

Allies Press Plans For Freeing 22,000 POW's In Face Of Indian Warnings

By GEORGE A. McARTHUR
 PANMUNJOM (S-Indian Lt.)
 Gen. K. S. Thimayya told the U.N. command again today it will violate the Korean armistice if it releases anti-Communist prisoners before their fate is decided by Allied agreement or by a peace conference.

The Allies, however, went ahead with plans to free more than 22,000 American and Chinese anti-Red POWs by Saturday—a course of action which is required by the U.N.C. says is required by the armistice terms.

Efforts to reopen preliminary talks for a peace conference got nowhere.

American and North Korean liaison secretaries deadlocked for the third time—apparently on the question of striking Red charges of perfidy from the record. They agreed to meet again Wednesday.

In New Delhi, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, U. N. Assembly president, said "merely releasing would not end the Korean deadlock."

She said in a speech to Indian leaders that the problem of Korea is a desperate one which must be reviewed by the General Assembly "in the context of new developments."

Mrs. Pandit has called for the 60-nation Assembly to reconvene Feb. 9 on the Korean question.

Thimayya Monday sent what he called a "clarifying statement" to Gen. John E. Hull, U. N. Far East commander.

He said the Allies apparently misunderstood his decision to return unrepatriated prisoners now in Indian custody to their captors starting Wednesday.

Thimayya, chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC), told each side last week to be ready to take back the prisoners it captured. They include 14,300 Chinese and 7,700 Korean POWs captured by the Allies and 337 Koreans, 21 Americans and 1 Briton captured by the Communists. All have refused to go home.

Thimayya re-emphasized in his latest letter that he is returning the 22,400 'as prisoners' and that freeing them would violate the armistice.

The UNC has informed the Indians it is ready to accept the prisoners. An Indian spokesman said the Communists have not replied.

The spokesman said Thimayya was planning a "final report" on whether war prisoners would be returned on Jan. 20, "as soon as the Reds answer. This touched off speculation that the Indians might change their decision, which they originally described as "the final say."

Although there has been no official Red reply to the Indian plan, Communist China's Peiping radio has broadcast to Red troops that the Allies would "wreck" the truce if they release anti-Red prisoners.

The Indian letter was prompted by maneuvering over what will happen to the prisoners Jan. 23, the day the armistice says they revert to "civilian status."

The U. N. view is that they go free on that date, but the Communists, with the backing of India, say that because portions of the armistice agreement were not fulfilled neither side by itself has the right to change the status of the

prisoners.

Observers in Korea felt that Thimayya's letter, which largely duplicated his earlier one to Hull, was prompted by the Indian government in New Delhi. The observers felt India wants to make its position absolutely clear as opposing the stated U. N. intention of freeing the POWs.



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Family Now Getting Along Without Their Furniture

Piersons were going to move their furniture from the locked garage into their new house, and cleaned the out.

Mickie, her father George, 33, her mother Marian, and her brother Tom, 12, sat on packed cartons and stared at the one piece of furniture left, Mrs. Pierson's sewing machine.

Pierson, an aviation research engineer, said he had paid \$765 to have the furniture moved to Los Angeles from Detroit last August.

"We worked hard for it, but it was all paid for," he said. "We were out of debt. It was all we had. We put everything else into the down payment on this house."

He said he'd asked for police protection after someone snatched around the loaded garage and jammed the lock, and he even sat in the empty house until 11 o'clock Thursday night with his .22-caliber rifle, but then left without seeing either prowlers or police.

He said their only neighbor in the new tract offered to cook for them and put them up, and the milkman brought ice for their picnic ice box.

Mrs. Pierson looked at her sewing machine and said, "Now I guess I'll have to take in sewing."

Counties Get Farm Dividend

Farmers and stockmen in Klamath and Lake Counties will share a \$8,023 dividend declared by the Klamath-Lake National Farm Loan Association, H. E. Hamaker, secretary-treasurer, announced this week.

Two hundred and eleven farmers and stockmen will participate.

This dividend is the Klamath-Lake Association's share of a \$285,300 dividend declared by the Federal Land Bank of Spokane, Hamaker said.

The banks capital stock is owned by this and 64 similar national farm loan associations in Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

During the past eight years the bank has paid out more than \$2,285,000 in dividends, and members of the local association have benefited to the extent of \$44,981.

National farm loan associations in the four Northwest states make and service loans for the Spokane bank, Hamaker added. As members of the cooperative land bank system, savings effected a re-balance on to the farmer stockholders who own the bank through their associations.

Approximately 17,000 farmers and ranchers will share in this year's dividends.

KF Merchants Plan Meeting

The organizational meeting of the Klamath Merchants Assn., has been scheduled for a week from Wednesday, Jan. 27, at the Willard Hotel at 6:30 p.m. It was announced by Keith Moon, president.

Merchants are urged to talk over such matters as election of directors, budget, promotions and store hours and holidays and be ready to voice their opinions at the meeting, Moon said.

General planning for the year will take place at this meeting. The president urged that all arrange to be present.

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