

Off-The-Record Truce Talks Suggested By Allies To Break Lock

By ROBERT B. TUCKMAN
MUNSAN, Korea (AP)—The U.N. Command Thursday night in effect suggested the record truce negotiations to try to break the long deadlock over exchanging war prisoners in Korea.

An official allied spokesman said the U.N. would "give consideration" to secret negotiations with only the final agreement—or lack of one—announced. There would be no daily briefings of news correspondents.

This development came only a few hours after staff officers agreed on 10 ports of entry through which troops and supplies would be funneled into Korea during an armistice.

Settlement of the ports of entry

dispute left three major issues: 1—Voluntary repatriation. The Allies insist that prisoners be allowed to accept or reject repatriation. The Reds want back all U.N. held prisoners.

2—The Allied demand for a ban on military airfield construction.

3—Communist nomination of Russia to a neutral inspection commission.

Brig. Gen. William P. Nuckels, official U.N. spokesman, said off the record prisoner exchange negotiations would permit staff officers to talk freely without having their daily arguments reported.

He emphasized there was no thought of a secret clause in the armistice.

Col. Andrew J. Kinney said it

probably would take a day or two to iron out "mechanical details" on the ports of entry agreement.

The biggest detail is fixing the exact area in which neutral inspection teams will operate.

During an armistice each side would send troops and supplies into Korea through the 10 designated ports of entry—five on either side of the battle line.

The Communist ports would be Sinuiju and Manpojin on the Yalu River border with Manchuria, the east coast seaports of Chongjin and

Hungnam, and Sinanju, about midway between the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and the Manchurian boundary.

In South Korea the ports of entry would be Pusan on the southeast coast; Kungnung, an east coast seaport; Kunson and Incheon, the seaport for Seoul, on the west coast; and Taegu, an air base in Southeast Korea.

The U.N. command gave up its demand that Pyongyang be designated a Communist port of entry and agreed to substitute Sinuiju. The Reds agreed to let the Allies use Taegu rather than Suwon, the Communists' original choice.

Late Again, And More Expensive

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—More than a year ago Norman Janke quit his job at the Indianapolis Postoffice and moved to Florida. On his way south he mailed a penny postcard to his father, E. H. Janke.

The card arrived just the other day. It wasn't the first time the Postoffice had delivered a card more than a year late, but the Postoffice charged the elder Janke one cent postage due on this one.

The postcard rate went up to two cents a few months ago.

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Engineer Tells Of Waste Of Millions Of Dollars In Africa Air Base Job

WASHINGTON (AP)—An engineer who was fired from his job on construction of huge, secret U.S. air bases in North Africa, told Senate investigators Wednesday that the work "should be cut off tomorrow" to stop the waste of millions of dollars.

The advice came from John W. Leahy, who testified he was fired as acting chief engineer on the

projects because he refused to approve unusual handling of the purchase of materials for hangar construction.

Sen. Johnson (D-Tex.), presiding at an investigation of the air base program by the Senate Preparedness subcommittee, asked Leahy whether he was contending that Atlas Constructors, handling the 300 million dollar program, are using the need for speed on the job "as a red herring to justify wasteful practices."

"Yes, sir, I do," Leahy said. Johnson asked whether the taxpayers would save "if that project were closed down right away" and new contracts let.

"In my opinion, that contract should be terminated tomorrow," Leahy replied.

"I frankly feel it should be cut off tomorrow. It should not be left another day."

He said "any number of contractors" would take it over, and do a "better job" at far less cost. Johnson said Tuesday it appeared taxpayers would have to pay "millions of dollars" to correct mistakes of rush contractors.

Water Creeps Near Village

TIGNES, France (AP)—The lake-waters behind a big hydroelectric dam crept closer to Tignes Thursday and most of the 400 villagers packed their belongings, concealing their fight for more compensation for their homes was a lost cause.

The villagers had sworn to stay until they were removed forcibly or were granted more than four times the two million dollars compensation offered by the government. Their resistance collapsed Wednesday night. The rising waters soon will cover the village.

Resistance was beaten by a government cold shoulder. Giving up, Acting Mayor Justin Raymond said the villagers could not find any government official to accept their complaints.

The villagers are due to be moved out during the next month. The lake which soon will cover their homes will provide power for a large section of Southeastern France.

Electrical Buildup Seen

PRINEVILLE (AP)—Electrical service may be expanded to more farmers in Central Oregon in the coming year.

Wallace Bird, secretary of an AFL Carpenters Union, said he had received word that funds for the extension have been placed in the federal budget.

He said Senator Gordon (R-Ore) sent word that the Budget Bureau had agreed to give \$250,000 to the Bonneville Power Administration for a Redmond substation.

The substation would make power available to a rural electrification district that already has been granted \$500,000 to extend power service in the Lapine, Gilchrist, Chemult, Silver Lake and Fort Rock area, Bird said.

The AFL union has been backing the project.

Treaty Eyed In Water Use

VICTORIA, B.C. (AP)—A treaty more than 100 years old launched debate in the provincial Legislature Wednesday night on the water rights of British Columbians in the Columbia River.

C.C.F. Leader Harold Winch called on the government to protect the rights of the Province's people under the terms of an 1846 treaty between the United States and Great Britain.

The treaty has never been revoked and gives residents west of the Canadian Rockies free access over any tributary or the Columbia to the ocean, just as though they were citizens of the United States.

The treaty will be broken, Mr. Winch claimed, by the damming of the Columbia at Libby, Mont., and wanted to know what the government will do about it.

Lands Minister E. T. Kenney replied that B.C., although never given its full rights under the treaty, will make sure the Province doesn't suffer through the Libby Dam.

He said B.C. will insist on downstream benefits to the International Joint Commission, and will also demand sufficient reimbursement for any roads, lands, or other areas flooded by the dam.

WAR DEAD
WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department Thursday identified 45 more battle casualties in Korea in a new list (No. 524) which reported 11 killed, 33 wounded and one injured.

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BIRMINGHAM, Eng. (AP)—Mrs. Alice Jones told the divorce court Thursday her husband secretly polished the soles of her shoes in the hope she would fall and hurt herself.

"Absolute nonsense," said the judge, and denied her request for divorce.

BUDGET BOOSTERS
Buttermilk, cottage cheese and non-fat dry milk solids will be plentiful and presumably lower-priced during March, the Department of Agriculture reports.

Indoor plants do better during dark winter days if placed under an electric light every evening.

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