

Tattered Bandits May Give Red China Excuse To Intervene in Laos

Vientiane (UPI)—Communist China may seize on a handful of tattered bandits as an excuse to intervene in the troubled kingdom of Laos.

The bandits are former members, or allies, of the Nationalist Chinese guerrillas who were driven out of Burma a year ago.

Now, Peiping claims these remnants are a "component part of the Laotian rebel (Royal Government) troops," hanging on to a shred of territory in northwest Laos.

China "can not remain indifferent" to them, the Peiping Peoples Daily warned on May 16.

It charged that America had involved itself in Laos in "flagrant collaboration with a remnant of the Chiang Kai-shek brigades to extend the civil war in that country."

The Western Powers and Laos' right wing government have actually given the former guerrillas a wide berth, to avoid giving Peiping an opportunity to make just such charges.

Excuse Used in Burma
They recall that Red China used the bandits' presence in Burma last year as an excuse for bringing communist troops into that country's northern border region.

Sources with contacts in northern Burma claim that the Chinese never quite got their foot out of the Burmese door, and still keep about 4,000 troops in Burma with the reluctant permission of the Burmese military government.

The Nationalist government evacuated about 5,000 of these guerrillas from Laos and Thailand 13 months ago, despite a request from the Laotian government to integrate some of the tough soldiers into the Royal Laotian army.

Taipei pointed to the situation in Burma, and told the Laotians they would merely invite Red Chinese intervention if they put Chinese troops into Lao uniforms.

But about 800 fighting men decided to remain behind on the borders of Laos, Thailand, China and Burma.

Locally Recruited
About half of these holdouts were locally recruited Lu tribesmen who had no ties with Taiwan. The rest were Chinese who had married local women and saw a better future in banditry and opium running than in returning to the Nationalist army.

The remnants bands quickly began causing trouble in all nearby countries.

Instead of joining the Laotian army, they fought at least two skirmishes with it, according to French and Laotian sources, when the regular troops tried to disarm the Chinese.

Instead of fighting the communists, they raided pro-western Thailand so severely that Bangkok newspapers recently reported the complete evacuation of two tribal villages to escape the bandits' depredations.

Defense Offered for Fee
The closest the bandits appear to have come to cooperating with the Laotian army was during last week's government retreat across north-west Laos to the Thai border at Ban Houei Sai.

Several bands came forward then, reliable sources say, and offered to defend the town-for a fee.

They were turned down because the Lao army already had decided to abandon the city without a fight. The disgusted bandits reportedly killed one Lao soldier and then fled into Thailand or the surrounding hills.

This small incident seems to be the only foundation for a Red Chinese claim on May 16 that 2,000 Nationalist guerrillas are grouped alongside Royal Lao forces around Ban Houei Sai and in northern Thailand.

Diplomats Frightened
The Chinese Reds also claimed that 100 Chinese irregulars also fought in defense of the Laotian town of Muong Sing when it was occupied by pro-communist rebels May 3.

In some ways this charge is more frightening to diplomats than all the others. It seems to show that Peiping is so eager to establish the presence of the Nationalists in Laos that it is willing to sacrifice the Laotian rebel claim that Muong Sing was taken without any fight at all.

This eagerness is most disquieting to officials here. They wonder whether Red China is trying to build the guerrillas remnants into a standing excuse for future interference in Laos.

ASSURES CONTINUED AID
Washington (UPI)—President Kennedy Thursday assured President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast of continued U.S. aid. He praised the visiting president's "unique record" in promoting African unity. A communique issued after two days of talks between the leaders said agreement also was reached on several assistance projects.

Total Food Supply To Continue Large During Coming Year

Washington (UPI)—Total food supplies will continue large in 1962, but there will be variations in the amount of different types of food as compared to 1961, according to the Agriculture Department.

A department study showed that prospective gains in meat supplies will be small and current indications point to less poultry, both chicken and turkey. Production of milk is expected to be larger in 1962 and little change is expected for eggs.

Some what smaller supplies of fresh vegetables and potatoes are in prospect, but supplies of fats and oils, cereals, and most other foods will continue plentiful.

On balance, the department said, retail food prices in 1962 may average only slightly higher than in 1961.

Pattern To Vary
Although food consumption will increase about in line with population growth in 1962, the pattern of change among individual foods will vary rather widely.

The supply of red meat in the second quarter of 1962 probably will average about 3 percent below the first quarter and slightly below year-earlier levels. For the year as a whole, meat consumption per capita will be close to the 1961 rate of 161 pounds per capita. Meat will be slightly higher in price through the spring and early summer than in the first part of 1962. In the second half, beef is expected to be in larger supply and prices should be lower than in the first quarter. Pork prices are not expected

to change much for the next couple of months, but may drop in the late summer and fall.

