualties were reported.

Portland—(U.P.)—Multnomah county will observe its 100th birthday tomorrow, On Dec. 22, 1954, the territorial Legislature voted to form a new governmental unit called Multnomah from pieces of Washington and Clackamas counties.

Damage by 'Quake Listed at Eureka; Temblor Felt Here

Eureka, Calif.—(U.P.)—A sharp, jolting earthquake which knocked over chimneys, broke plate glass windows and felled light fixtures rocked this coastal Northern California city shortly before noon today.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The short shake, according to the city editor of the Humboldt Daily Standard here, was accompanied by a loud noise which sounded like "an explosion."

Lines Knocked Out
Many of the telephone land lines into the city were knocked out. The city without electricity and press association telephones and telephoto lines were inoperative.

A woman was trapped in an elevator in the building adjoining the Standard building when electricity was knocked out at 11:57 a.m. PST, according to a clerk in the Standard office.

Scoop Bean, city editor of the Standard, said the quake was one of the worst to hit the city in recent years.

Courthouse Closed
The Humboldt County Courthouse was immediately closed as "unsafe" and was roped off by deputies. It will not be opened until it has been checked by building inspectors.

Although the Standard clock, and that of the Humboldt County sheriff's office stopped at 11:57 a.m., the University of California seismograph, described the quake as "strong," located 180 to 200 miles northwest of Berkeley, just south of Eureka, and centered at the northern end of the San Andreas fault off the coast of Mendocino County.

Marion said the seismograph still was recording surface shocks at 12:25 p.m. He said, however, it was "too early" for a Richter reading.

Strong Enough
"However, it is apparent that the quake was strong enough to cause considerable damage," Marion said.

Beal said that the composing room of the Standard was "a complete shambles." Linotype machines were tossed about, but none overturned. Beal, in the composing room when the quake hit, said he was splattered by hot metal from the lead pots in the shop.

Beal said that one man ran down the main street of the city of 23,000 screaming:

"The world is coming to an end."

A large crowd, including police, gathered to quiet him down. All merchandising stores were immediately closed. Virtually all of them suffered shattered windows and goods were spewed across the floors, entangled with fallen light fixtures.

Chimneys Topple
Beal reported that every brick chimney in town toppled.

The chief of police reported that a few small fires started in some of the damaged homes, but were quickly controlled. However, firefighting was hindered by broken water mains.

Emahiser reported that "several persons" received minor injuries from flying glass and falling plaster.

In Redding, about 100 miles east of Eureka, two windows in the city hall were cracked but no other damage was reported.

In Weaverville, about halfway between Eureka and Redding, plaster was knocked off the ceiling of the Trinity County Courthouse.

DISASTER PROPHECY GETS 'MESSAGE'
Chicago—(U.P.)—Dr. Charles Laughead said today he had received a "message" that Chicago will not be destroyed by tidal waves and earthquakes as he predicted and the end of the world is not at hand.

The ousted Michigan State college physician said the "message" came from forces in outer space 4 hours and 45 minutes after Chicago's supposed day of doom had begun.

The reprieve was granted through the intercession of God, who "is in thy midst," Laughead quoted the "message" as saying.

Medford Gets Jolt From Earthquake; No Damage Listed

Medford was jolted shortly before noon today by an earthquake which caused extensive damage in the Eureka, Calif., area. The quake was felt throughout northern California and southern Oregon.

Telephoned inquiries immediately swamped the switchboard of The Mail Tribune. The temblor was reported from many sections of the city. No local damage was listed.

Reports received here said that Civil Aeronautics administration clocks stopped at 11:58 a.m. at Ukiah and Red Bluff, Calif. Reports received at the Medford municipal airport said residents of Montague, Calif., reported feeling the quake.

Light Fixtures Swing
Light fixtures swung to and fro in the offices of The Mail Tribune, where employees felt the tremor. In quick order, reports came in from all parts of town.

Employees at the county courthouse, California Oregon Power company, and the Sparta building, reported feeling the "rumble." Capt. Paul Parson said he felt the tremor at state police headquarters north of Medford.

United Press quoted amateur seismologist Bill Geitz, Portland, as saying his seismograph was still registering the tremor at 12:25 p.m. The quake was the first felt in Medford in recent years.

