

New Austria Peace Plan Shaped for Russ Study

By RICHARD O'REGAN
 VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The United States, Britain and France are examining new proposals to Russia for a peace treaty with Austria.

This move possibly may be designed to get a clear idea whether the Kremlin intends to start a war in Europe.

The announcement of the three Western powers was the first step toward proposing to Russia that the four powers sign an abbreviated treaty that would pull all foreign troops out of Austria and

give the country its freedom. Prolonged negotiations on a treaty were broken off in London 14 months ago.

Thursday's declaration sought to pin down blame for the present stalemate and called on Moscow to honor a 1943 agreement which pledged a free and independent Austria.

The "new proposals" being examined were not further identified in Washington. But informed diplomatic officials have indicated they involve a Western proposal for an abbreviated treaty.

The Russians would have three choices to make.

1. They could accept the proposal. This would be a far-reaching indication of peace.
2. They could reject the proposal, but nevertheless keep the six-year talks on a complete treaty going. In this case the West would not worry. Western diplomats here figure this would mean Russia's immediate intentions in Europe, at

least, are peaceful.

3. They could reject the proposals and split tiny Austria between East and West, as has been done in Germany.

Diplomats here say this would be a clear indication that the Kremlin is ready for war.

They reason thus: The Russians as a matter of local policy do not want to see Austria split.

A divided Austria would have no political value to the Russians. Economically, a decapitated Austria would leave the Eastern part without electric power to operate its factories.

Militarily, Russia would gain no advantage since she already has 44,000 troops in her Eastern zone as a springboard.

Smaller contingents of American, British and French forces are stationed in Austria.

Therefore, if the Russians force partition it is part of an overall policy in which the Russians are ready to risk conflict.

Court OK's Death For Assassin

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Court of Appeals Thursday unanimously upheld the conviction and death sentence of Oscar Collazo, Puerto Rican fanatic who tried to assassinate President Truman 18 months ago.

Collazo's Puerto Rican companion and a White House guard were killed during a furious gun battle fought on the steps of Blair House, temporary home of the President at the time of the shooting on Nov. 1, 1950.

The 37-year-old Collazo was charged with murder although it was determined that the bullet that killed White House Guard Leslie Coffelt came from the gun of Grisello Torresola, Collazo's companion.

Torresola was shot to death when Presidential guards opened fire on the Puerto Ricans. Collazo was wounded during the assault. So were two other White House guards.

The law provides that every member of a group convicted of committing a felony that results in murder is subject to a charge of first degree murder and punishable by death.

Collazo's court-appointed attorney appealed the conviction imposed in district court by contending there were a number of errors in the handling of the trial.

The three-judge Court of Appeals said it found no error in the trial and noted "in accordance with our custom in capital cases, we have examined the entire record to ascertain whether in our view errors were made which were not called to our attention by counsel for the appellant."

"We found none," the Appeals Court said. "The judgment of the district court must be affirmed."

The opinion was handed down by Judges Pinbrough Stone, E. Barrett Prettyman and Charles Fahy.

Collazo still has two chances to escape the electric chair. The supreme court could reverse the conviction or Mr. Truman could commute the sentence.

Vet's Mailbag

Veterans who sell their homes and let the purchasers assume the 4 percent G.I. loans remain personally responsible for the payment of the loan, according to the Veterans Administration.

The VA has cautioned World War II veterans not to sell their property without making certain that their interests are protected. The best way to do that, the VA said, is to have the purchaser pay cash or arrange a loan in his name.

The VA pointed out that property is more easily sold with the favorable 4 percent G.I. mortgage remaining in effect—a factor that should influence the selling price.

However, a veteran selling his property with the G.I. loan intact runs the risk of later having to pay all or part of the debt resulting from a default by the new owner.

Should the new owner of the property fail to keep up the mortgage payments, the holder of the G.I. mortgage can foreclose.

When the proceeds of the sale resulting from the foreclosure do not cover the amount of the G.I. loan outstanding, the difference may remain a debt against the veteran. The VA has to pay the holder of the mortgage for the guaranteed portion of the debt.

The veteran will then owe the government the net amount of that payment, plus interest.

Veterans faced with the problem of foreclosure on property they have sold with the G.I. mortgage in effect can obtain assistance and advice from their nearest VA regional office.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

A. I was disabled a couple of months ago, while training in an Army camp in the United States. Would I be eligible for vocational training since I was disabled during the Korean hostilities, even though I didn't get my disability in the Korean fighting?

A. Yes, you may be eligible if you meet all the other requirements of the law—such as a compensable service-connected disability, a need for training to overcome your handicap, and an other-than-dishonorable discharge. The disability may have occurred anywhere in the world.

MISSOURI MULES GET BACKING

MANILA (AP) The Philippines is going to organize a cavalry squadron—mounted on mules.

It's Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay's newest idea for chasing Huk rebels to their hill hide-outs.

Magsaysay plans to import the mules from Australia. Old-timers say he is going the wrong way. The Australian breed, they say, can't match the pugnacity of a Missouri mule.

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Radio, Video Trusts Eyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal grand jury in New York city is making an anti-trust inquiry into the radio and television manufacturing field.

This was confirmed Thursday by the Justice Department in response to inquiries. It refused to give any details.

The disclosure followed reports that the Department had begun an investigation to determine whether there was any conspiracy among television-receiver manufacturers in relation to the long fight over color television.

Officials acknowledged that subpoenas have been served on some major set-makers.

California Has Big Surplus Fund

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A state general fund surplus in excess of \$140 million was forecast by State Controller Thomas H. Kuebel Thursday.

Accelerated tax revenues, he said, prompted revision of his estimate last December that the state would have a minimum surplus of \$15 million at the end of the bookkeeping year, June 30.

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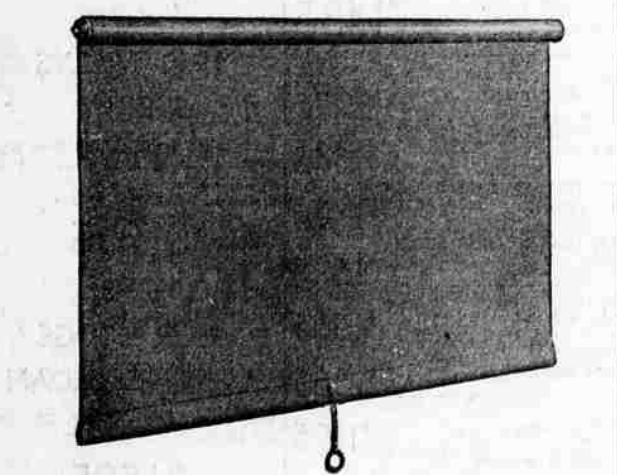
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