

# Paris Talks Begin On Defense Alliance

PARIS (UP) — Secretary of State John Foster Dulles arrives today for a sweeping review of Western alliance defense policies in Big Four foreign ministers Geneva conference.

Dulles left Washington by plane Tuesday for the crucial three-day meeting of the North Atlantic Council which opens here Thursday. Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and Secretary of the

Treasury George M. Humphrey also flow to Paris to participate in the talks.

The meeting is the first by the Atlantic alliance nations since Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav M. Molotov blew away the "Cuban spirit" with a refusal to consider Western proposals for the reunification of Germany through free elections. It also marks the first time that West Germany took her full part in the defense planning of the West.

Informed sources said a report of the military experts will warn the NATO ministers that Russia is stronger than ever and that the West should push ahead quickly with the atomic streamlining of their defense forces approved last year.

The Atlantic council will consider plans calling for strengthening of NATO's military camp, for creation of a Europe-wide radar warning system and for converting the alliance into a political as well as military shield.

## New Jordan Cabinet Set

AMMAN, Jordan (UP) — The cabinet resigned today and a new government was being formed that is expected to put Jordan into the pro-Western Baghdad Pact.

Haza Majali, former minister of interior, began forming a cabinet that is expected to sign the Baghdad Pact signing this Arab nation with the "northern tier" defense alliance the West hopes will stop Soviet expansion in the Middle East.

Four ministers of the cabinet resigned Tuesday and the rest of the government headed by Premier K-Majali followed today.

Jordan had been studying invitations to join the pro-Western alliance for weeks but had not acted for fear of angering some of her Arab neighbors.

Outside of the conference hall, plans to meet with British Foreign Secretary Harold MacMillan and French Foreign Minister Antoine Pinay to discuss matters of mutual concern, including the explosive situation in the Middle East.

The Atlantic council meeting climaxed a weeklong series of conferences among the Western nations, including a meeting of the Council of Europe and a session of the Western European Union.

Thursday the foreign, defense and finance ministers of the 15 member nations of NATO will begin their annual review meeting to set the defense goals for the coming year.

## Kern County Spud Growers Convene

BAKERSFIELD (UP) — Members of the Kern County Potato Growers Association convened tonight for the group's annual election of officers meeting.

Scheduled speakers include J. Earl Coke, former assistant secretary of agriculture, and A. E. Meeker, a U.S. Department of Agriculture potato specialist.

## Wilder Works On New Opera

ROME (U) — Thornton Wilder, archaeologist, teacher, novelist and playwright, has come back to an old haunt to try something new.

The 58-year-old American writer, winner of three Pulitzer Prizes, is working on the libretto of an opera and he finds it challenging.

"I decided to try it to experience a different form of show business," he explained to an interviewer.

The music of the opera is being composed by Louise Talma of New York City, who took leave as a professor of music at Hunter College to come to Rome on a Fulbright scholarship.

Wilder won't talk very much about the new work.

"I've always made this mistake of telling about things in advance," he explained. "When they don't work out the way you expect, it's embarrassing."

He and Miss Talma meet every day to discuss the text, and how to join music and plot.

Wilder never has been afraid of experimenting. The opera too will be different.

"There are some innovations," he said. "You can call it, in quotations, 'grand opera.' The libretto will be written in a variety of meters."

Wilder is an old friend of Rome. He studied archaeology here at the American Academy and wrote the first sketches for "The Cabala," his first novel, a story of modern Rome.

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