Broiler production will increase in the second quarter, but not as much as in 1961. Retail prices are not expected to drop as sharply in coming months as they did a year earlier.

Egg production in the first three months was limited by severe weather. Output in April, May, June will increase more than seasonally, with retail prices below the same quarter of 1961. Egg consumption for the year will be close to the 1961 total.

Drop in Fluid Milk
Total consumption of dairy products is expected to rise above 1961, but the rise will be slightly less than the rise in population. The indicated slight decline in per capita consumption would come from a drop in fluid milk and cream. Retail prices of dairy products may average slightly below last year.

Consumption of food fats and oils will continue the seasonal decline through the summer, but the annual consumption rate is expected to be close to that of last year. Supplies will be record large. Export demand will be stronger than last year. Retail prices are expected to be relatively steady throughout the year. Supplies of fruit, both fresh and processed, are expected to be moderately larger this spring than last.

Fresh vegetable supplies will be substantially smaller this spring than last and retail prices materially higher.



TREE PRESENTED—Michigan Apple Queen Leona I. Warner, 18, presents a Michigan apple tree to Washington's Lt. Gov. John Chaberg during ceremonies at the Seattle World's Fair. Looking on are, from left, Linda L. Allen, 19, bean queen; Carol Ann Bowerman, 17, blossom queen; and Lu Ellen Benson, 18, cherry queen. They are on a tour of western states. (UPI)

Subcommittee Votes Powers For Governor

Salem (UPI)—A subcommittee of the commission revising the Oregon constitution voted Thursday to give the governor clear power to fire anyone he appoints to head a department in a cabinet system.

This provision is in conjunction with language approved earlier by the full commission, which sets up machinery for creation of an Oregon cabinet system.

There would be a maximum of 20 executive agencies instead of the present hodgepodge of boards and commissions.

While giving the governor authority to name cabinet officers, the subcommittee favored ratification of the appointments by a majority of

the state Senate. This is like the federal government. Such officers would serve a maximum of four years, and purely at the governor's pleasure.

Merit System
Other state employees would be hired on a merit system, like the present civil service.

The subcommittee also recommended that a person be allowed to run for governor and the legislature at the same time. If elected to both, he would resign one and accept the other. The vote again was unanimous.

Law professor Hans Linde, Eugene, who proposed the plan, said it would allow political talent in the legislature to try for governor without

loss of the legislative seat as a penalty. There is no prohibition now in the constitution for running for both offices at the same time. But the right to do so isn't spelled out, either.

Mental Illness Is Subject of Meeting

An understanding public which recognizes that mental illness is an illness from which the patient can recover and the importance of adequate facilities in each community were stressed by a team from Oregon State hospital at the annual meeting of the Jackson County Mental Health Association this week at the Rogue Valley hospital.

Dr. Thad Furlong, psychiatrist, said the trend in care for the mentally ill is toward decentralization in state hospitals and more emphasis on local facilities.

He said modern treatment methods at Oregon State hospital include use of tranquilizers and group therapy with restraint and shock used only in special cases.

Moderate Panel Discussion
Dr. A. E. Mierkel, Jackson county health officer, moderated the panel discussion, and

people believe patients are sent to the Salem hospital to stay, but this is not so. They enter for treatment as in any hospital, she noted. The readmission rate is about one-third.

Plans for discharge of a patient begin the day the patient enters the hospital. Mrs. Nadine Nunn, social service worker, pointed out. An effort is made immediately to contact families and agencies which might help, but many times patients must remain in the hospital because there is no one who will assist.

Pilot Program Noted
Dr. Harry Doyle, psychiatrist, noted that a pilot program is under way on a unit system in which patients from a given area such as Jackson county would be grouped together for treatment. This will facilitate working with local agencies, he stated.

Mrs. Gertrude Stollenberg, director of the social service department said a great many

said it is hoped that under the new community mental health clinic act, the Family and Child Guidance clinic will be expanded so more people can be helped and that it will eventually become the Jackson County mental health clinic.

He pointed out that under the law a patient cannot be retained in jail unless there are no other facilities available. In Jackson county, these facilities include a maximum security room at the Jackson County Farm Home, three at Rogue Valley hospital and one at Ashland Community hospital.

Proposed programs for foster home care and half-way houses also were explained by panel members, who all noted the lack of facilities, particularly nursing homes, for elderly patients in southern Oregon.

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