

International Legal Opinion Backs Discharge of Disloyal UN Employees

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP) — The United Nations had high legal opinion today to back up firings by Secretary General Trygve Lie to weed out of the U.N. American Communists and those who won't say whether they have been Reds.

Lie's panel of three international jurists said in a 50-page opinion that under staff regulations and U. S. laws the secretary-general can and should:

1. Fire any U.N. staff employee who is an active member of the American Communist party.

2. Fire any employee accused of espionage, subversion or membership in an organization declared subversive who refuses to answer questions by a U. S. grand jury or Senate subcommittee on the grounds that his answer might incriminate him.

Either situation, the jurists said, is incompatible with being an international civil servant in the employ of the U.N.

The jurists are William de Witt Mitchell, New York lawyer and U. S. attorney general under President Hoover; Sir Edwin Herbert, leading London attorney prominent in banking and insurance circles, and Paul Veldekens, professor of law at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and president of the Belgian Supreme Court defense lawyers.

Their opinion was made public last night as the McCarran Senate subcommittee on internal security prepared to resume today its hearings in New York on communism in the U.N. A specialized agency of the world organization, the International Monetary Fund, was to be under scrutiny.

The trio's findings are not binding on Lie but are expected to have a strong bearing on future U.N. policy toward Communists on the staff. Lie withheld immediate comment.

The three lawyers said they were unanimous in their conclusions, reached in conferences during the past two weeks. These were some of their other findings:

No government can order the U.N. secretary general around. He does not have to appear before any group to answer questions. He must keep the records of the U.N. confidential.

The secretary general is responsible for his staff and its makeup. Any government that has charges against any employee should give the secretary general full information. The secretary general must act on whatever information he gets, with the aid of a confidential loyalty review board. If the information is not complete, the secretary general can't be criticized for his final action.

The secretary general can fire anybody he can prove has been engaged in activities disloyal to the host country—in this case, the U. S.—or thinks might be disloyal. And he should use that standard in hiring any new employees, the jurists found.

The U.N. will have to continue to employ Communists from Communist countries and the American public will have to be resigned to that fact. Loyalty to their regime is part of the qualification of employees hired from Communist countries on U.N. national staff quotas.

But such employees are resident in the U. S., are protected by as well as subject to U. S. laws, and must not act as guests in this country engage in any activity subversive to it. Non-Reds sent by the U.N. to Communist countries must conduct themselves the same way.

Lie asked the legal panel to make its study after a number of American members of the Secretariat were questioned by the McCarran subcommittee and members of the group attacked the U.N. for allegedly harboring U. S. Communists.

4 Killed In Lodge Fire

RIDGEWAY, Pa. (AP) — A young mother and her three children burned to death yesterday on the eve of the Pennsylvania deer season in a raging fire set off by an explosion in a two-room hunting lodge at nearby Sackett.

Killed were Mrs. Helen Mason, 27, of Meadville, Pa., her daughter Mary Jane, 7, and two sons, Charles Jr., 4, and John, 13 months.

The father, Charles Mason Sr., 35, was burned critically. Norman Keeler, 17, of Meadville, a cousin of Mrs. Mason's, suffered a slight face cut.

State police said the blast occurred when the father attempted to start a fire in the lodge's stove with kerosene.

ROYALTY DIES
BOMBAY, India (AP) — The father-in-law of the King of Afghanistan, His Royal Highness Sardar Ahmad Shah Khan, 63, died here today. He was en route to the United States to be treated for high blood pressure, from which he had been suffering in recent years.

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Vandals Mutilate Churches

TONKAWA, Okla. (AP) — A State Crime Bureau agent and Baptist minister agreed today they do not believe the group which broke into five churches last week and mutilated the interiors of some and burning others, was just a bunch of prankish youngsters.

Instead, they hinted it might be the work of a subversive group or possibly a deranged mind.

On the wall of one of the churches the penciled words "Go to hell" were scribbled grotesquely.

Ministers and aroused townspeople in this city of 3,643, aided by state authorities, mapped plans to nab the vandals in the event of another raid. Guards were placed in churches in this and neighboring cities.

"We've got to catch them," said Crime Bureau Agent Sid Wilson. "We want to save other churches in this area from the same treatment."

American flags, Bibles, and religious furniture appeared to be the prime targets of the vandals. The Rev. J. M. Gaskin of the Baptist Church theorized:

"The only motive, we believe, is a subversive action aimed primarily at the flag of the United States, the Bible and the church."
Father J. Robert Henshaw of the

Catholic Church, the most badly damaged of the five, revealed there was a fire two weeks ago under similar conditions. He said damage to his church from both fires would reach the \$5,000 mark.

Previous estimates put damage to all buildings at nearly \$3,000.

The Catholic and Methodist Churches were set ablaze Saturday, and while they burned, the interior of the Baptist Church was mutilated. Friday, the Christian and Presbyterian Churches received the same treatment, but no fires were set except to American flags on their staves.

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