Columnist Reports Red Strength in South Indo-China

Editor's note: Joseph Alsop has just made a secret trip into the Communist guerrilla area of Viet Minh. Alsop, who has long been an advocate of strong measures against the Reds in Southeast Asia, tells in this and succeeding dispatches how rapidly they are consolidating their gains. He warns that the West must make a realistic estimate of the enemy's strength.

By JOSEPH ALSOP
Saigon, Indo-China—(U.P.)—For an American nowadays the Bamboo Curtain of Asia is far harder to pass than the Iron Curtain of Europe. But by a curious chapter

Saigon, Indo-China—(U.P.)—Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived here today for urgent conferences aimed at bolstering free South Viet Nam against Communist expansion.

The Big Three decided in Paris last Saturday to throw their support to the government of Premier Ngo Dinh Dien, to cut the Viet Namese army to a smaller but more effective force of 90,000 men, and to bring threatened South Viet Nam under the protection of the allies Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

of accidents, this reporter has just spent three days in the great Viet Minh guerrilla area which still forms a virtually independent state at the southern tip of Indo-China.

The trip involved every apparatus of conventional romance, from two gloriously moonlit nights chugging through Communist territory on a native ca-

nal boat, to the inevitable false papers, which were needed to get back through the Curtain again. Yet these details were hardly noticeable. Despite the extreme shortness of the permitted time, the impressions produced by this experience were so vivid—one might almost say so violent—that they alone absorbed ones entire attention.

Horrid Admiration
Perhaps it is tactless to say so nowadays, but my dominant emotion was a sort of horrified, helpless admiration for the Communist achievement—not of course for the thing itself but for the courage shown, the incredible difficulties overcome, the sheer brilliance of the political-military feat.

Here, after all, was a huge region with a population of close to 3,000,000, with no local war resources except its rice production, with no hope of serious outside aid, situated at the southern extremity of Indo-China, as far as possible from the main Communist base in the north.

Here, in this plain of Camau, the Committee of the South (the ruling Viet Minh organ in Cochinchina) first raised the standard of revolt and fixed its capital nine long years ago. Such arms as they had got from the Japanese and a treasury of 75 piastres, or about \$5 in those days, were the sole tangible assets of the oddly mixed committee of Vietnamese Communists and nationalists whom Ho Chi Minh had chosen for the task.

Political Asset
But they had a political asset

too. This delta of the Mekong had been a vast swamp until the French drained it, and divided it into great landed estates. The peasants in their palm huts had always lived in bitter poverty and without hope until the Communists gave them the land.

When the late General Leclerc took command in Indo-China he would destroy the Viet Minh in a few months, French troops entered the plain of Camau and established 13 fortified posts. But although the Committee of the South had barely raised its banner, the guerrilla attack was so severe and sustained that the French forces soon destroyed their mud forts and departed.

From that day to this, when the local Viet Minh government is moving north under the terms of the Geneva accord, the plain of Camau has been what the Communists call "liberated territory." Once every year or so, a French "clean up" column would push into the region, burning and destroying as it moved.

Always there were the air attacks that wrecked and wrecked again the little palm hut villages along the canal banks, and confined oil road and canal movements to the dark hours of the night.

Rules Other Regions
But there was never a moment when the Viet Minh did not run throughout the region. And as time went on, the Committee of the South, from its mobile palm hut capital in the Camau plain, came to rule other

huge regions approximating rather more than a third of the whole area of Cochinchina, which Gen. Navarre told me last year the French "effectively controlled."

An army of something like 30,000 regular and regional troops was organized, trained and armed with captured French heavy weapons and small arms painfully manufactured in tiny, camouflaged local shops. And I have never seen smarter, tougher looking Asian troops than the few soldiers the accidents of my journey allowed me to inspect.

A permanent government was formed, complete with financial, economic, educational, health, propaganda and police services. Currency was printed, taxes were levied, and budgets were annually prepared. In short, the whole mechanism of state power and regular administration was created out of nothing, in the nearly neolithic little muddy villages among the rice fields and in the very teeth of French military power.

Symptom of Ills
I thought I even detected a first symptom of the ills to which all grown up governments are liable. I stayed, for my short visit, at the palm hut reception center provided for the families who were coming from all over Cochinchina to say goodbye to their soldiers going north. The cadre in charge (cadre is the Viet Minh name for any trained and indoctrinated official or party worker) was a pale, delicately dandified young fellow. It seemed hard to believe

Medford Stores To Remain Open for Shopping Until 9 Tonight