

Truman Administration Declines To Make More Decisions on Korea War

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Truman administration apparently plans to make no further policy moves to solve the Korea situation. The next step, officials said today, will be up to President-elect Eisenhower.

Officials said today it will be up to the incoming regime to make any fundamental changes such as prosecuting the war beyond its present limits or putting additional economic or military pressures on Communist China.

The Truman administration is said to feel no new policy moves are advisable before Eisenhower's inauguration seven weeks away.

Two reasons are advanced:

1. Any large undertaking could hardly be completed before Jan. 20, thus committing the new administration to deal with a program it may not approve.

2. The United Nations' fight in Korea is an Allied fight, requiring Allied co-operation in any policy development. Before agreeing to a new project, it is said, the U. N. Allies would want to know how the Eisenhower administration feels about it.

Korean issues are regarded by authorities here as topping the list of foreign policy problems prepared for study by John Foster Dulles, chosen as Eisenhower's secretary of state.

Dulles conferred with Secretary of State Acheson, Assistant Secretary John Allison and Under Secretary David Bruce yesterday in the course of arranging a smooth transition of policy controls. Dulles also called on Secretary of Defense Lovett.

Possible policy developments lie in two fields. Ultimately, author-

ities here believe, steps will be taken in one or both unless an armistice is arranged fairly soon.

On the military side, some high American officers in the Far East reportedly have advised Washington that the best hope of ending the war lies in launching a major offensive. Destruction of the Communist forces, rather than the gaining of territory, would be the primary objective.

Military men who hold that view are expected to make firm recommendations to Eisenhower during his Korean trip.

Such an offensive would require several more divisions of American troops, according to military estimates. It would also mean abandoning attempts to make peace along the present stalemated line. Moreover, other Allied governments are authoritatively reported extremely reluctant to carry the war deeper into North Korea and any American policy decision will have to take those views into consideration.

On the diplomatic side, after the Panmunjom truce talks bogged down, Truman administration policy called for a resolution in the U. N. General Assembly demanding that the Communists agree to an armistice that included volunt-

ary prisoner repatriation. Yesterday, the General Assembly adopted an Indian resolution serving that purpose although not in all respects what the United States originally sought. Russia and Red China have already denounced this plan. It is expected, therefore, that the resolution will be rejected when officially forwarded to Peiping.

That will raise another big policy question: What steps should the U. N. then take? The United States government has discussed with other countries fighting in Korea the possibility of imposing an economic boycott or naval blockade on Red China.

Both proposals, highly controversial among the Allies, would commit the U. N. to long-range courses posing difficult problems for the new administration.

What seems most likely to happen, officials said, is that two or three weeks will be consumed in transmitting the Indian resolution to Red China and in getting a reply. This, then, would do away with any need for follow up action until after the U. N. General Assembly has returned from a Christmas recess, which may not be until after the Eisenhower administration is in office.

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War Injury List Changed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Because people apparently think a casualty is a fatality, the Defense Department says it no longer is listing all men killed, wounded or missing in Korea as "casualties."

The Pentagon announcement yesterday said the weekly battle report will continue to show totals for dead, wounded and missing but will not total them up and list them as casualties.

Most reporters, however, continued to use the old form in tabulating latest Korean losses, announced yesterday.

Through last Friday, next of kin have been notified of 127,383 American casualties in Korea. An increase of 386 in a week. This total includes 20,604 killed, 94,367 wounded and 12,012 missing.

The Defense Department statement said the new policy is designed, not to minimize the number of casualties, but rather to "provide accurate and complete information."

Defense officials reportedly grew concerned about the word "casualty" during the recent presidential campaign, when Republicans began using the Korean War and the mounting casualty list as an issue.

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