

US Leaders Study Ways To Free Chinese Held Airmen

By WARREN ROGERS JR.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Measures short of war were being carefully weighed today by American officials charged with trying to win freedom for 13 Americans condemned to prison by Red China.

With military action apparently ruled out—President Eisenhower yesterday pledged every step "humanly possible within peaceful means"—these State Department officials had three principal avenues open to them:

1. To protest in "the strongest terms possible," as they already have set out to do, to Red China's representative at Geneva.
2. To bring pressure on Communist China, as they have in the past, through British and other Allied representatives at Peiping, or perhaps even through the Russians.
3. To go to the United Nations, as they did with protests against atrocities in Korea and the shooting down of an American plane, with demands for a resolution of censure.

And while they were at it, these officials could do their best toward mobilizing world opinion against Red China for what the United States has called the "amoral" and "outrageous" jailing of innocents on trumped up charges. Wide-spread public indignation on this score could hurt Peiping's drive for diplomatic recognition and a seat at the U. N.

Red China announced Tuesday that 11 U. S. airmen and two U. S. civilians captured during the Korean War had been sentenced as "spies" to prison terms ranging from 4 years to life. Yesterday Peiping radio broadcast that these 13 plus five Americans who had died were among 230 saboteurs the Chinese Reds said were captured or killed inside China since 1951.

PEACEFUL MEANS

Eisenhower said yesterday the U. S. government is doing everything "humanly possible within peaceful means to get our boys back." His assurances were given to the mother of one of the imprisoned men by White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerly, after she complained of unsuccessful efforts to reach the President by telephone.

The mother was Mrs. Hurley L. Baumer, of Lewisburg, Pa., whose son, Maj. William J. Baumer, was sentenced to eight years in prison. Baumer and the other 10 airmen were aboard a B29 shot down Jan. 12, 1953. The two civilians were on an earlier flight lost between South Korea and Japan.

Members of Congress were quick to voice indignation. Sen. Purcell (D-Conn) urged all possible action to free the 13. Sen. Welker (R-Idaho) said force should be used. Sen. John M. Butler (R-Md) said other than diplomatic measures should be decided on "without delay, without compromise or without piecemeal appeasement."

SERVE NOTICE

Rep. Thomas J. Lane (D-Mass) said the State Department should serve notice on the Reds that they have a week to fly the men out to freedom. If this isn't complied with, he said, Peiping should be

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Church Club Organized

A Cruiser Club has been organized at St. Luke's Community Church to provide fun and fellowship for young couples of the church.

The initial meeting, held earlier in the week at the church social hall, opened with a potluck supper at 8:30 p.m. following which games were played. Entertaining highlight of the evening was a pie baking contest between the men, without a recipe. The contest ended in a draw between the two teams.

Charles McFarlan gave the evening's closing devotional. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kissell, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. Ab Herringshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Huffaker, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Beymer, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Horsley, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Whitlatch, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McFarlan, the Rev. and Mrs. William Ainley.

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Whale Washed Up Near Waldport

WALDPOR (AP)—The biggest Thanksgiving Day event here in years is the 30-foot whale that was washed ashore.

Residents were thankful, too—thankful that it was 1 1/2 miles south of here instead of right on the edge of town.

The whale apparently had died only shortly before the tide brought it onto the beach Wednesday morning. At least, it had not been dead long enough to offend the nose.

No plans have been made yet for disposing of the carcass.

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Oregon Spud Volume Given

Oregon potato shippers moved a greater volume of potatoes during the past week than they did during the previous week, according to the USDA weekly crops review. This was partially due to the Thanksgiving holiday trade. Not only were rail shipments heavier than during the previous week, but truck movement was also stepped up.

Total movement of potatoes by truck from Oregon this past week amounted to 144 carlot equivalents. Eighty were moved by truck from the Tulelake district of California during the past week. The crop in the 39 late states has been estimated by the Crop Reporting Service at 280.1 million bushels. This is four per cent below 1953 and 12 per cent below average. Oregon's crop was estimated to be five per cent larger than last year and seven per cent above average.

CIO Woods Union Awaits Decision

PORTLAND (AP)—The CIO Woodworkers policy committee decided Wednesday not to draw up wage demands for the coming year until later.

The committee said it would await the outcome on 1954 demands, which have been submitted to a seven-man panel named by the governors of Oregon and Washington. The panel's decision is expected late in December or in January.

The Woodworkers and the AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers sought a 12 1/2-cent hourly increase for 1954.

The issue went to the panel after negotiations and a long strike failed to bring any general settlement.

Oregon Solon Names Assistant

PORTLAND (AP)—Anton Kraft, 48, won a \$110,000 verdict here Wednesday because Montgomery Ward & Co. accused him of burglary when he was an employe of the store here in 1949.

He filed his suit charging false arrest and malicious prosecution after winning acquittal on the burglary count.

A circuit court jury awarded him \$75,000 general damages and \$35,000 punitive damages. It was one of the largest damage awards on record here.

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