

Truman Speech Confronts US With Question As To Continuing Disarmament

WASHINGTON, March 13 (AP)—President Truman's newly enunciated foreign policy confronted the United States today with the problem of deciding quickly whether to continue reducing its armed strength.

The address carried no implication that an armed clash is expected or contemplated. However, the armed forces are maintained for the support of foreign policy in time of peace.

At the war and navy departments no one was prepared to say immediately what impact any new foreign commitments might have on the planned size of the armed services. It was pointed out, nevertheless, that a critical time element is involved in at least two phases of this general question:

1—Should the planned average strength for the year beginning next July 1 of 1,070,000 for the army and 571,000 for the navy be carried out or should the rate of reduction be checked to stabilize the armed services at a higher manpower figure?

2—In this case, will congress and the White House proceed with Mr. Truman's recommendation of March 3 that selective service be not renewed upon its expiration date of March 31?

The nation's military forces are of definitely modest proportions in the area where the new foreign policy focuses most sharply, the Mediterranean.

On the ground that until they receive a directive from the president they will not know the nature or extent of assistance that might be given Greece and Turkey, war department officials declined to discuss publicly the terms of Mr. Truman's suggestions.

Pending further clarification by Mr. Truman, his recommendation for "instruction and training of selected Greek and Turkish personnel" is assumed to suggest a practice long followed by the army in the case of some Latin American and other nations. Under that practice, selected army and air officers of other nations come to the United States for attendance at army schools and experience in field operations of our army to familiarize themselves with American equipment and operations.

Blasts Rock American Ship

GENOA, March 13 (AP)—Two heavy explosions aboard the American motorship Edmund Fanning at her dock here today were reported to have killed one man and injured 10 of her crew of 60 and left her in flames.

The prow of the vessel was badly damaged. There was no immediate explanation of the blasts.

(Lloyd's register of shipping lists the Edmund Fanning as a 7176-ton vessel built in 1943 and registered out of Los Angeles).

The dead man was identified officially as Mike Monical, a native of Hoboken, N. J. Among the injured was one American, Melvin Bringsfield, 22, who sustained a spinal injury.

Committee Tables Slot Machine Tax

SALEM, March 13 (AP)—The house assessment and taxation committee today tabled a proposal to levy a 30 per cent tax on gross receipts of slot machines, pinball games and punch-boards, regardless of their illegality.

The bill, by Rep. Giles L. French, Moro, would give 60 per cent of the revenue to the state general fund, and 40 per cent to counties and cities.

Mexican Stocking Factories To Close

MEXICO CITY, March 13 (AP)—Mexican stocking factories have petitioned the federal labor board for permission to close temporarily because the market is saturated.

The petitioners said the local factories were unable to compete with imported stockings which with local production have tended to force the price down.

Hogue Attends Cessna Conference

Cliff Hogue, of Cliff Hogue Air Service, was in Portland Tuesday to attend the annual meeting of Cessna airplane dealers of Oregon and southern Washington. New convenience, safety and economy features of Cessna aircraft: a new, convenient time-payment plan, and maximum coordination of service to Cessna owners were outlined by the Roy Burnett Motors organization, Cessna distributors, Hogue said.

Hogue flew a Cessna on the trip and reported flying time to Portland of two hours and thirty-seven minutes.

Red Refinery Shipment Off

WASHINGTON, March 13 (AP)—Chairman Taber (R-N.Y.) said today the house appropriations committee has rejected a state department request for authority to send \$25,000,000 worth of oil refining equipment to Russia.

The senate appropriations committee turned down the request earlier.

"We can't do such a thing; that's appeasement," Taber told reporters.

The chairman said the equipment, mostly pipelines, was obtained for shipment to Russia under lend-lease agreement but had not been transported prior to last December 31.

A provision in a 1946 lend-lease appropriation prohibited use of any administrative funds for shipments after that date. Taber said the state department asked authority to complete the transaction anyway.

Hawaii Hearing Held Today

WASHINGTON, March 13 (AP)—The house public lands committee called final witnesses today in its week-long hearing on Hawaiian statehood, with the public land ownership issue still unsettled.

Hawaii wants to own its 1,600,000 acres of public domain upon admission to the union. The interior department has insisted upon federal ownership of the public domain, just as in 17 western states.

Hawaiian spokesmen and interior department officials conferred nearly two hours privately and came to no agreement.

"We did not recede from our position that Hawaiian ownership of the public lands would be the best interest of Hawaii," said Delegate Farrington (R-Hawaii). "However, we consider achieving statehood the paramount issue and will be willing to let the committee decide the land question."

Angell Backs Aid To Greece

WASHINGTON, March 13 (AP)—Rep. Angell (R-Ore.) said today the question of relief for Greece demands "immediate action."

"We are facing a crisis more serious than any that has confronted us since Pearl Harbor," Angell said in a statement.

Unless the United States helps Greece its present government will fall, he said, and a communist regime will take over. "The result of such a move," he continued, "will give Soviet Russia dominance in southeastern Europe, which will result in control of the Dardanelles and eventually Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean with full sway over the whole Middle East."

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