

NATO Ministers Study Huge Budget

By TOM MASTERSON
PARIS (AP) — Atlantic pact ministers meeting here Monday to discuss Western Europe's defenses are being called upon to approve a 428-million-dollar budget for military construction during 1953.

The building program and the naming of a new Mediterranean naval command were expected to be the only major decisions of the 14-nation North Atlantic Council of foreign, finance and defense ministers during their four-day meeting.

With the British pushing for his appointment, Adm. Earl Mountbatten, commander of Britain's na-

val forces in the Mediterranean, is slated to be assigned the NATO duty of preserving the vital Allied communication line through the strategic southern sea.

The council program today included a public meeting reserved mainly for welcoming speeches, followed by a business session behind closed doors late in the afternoon.

NATO military leaders planned to advise the ministers to make their decision on the construction program at this meeting and not wait until they get together again in March or April.

A high-placed American informant said that, as a concession, the Military Committee had trimmed its original construction estimate from 453 million dollars to the new target of 428 million.

The program calls for the building of between 31 and 35 airbases, as well as naval construction and other military installations. The airbases, however, are the major item.

Predicting stiff opposition from some countries, an American source said:

"Some ministers want to know first how much money will be spent in their countries before they will be willing to chip in. The United States will try to get the building program passed even against this opposition."

British Lord Ismay, the NATO secretary general, has expressed doubt that the plans will be approved because some countries may object to heavy new expendi-

Youths Held In Kidnaping

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Two medical students and an accountant are being held on charges they kidnaped Santiago Grana, 3-year-old son of a Peruvian congressman. The boy was returned unharmed early Saturday after being held three days.

Police, who announced the arrests yesterday, said they had recovered 294,000 soles (\$18,963) of the 300,000-sole (\$19,350) ransom. The child had been snatched from his nurse in a park Wednesday. The three youths under arrest were identified by police as Mario Bueno, Elias Narvaez and Ricardo Zapater.

Shock Fatal To Oldest Dentist

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) — Dr. Thomas S. Eder, the 92-year-old dentist who missed only two days at his office through illness in 70 years, is dead.

He died yesterday from a fall last week that fractured his right hip when he slipped on a small rug at the home of a daughter. He never fully recovered from the shock.

Dr. Eder was believed to have been the nation's oldest practicing dentist.

Hans Norland Fire Insurance, Phone 2-2515.

McDonald Out As NPA Head

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard A. McDonald today steps out as administrator of the National Production Authority (NPA). Horace B. McCoy, commerce department career man, becomes acting administrator.

Secretary of Commerce Sawyer announced the shift yesterday in accepting the resignation of McDonald, former executive vice president of Crown Zellerbach Corp. He is returning to private business.

McDonald, who has been serving without pay, took the top NPA job last September with the agreement to hold it only until a successor was found.

Red Chinese Expel Priest

HONG KONG (AP) — Father Sicard Daniel of Colombia, South America, crossed the border into Hong Kong Sunday in chains. He was expelled by the Chinese Communists after a public trial on charges of beating a Chinese man.

Father Daniel said he spent 13 months in jail, handcuffed by the Reds in an effort to prevent him from praying before meals. He was forced to squat on the cement floor of his jail and was given only two bowls of rice daily.

Child Born In Theatre

LONDON (AP) — A baby girl was born yesterday in a movie theater where the mother, Mrs. Stella Lawford, had been watching a film "Don't Bother to Knock." An usherette served as emergency midwife.

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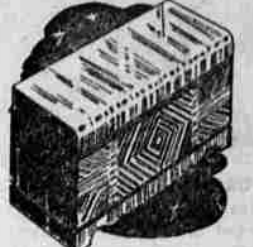
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