

Soviet Endorsement Of US Trusteeship For Pacific Islands Poses Question

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Russia's out-of-the-blue endorsement of United States trusteeship over Pacific islands once ruled by Japan provided an unexpected new twist today to Soviet-American relations.

Moscow's note saying Russia deems it entirely fair for United States to keep control of the 623-odd islands left diplomatic authorities guessing whether there might be more behind the move than meets the eye.

They hoped it forecasts improved prospects for a European peace settlement at next month's Moscow conference of the Big Four foreign ministers. But be-

cause of the almost unbroken series of recent disagreements between Washington and Moscow they privately were wary of a possible diplomatic maneuver.

Secretary of State Marshall kept his own counsel in announcing the Soviet action yesterday. He declined comment on a reporter's suggestion that Russia might be trying to set a precedent to justify her own postwar land acquisitions.

Tokyo dispatches today, however, mentioned immediate but unofficial suspicions that the Soviet Union might be trying to bargain for extended influence in east Asia.

The general inclination on Capitol Hill appeared to be to accept the Kremlin's gesture at its face value.

Senator Wiley (R-Wis.), a member of the foreign relations committee, told reporters: "I think Russia's approval is a good omen for future collaboration between the two greatest nations of the world. It will mean the brushing aside of a lot of superficial misunderstandings."

Senator Hickenlooper, also a member of the committee, commented: "I am glad that Russia has agreed to a policy and principle entirely justified by the facts and the sacrifices we made in bringing the war in the Pacific to a successful conclusion."

Thompson Is Much Better

Bus Thompson, Klamath Falls pilot, who survived the Sunday afternoon crash which snuffed out the lives of Tex Rankin and two Klamath Falls businessmen, Jack Elle and Cy Wallan, was reported definitely improving at Hillside hospital today.

Thompson's attending physician said this morning that the concussion was gone, Thompson is fully conscious and has been advised of the death of his three companions. The former "Hump" flyer has no internal injuries but does have a compound fracture of the right forearm, fracture and crushing injury of the left wrist and hand and miscellaneous bruises and cuts.

Final rites for Wallan and Elle were held this afternoon at the Elks temple. Earlier this morning a requiem high mass was said at Sacred Heart church for Elle. Services for Tex Rankin, world famous flyer who was at the controls of the Republic Seabee when it crashed into a LaVerne street garden plot, will be held Thursday at 2 p. m. in Tulare, Calif., his home.

Medford Millman Drowns In Pond

MEDFORD, Feb. 26 (AP)—The third sawmill fatality in Jackson county this year was reported in the drowning yesterday of Lloyd Stewart at the Tiller mill pond near Trail.

A brother of the drowned man, Roy Stewart, pulled the body from the pond a half hour after the accident.

\$25,000 In Evans Estate

Sydney B. Evans, 71, one of the five victims of the Evans apartment house fire and part owner of the building, died intestate and left an estate valued at not over \$25,000 in real and personal property, a probate filing reveals.

Lora Evans, his widow, has been appointed administrator of the estate.

Heirs are listed as Lora Evans; a daughter, Joy M. Rolph, and two sons, Percy L. Evans and Joseph F. Evans.

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