

UPI Reporter Gives Views Of Dutch on Cuban Blockade

(Editor's note: When the President of the United States serves a virtual ultimatum on the free world's most powerful foe and speaks of the danger of a nuclear holocaust, it is not only Americans who gather 'round their radios or television sets, or dash out to buy the latest editions of their newspapers. Or worry what it all means - and what it will lead to. Around the world our friends and allies, do the same - and with the same mixture of dread and determination. Here is how President Kennedy's blockade pronouncement was received in The Netherlands, a land of 11-500,000 people living in an area roughly one-third the size of Virginia - and a NATO ally which will fight at our side in any East-West war.)

By PAUL KLEIN
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Special Correspondent
Amsterdam (UPI) - In his office, Dutch radio programing chief Gerhard Hoek had just confirmed the news that at midnight Central European time President Kennedy was to address the American people on a matter of great urgency. All the news wires had chattered with word of the great activity in Washington. It was obvious that whatever it was the President had to say was to be of tremendous importance not only to America, but to all the free world. There was even talk that the United States was to invade Cuba. And, thought Hoek, that would properly put

Christmas Gifts For Employees Said Picking Up

New York (UPI) - The intensive - and sometimes challenged - practice of buying Christmas gifts for business employees and customers is in full swing well in advance of the ordinary consumers' shopping, trade magazines report. Next year, under the new tax law, deduction for a business gift will be limited to \$25 a person a year. The Counselor, trade magazine of the specialty advertising industry, said that a number of business gift buyers already have accepted the restriction as if it were law for 1962.

Cheaper Gifts Booming
Result has been that \$100 and \$200 gift buying has dropped, but gifts costing less than \$25 are enjoying a boom, with activity in the \$5, \$7, \$10 and \$15 price ranges, Counselor reports. A very large expenditure is about \$7 per person - but the number of persons on business gift lists is at an all time high, 42 persons per company compared to 35 a year ago.

Purchasing magazine, however, notes that a number of major corporations have hard and fast rules against their employees accepting gifts from suppliers, and they also have rules against any of their employees giving business gifts.

Standard Letter
In these companies, there often exists a standard letter, more or less tactful, sent by purchasing executives or others to vendors telling them of company policy. Naturally these letters must be sent early, before the Christmas lists are made up, although in the companies reviewed by Purchasing, the "no-gift" rule holds the year around.

Other trade magazines find that buying of business gifts may reach an all-time high this year. Many firms with the new tax law in mind, are reported to be turning to gift selection booklets, which contain a number of gifts in the same price range and allow the recipient to choose.

Incentive Merchandising magazine's annual survey said that total wholesale purchases of business gifts will reach an all-time high this year of \$319 million.

the fat in the fire: this was something the Dutch people had the right to hear, and immediately.

Hoek, a 38-year-old former newspaperman, got busy on the telephone. Normally the Dutch radio network went off the air at midnight. Tonight, thought Hoek. He spoke to the government communications people. Yes, he could stay on the air. Soon he was talking long distance to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London. Could we have a tap on its transatlantic radio cable for the Kennedy speech? It was arranged.

Studio technicians were alerted. Announcements of the special transmission were prepared and broadcast to the nation. And just in case something went wrong with the BBC link-up, Hoek got an okay for Dutch Radio's own shortwave receiving station to stand by for a pickup of the Kennedy address.

Dutch Shared
When the President began to speak, millions of Dutch listeners shared the grim news with their American allies. "Reception was excellent," Hoek recalls. "We did not interrupt Kennedy for any translation while he was speaking. Three-quarters of the Dutch people understand English. Immediately after the President finished speaking in Dutch, followed by a commentary from our New York correspondent, Floris Cantie. By 12:45 a.m., the special transmission was finished."

In his boarding house room, 28-year-old Simon Deckers flicked off his radio and went to bed wondering what the next day would bring. As a newspaper reporter, one thing Deckers knew. It would be a busy day. "For myself," he said later, "I felt Kennedy had decided on the right thing. The U.S. would not be made to allow that rocket base to stay on their doorstep."

Elly De Gauw, housewife, 33 years old, didn't hear the news until the next morning, over the radio while preparing breakfast. "I was frightened," she said. "I thought maybe Kennedy went too far. The Americans had to do something, I think. But was that the way?"

When she went shopping that morning, Elly De Gauw bought a number of extra food items. "You know," she said, "things in cans that can be stored. Maybe we will need it."

Johannes De Heer, 45, learned the news when he bought a newspaper on the way to his mechanic's job. "A very serious thing," he told fellow workers, and they agreed. "But I guess Kennedy knows what he is doing. Anyway, we've got to be with him - all the way."

