

Libya Now Independent

BENGHASI, Libya, (U. S. —) Libya's pro-Western king, Mohammed Idris El Senussi, today proclaimed the independence of his realm, a former Italian colony and now an impoverished nation. It is officially rated the poorest on earth but is strategically important in the western powers' defense plans.

"Libya has become an independent and sovereign nation," said the 72-year-old desert warrior and Moslem puritan who for 30 years fought to drive Italy out. The Italians lost the colony in 1943.

Under the Italian peace treaty, Libya's future was decided by the United Nations assembly. The independence proclamation came after two years of preparation under the U. N. commissioner-general for Libya, Adrian Pelt, of Holland.

An King Idris I, issued his proclamation, plans were landing and taking off at Wheelus Field, big U. S. air force base outside Tripoli.

The U. S., Britain, which normally has a reinforced brigade stationed here, and France, which keeps a small detachment in the Fezzan oasis, all are expected to sign treaties with the United Kingdom of Libya immediately granting them permission to maintain troops in that land.

In return, the Western nations will pour nearly 10 millions dollars of indirect aid into Libya during the first year of independence.

Mine Foreman Wins Big Prize

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (U. S. —) A young mine foreman and his family will have a much larger Christmas than was anticipated.

A check for \$10,000 was presented to Marvin E. Brown by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., for a gadget he invented to reduce by two-thirds the time required to move heavy coal-handling machinery.

The check, handed him last week by TCI President A. V. Weibel, was the largest award ever made under the company's suggestion plan.

Brown, given the award without previous warning, was dumbfounded. He said he would use the money to build a larger home for his wife and three children.

The TCI announcement didn't describe the gadget Brown invented by using scrap metals worth \$6.50 but said it enables workers to shift heavy conveyor pans underground without removing mine props.

YONKERS, N. Y. (U. S. —) Bruno O. Boscamp steered his car over a cardboard box in the street yesterday so the wheels wouldn't smash it. Lucky he did. Screams came from the box inside. Boscamp found two small boys who had used the box as a toboggan. Vincent Mavilla, 8, suffered only minor bruises and 9-year-old Peter Richards wasn't hurt a bit. But they were mighty scared youngsters.

Government Gift Policy in Some Cases Foolish, in Others Near Sheer Idiocy

By DOUGLAS LARSEN

WASHINGTON, (NEA) — According to the latest government regulations, before Santa can visit any government employee this Christmas he has to have clearances from two inter-departmental committees, in triplicate, counter-signed by four cabinet members, and stamped by the chaplain of the senate.

That's how bad things have gotten in the government as a result of all the influence scandals. The bureaucrats who write the regulations for the other bureaucrats are thin-skinned about such things.

One firm that does a lot of business with Uncle Sam has now cautioned its representatives to be careful about giving the season's greetings to any government officials. The firm got burned when it tried to handle its Christmas greetings to all government contacts the same way it has for the past five years.

No Xmas Gift -- Too Much Fear

PIKESVILLE, Md. (U. S. —) Friends of the Thompson Trading Corporation are getting this letter instead of a Christmas fruit basket this year.

"Our lawyers say that gifts of any sort, however small, should not be given to anyone connected with government contracts."

"It is all a total loss as far as we can see."

"We don't get the fun of being a small part of your Christmas day."

"You don't get the basket."

"And the lawyers get more for telling us not to give you a basket than the basket would have cost."

"We never joined the 'mix-of-the-month' club. We doubt, however, that a little fruit ever influenced anybody. The chances are we had something else besides an apple."

The letter was signed by Robert Thompson, who explained most of his firm's work was on government contracts.

The practice was to send a little memo pad that costs only a few cents, with a greeting and the company's name on it. A few days after the pads were sent this year they began coming back, some with pretty nasty letters for the record.

Another company has had most of its calendars returned from government officials who said they didn't feel they could accept such gratuities in view of the fact.

WIFE'S GIFTS
Still another army procurement officer isn't sure he can accept any Christmas presents from his wife. She is a stenographer for the Washington office of a firm that has some defense contracts.

At defense production administration they are taking even more drastic steps to keep the Christmas spirit above reproach. The report is that all gift-wrapped packages sent to any employee in the agency through the official mails will be confiscated and turned over to charity.

That raised the question of what to do with any whiskey which might be sent to DPA officials as presents. It wouldn't look good for Uncle Sam to be donating intoxicating beverages to the needy. So they've decided to hold all bottles until the White House can give them a decision.

The Christmas present ban is the culmination of the effect of the growing number of government scandals. The new rules say flatly that no procurement officer can accept any kind of favor or gift whatsoever from a representative of a contracting firm. This has led to some silly and embarrassing situations for the officers who do the military buying.

A colonel happened to be visiting an eastern defense plant, checking on production. That evening the plant manager took him to the local country club for dinner with some other friends. The check for the evening was to go on the plant manager's monthly club bill.

DUTCH TREAT
When he realized that night that he was accepting a favor from a company doing business with the Pentagon, the colonel was forced to ask for an individual bill, pay it in cash and get a receipt. It

took about an hour for the club waiter to separate what the colonel had eaten and drunk from the intake of the others, and prepare a separate bill.

It's the same with taxicabs, now. If an officer happens to ride any place with a contractor's representative, he is supposed to figure out to the last cent what his share is and pay it.

In the navy they have a slightly relaxed rule about procurement officers accepting dinners and lunches. It says that an officer can accept any kind of entertainment as long as he repays it—out of his own pocket—some time later to the navy company representative. The navy has always been a little more refined in such matters.

The unfortunate thing about the strict rules for officers is that when they are out of town the maximum expenses they get back is nine dollars a day. That hardly pays for a good hotel room.

In some cases the situation has become downright idiotic. A procurement officer and a former fra-

ternally brother who represents a defense contractor here are next door neighbors and good friends. Since the new rules have gone into effect the officer has had to instruct his wife to stop borrowing eggs from the wife of the contractor's representative for fear of being hauled before a congressional committee.

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Christmas is for everyone!

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MENS HAND LAUNDRY

Seasons Greetings

from our OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, and STAFF

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION

540 Main Klamath Falls, Ore.

Christmas Joy to You

The truest joy of Christmas is not found in receiving but in giving. So this greeting is sent with a hope that God's promise of Joy and Love, of Peace and Good Will -- will be yours this Holiday Season.

Baubles Used To Smuggle Nylons

LONDON, (U. S. —) American nylons which cannot be bought here for any price are being smuggled into Britain inside colored glass ball Christmas decorations, postal officials said today.

The contraband was discovered in the sorting office when a parcel of decorations mailed from the United States dropped and burst open. A pair of nylons was found inside each of the six balls in the package.

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