

Pilots and Commanders To Decide Action In Event of Red Attacks On U.S. Planes

By ELTON C. FAY
 WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force is leaving to its pilots and overseas commanders the decision of what to do if Soviet fighters again attack American planes flying peaceable missions over non-Hussan territory.

A USAF spokesman made it plain today, in answer to questions, that the crews of a plane, like the B29 shot down by Russian fighters over Japanese waters earlier this

month, has the right to fire back in self-defense.

However, the American plane downed by Soviet gunfire Oct. 7 could not have fired back because it wasn't prepared for shooting. Its guns were "tied down" during the routine training flight to the Northern tip of Hokkaido.

Another answer by the spokesman indicated the Air Force now is ready to cope with any such

attacks by Soviet fighters by assigning a fighter-escort when needed. The spokesman said, "Day-to-day tactical considerations dictate whether escort is provided."

This double-barreled self-defense program—apparent blanket authority for pilots' crews to protect themselves and for commanders to assign fighter escort when needed—seems directly related to the formal note sent to Russia by the State Department Oct. 17.

That note, protesting the Oct. 7 incident and demanding compensation for the loss of the B29 and the eight men aboard, urged the Government seriously to consider the grave consequences which can flow from its reckless practice, if persisted in, of attacking without provocation the aircraft of other states.

Apparently one grave consequence could be the failure of Russian fighters to return to base after an attack on American aircraft.

After World War II it became Air Force practice to send out unescorted planes on routine weather surveys and similar missions in Far East and European areas near Soviet-controlled territory.

The spokesman said, "In no case do these routine scheduled flights impinge on territory of other nations unless by specific prior agreement."

Intrequent day B29 combat reconnaissance flights over North Korea may be provided fighter escort for periods in which enemy fighter attacks could be launched.

The routine flight of the B29 lost over Hokkaido, Japanese territory, was unescorted, and therefore was noncombat.

"Routine noncombat flights by B29s are generally performed under visual conditions to insure that there is no intentional border violation."

During the last two years Soviet interceptor planes have made a number of deadly or alarmingly close attacks on United States aircraft. The first serious incident occurred in 1950, shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, when Red planes shot down an American Navy plane over international waters in the Baltic Sea.

From time to time, Soviet fighters, by closing in on and firing near misses, have harassed U.S. aircraft flying the air corridor from Western Europe to Berlin.

Puerto Rican Politicians Campaign On U.S. Issues

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's political campaign is going full blast with expenses in government and the situation in Korea two of the main issues as the island votes for the first time Nov. 4 under the new commonwealth Constitution.

A more liberal representation in the Legislature is guaranteed constitutionally for the minority parties.

Two of the opposition parties have made reference to the Puerto Rican soldiers fighting in Korea and the large number of casualties reported. Gov. Munoz Marin, also president of the majority Popular party, has taken hot issue with their arguments.

Main change in the elections this year, brought forth by the commonwealth, is the increased number of legislators who will be elected. The Organic Act, the island's equivalent to a constitution before July 25 of this year, provided for a House of Representatives of 39 members and a Senate of 19 members. This year the island will be voting for 51 representatives and 27 senators.

Currently, there are only two representatives and one senator from the opposition. Under the new Constitution, no party will have such a complete control of the

Legislature whenever one party gets more than two-thirds of the members in either house, the electoral system provides for election of additional candidates of the minority parties, split according to their total votes.

The highest number of voters ever registered was achieved for this year's vote with a total of 822,030.

Here is a resume of party issues:

Statehood party — Wants Puerto Rico to become a state of the union. As a state, the island could manufacture all of its sugar crop. Spokesmen charge the administration with paying exceedingly high salaries to top men in government, thus forcing an increased tax burden on the people.

Independence party — Wants Puerto Rico to get full independence. Gilberto Concepcion de Gracia, party president, in radio speeches has insisted the island would have a real democracy only when independent.

Popular party — The government party since 1940 stands mainly on its 12-year history of promises which have been fulfilled, as the records show. Party spokesmen, including Gov. Munoz, call attention to the higher standard of living reached in the last 12 years and the great advances made in setting medical aid, public schooling, social aid and other advantages to the people.