On television that evening Dr. Lou De Jong, director of the Dutch National Institute for War Documentation and a noted commentator on foreign affairs, discussed the Kennedy move. "President Kennedy," he said, "has taken the risk of war. In my opinion, he did so rightly. As early as Sept. 13th the President drew - in words only - a clear line for the Russians on Cuba. The Russians have exceeded that line. Now Kennedy has drawn the line with the United States Navy and Air Force. It is to be hoped the Russians will realize they went too far."

The night before it wasn't only broadcaster Gerard Hoek who had been busy. In the offices of Het Vrije Volk (The Free People), Holland's largest newspaper, Foreign Edi-

Parks' Personnel Is Suitably Named

Austin, Tex. (UPI) - The personnel directory of the Texas State Parks board lists some names that sound very much like what someone would find in a park or campsite.

There are a Bone, Burr and Glass in the directory. Although deer hunting is prohibited in state parks, the directory also includes a Buck and a Hunt.

tor Piet Van Den Ende, started at a full page of copy he had prepared for the first edition. It told of the buildup of tension in Washington, and the speculation on what portended. Now that President Kennedy was to speak at midnight, this obviously would be outdated before it could reach the newsstands.

"I didn't know what the President was going to say or what the United States was planning to do," said the 29-year-old editor. "But the rumors made it plain it would be something big."

Van Den Ende's problem was solved when the paper's

news agency ticker began to pump out, urgently, a "hold-for-release" advance report on the Kennedy speech 20 minutes before the President was to start speaking.

"It was a narrow squeak," Van Den Ende remembers. "As fast as I could I wrote my first summary of the speech - and got under the deadline. By 1:15 a.m., the first copies of Het Vrije Volk were on the newsstands at Amsterdam's main railway station with the story."

"Here in the office," Van Den Ende commented, "there was quite honestly a feeling of relief when the President

had finished talking. 'Thank goodness,' we said to each other. 'It is only a blockade, not war.' Second thoughts came later - we knew that such a blockade, too, could bring disaster."

In all Holland's newspaper offices Tuesday was a busy day. Most newspapers prepared special editions. Three p.m. - the time the Kennedy proclamation said the blockade would begin - became a new crisis hour.

Expected Clash
"In our office," Van Den Ende said, "editors and reporters alike crowded around the teletype machines. Some

of us expected word at any moment of an armed clash in the Caribbean. Many wondered if the day would bring the first shots of World War III."

In Parliament that afternoon, Prime Minister Jan De Quay refused to answer questions regarding the United States action. He had not, he said, yet received the official text of the Kennedy proclamation.

The independent newspaper Het Parool commented in its editorial columns that the Prime Minister might have listened to the radio for what the President said. It was proof, editorialized Het Pa-

rool, of the government's incompetence at perhaps the most critical moment since World War II.

Het Parool, which came into being during that last war as an underground newspaper in occupied Holland, was not reluctant about stating its own position.

"In their hour of resolve," the newspaper said, "the U.S. President and the U.S. people are more encouraging than discouraging."

Felt the Same
Most Dutch newspapers felt much the same. De Volkskrant, Roman Catholic daily newspaper, said: "The latest developments in the Caribbean had brought on an intolerable situation for the United States and ourselves."

It is necessary to range ourselves on the side of the United States."

No newspaper, no radio or television commentator, asked "What has Cuba to do with us?" There were some minor anti-American demonstrations in Amsterdam, and at The Hague. Most observers agreed they were almost entirely Communist-sponsored and they involved not more than 100 or so demonstrators, largely young people.

Worry? Yes. Anxiety? Yes. But Hollanders did not panic. "Food hoarding has not begun so far as we can tell," said Albert Heijn, a supermarket executive. "There was, perhaps, a small increase in the purchase of durable food-stuffs. But nothing approach-

ing panic buying."

Perhaps as good an illustration as any of the take-it-in-stride reaction of the Dutch people in this new period of potential peril was given by Leo Pam, 57-year-old editor of the newspaper Het Parool where he has worked since 1945.

"I am in charge of the letters to the editor page," he said. "This is a fairly reliable barometer of what people are worrying most about. In the first week after America began its Cuban blockade only ten per cent of the mail dealt with the crisis. Most people were writing about the same thing they had been writing to us about the week before - the rabies epidemic in Holland and what to do about it."

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By CLAY R. POLLAN

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1-15-26-37	2-16-27-38	3-17-28-39	4-18-29-40	5-19-30-41	6-20-31-42	7-21-32-43	8-22-33-44	9-23-34-45	10-24-35-46	11-25-36-47	12-26-37-48
1-27-38-49	2-28-39-50	3-29-40-51	4-30-41-52	5-31-42-53	6-1-43-54	7-2-44-55	8-3-45-56	9-4-46-57	10-5-47-58	11-6-48-59	12-7-49-60

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