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Eichelberger Supports Ike

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, a veteran of Far East fighting, said Monday he believes South Korea could assume full control of the front lines within 1 1/2 to two years.

Eichelberger, now 66 and retired, organized and led the Eighth Army in its World War II sweep from the Philippines to Japan.

In an interview in U. S. News and World report, a news magazine, he was asked whether South Koreans could take over the front lines in Korea—a question raised during the presidential campaigns of Republican Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Democratic Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois.

"Much more quickly than we have been led to expect," Eichelberger replied and added:

"With another five or six trained Korean divisions they could practically be in entire control of the front lines within 1 year and a half to two years."

Eichelberger said General Eisenhower's recommendation, in an Oct. 2 speech, that South Koreans be trained to man their own front lines is militarily sound.

"The idea is not a new one," he said, "but I think the progress probably hasn't been as fast as it might have been. If General Eisenhower were elected, he could speed up the transition very rapidly."

The decision to defend Korea, Eichelberger said, "came as a surprise" because the thinking at the time was that the Communists would not launch an offensive.

If Korea had not been defended, he added, "we would have been in a helluva fix and so would Japan."

Children Have Extra Digits

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The six children of a Holly Springs, Ark., couple are to undergo surgery next week for removal of extra fingers and toes.

All six children of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Brown were born with six fingers and six toes.

Mrs. Brown, who also has extra digits on her hands and feet, said the biggest problem of 12 fingers and 12 toes is economic. She said everyone in the family has had to have extra width gloves and shoes—which can run into money.

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PRINCE ON TOUR

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (AP)—Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands left by plane Monday for a six weeks goodwill tour of Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

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KEITH O'HAIR, who operates O'Hair's Memorial Chapel funeral home, is the Republican candidate for coroner of Klamath County on the Nov. 4 ballot.

CASUALTY LIST

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Defense Department today identified 109 Korean War casualties in a new list (No. 679) that included 13 killed, 83 wounded, four missing and seven injured.

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SAFEWAY

'Bellwether' Counties Indicate GOP Win

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
 NEW YORK (AP)—It signs mean anything in those 11 counties which brag a bit about picking all the presidential winners since William McKinley in 1896, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower looks like the victor this time.

But some of the counties seem sure to have their reputations ruined a week from tomorrow.

Newspaper editors and correspondents who took part in a mid-October political survey for the Associated Press estimate that seven of the 11 might go Republican, four Democratic.

These are the "bellwether" or "weathervane" counties, scattered through eight states from coast to coast:

Crook County, Oregon, Albany and Laramie Counties, Wyoming, Jasper and Palo Alto Counties, Iowa; Vanderburgh County, Indiana; Belmont County, Ohio; Marion County, West Virginia; Fayette and Coos Counties, New Hampshire.

Newsmen sized them up this way in the AP survey:

Somebody's going to be wrong in Wyoming this year. Albany County has been on the winning side since 1892 and editors expect it to back Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower. Laramie County has been with the winner since 1896 and editors give Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson a narrow edge there.

New Hampshire's two barometer counties are considered likely to give Eisenhower "a very slight

edge." Editors see several factors favoring the GOP:

The Democratic plurality has been dropping in recent national elections. The vote may set a record this year. Wounds aren't entirely healed from the primary scrap between President Truman and Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee. Layoffs in mill regions are resented. Some Democrats are cool toward Truman campaign utterances.

Vanderburgh County, Ohio, in which Evansville is located, has been visited by both Eisenhower and Stevenson.

On the basis of a postcard poll, the Evansville Press estimates the county will lose 52 per cent of its vote to Eisenhower, 48 per cent to Stevenson.

Next door in Ohio, Belmont County looks like Stevenson territory. Coal and steel are the big industries.

A bit farther east, in Marion County, West Virginia, this is the word from C. E. Smith, veteran editor of the Fairmont Times, a staunch Democrat and Stevenson

supporter: "Marion County has proved an accurate political barometer."

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