

Red Evasiveness Stalls Korean Armistice Talks

MUNSAN, Korea, Thursday, Dec. 6—(P)—Communist truce delegates dodged or gave evasive answers Wednesday on terms for supervising a Korean armistice but the United Nations command indicated it was ready to probe today for areas of common agreement.

In exploratory talks Wednesday the Communists cited two Russian satellites, Poland and Czechoslovakia, as suitable to serve on the Communist proposed neutral inspection teams to police a Korean truce.

Others Named
The Reds also mentioned Switzerland, Denmark and Sweden as qualified to serve because they had not sent troops to Korea.

An Allied spokesman told news correspondents that the fact neutral countries were discussed was no indication that the U.N. command had accepted the Red proposal for truce inspections by neutral nations.

"Our questions," said Lt. Col. Howard Levie, "were merely exploratory in an effort to obtain complete clarification of the various terms used in the Communist proposal."

The U.N. command communicated Wednesday night said it was "important to note" that the countries mentioned were "merely given as examples of the type which the Communists considered within their definition of 'neutral nations'."

Reds Evasive
Referring to attempts to obtain clarification of the Red truce inspection plan, the communique said:

"This attempt was unfortunately largely unsuccessful. The Communists repeatedly gave evasive answers or refused to answer."

The Allies also noted that the Reds still have not replied to an offer to begin separate subcommittee discussions on exchange of prisoners of war. The Reds said they had "received no instructions" from Maj. Gen. Nam II, their senior delegate.

Two Top Iranians Quit Oil Positions

TEHMAN, Iran, Dec. 5—(P)—Two top men on Iran's Oil Nationalization Board resigned today as economic distress signals were hoisted by several government officials.

Sen. Abolraassam Najm, a financial expert, resigned as managing director of the 11-member parliamentary watchdog board, and Senator Mahammed Sorrori stepped down with him.

There were rumors—unconfirmed—that both quit in opposition to the demand by the oil nationalization boss, Hussein Maki, that Iran sell oil to Russia and the Communist nations.

Meanwhile, Mehdi Bazergan, a leading member of the Iranian Oil Management Board, told a reporter this country must sell its oil to foreign buyers or face "considerable hardship and financial loss."

Chest Heads Await Late Dorm Returns

Campus Chest officials said yesterday no new drive totals are available, but added that they are awaiting late returns from a dormitory unit.

Prof. Ralph Armington, head of the faculty drive committee, said "well over \$1000" has been totaled from faculty and staff members. He did not say what portion of the faculty and staff the income represented. Armington said returns should be available later this week.

Murray Goldman, solicitation chairman, said student drive totals should be available next week. Latest reports showed \$8922.31 in student contributions. The Chest goal was \$12,000.

Town Meeting Series To Resume at Hillel

Dr. Clarence Carpenter, professor of psychology; Dr. E. S. Carter, assistant professor of speech; and George Haller, dean of the School of Chemistry and Physics, will be guest speakers when the Town Meeting series are resumed at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Hillel Foundation.

Yugoslavia Frees Stepinac After 5 Years

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Dec. 5—(P)—Marshal Tito's Communist government today gave conditional freedom of Msgr. Alojzije Stepinac, the Roman Catholic Primate condemned in 1946 to 16 years imprisonment on charges of collaborating with the Nazis in World War II.

The announcement made through the official news agency Tanjug, did not say what the conditions were. But it referred to Msgr. Stepinac as the "former archbishop," making clear that the government does not recognize him as the head of the Catholic church in Yugoslavia or in any other official capacity.

It seemed obvious that Tito hoped to make public opinion in Western countries more friendly to his regime by the release. But a new element of controversy may now be introduced.

Vatican sources already have declared that "the mandate archbishop Stepinac received upon his consecration remains intact even if the Yugoslav government should not recognize it."

Sources close to the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, expressed pleasure that Stepinac had been released, but commented: "If Tito is releasing Stepinac in a political gesture, it is one thing. But if he really wishes to recognize his innocence he should free him with full rights and restore him to his archbishopric." The Vatican has excommunicated all who had a part in the arrest, trial and imprisonment of the primate.

Air Force Sets Goal of 143 Wings

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—(P)—Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett disclosed today that the air force has set a new goal of 143 wings—somewhere between 4,200 and 10,700 planes—in planning the next military budget.

The new figure compares with current strength of about 90 wings. Pre-Korean strength was 48 wings.

Lovett told a news conference that the Defense Department is asking President Truman and Congress to authorize the extension, and he emphasized that the emergency calls for prompt action rather than a long-drawn program.

The defense chief said 126 of the proposed 143 wings would be combat planes and the remainder troop carriers.

A wing varies in size from the 30 planes for B-36 heavy bombers to 75 for fighter planes. The wing is made up of the group of combat planes and personnel plus the equipment and men necessary to provide maintenance.

O'Neill Critically Ill

BOSTON, Dec. 5—(P)—Eugene O'Neill, Nobel and Pulitzer prize winning playwright, is in critical condition at Faulkner Hospital.

The 63-year-old dramatist returned to the hospital last weekend after several previous visits.

Revenue Officer Quits Post

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—(P)—Charles Oliphant resigned as chief legal officer of the Internal Revenue Service today, deploring "vilification" and piling another sensation on the heap already collected by a House investigating committee.

As Oliphant gave up his \$14,800 a year job in the Truman administration, Frank Nathan went before the inquiry group to deny a charge that he tried to shake down a wealthy Chicago lawyer for \$500,000 with promises to "fix" his tax troubles through influential friends in Washington officialdom.

Nathan shouted that the accusation was "a dirty, filthy lie."

The conflict in testimony brought an announcement from Rep. King (D-Calif), chairman of the committee, that a transcript of the testimony about the alleged shakedown would be sent to the Department of Justice for perjury action.

"It has been quite clear in the past 24 hours that one or more persons perjured themselves before this committee," King said.

Oliphant resigned in a strongly-worded letter to President Truman.

"I find it beyond the limits of my endurance to protect my name and reputation and the prestige of the office I hold in the face of baseless and scurrilous charges," he wrote in part.

Oliphant's name was connected with the shakedown story, but the 42 year old attorney, who has been with the revenue bureau since 1939, told Mr. Truman that it was "fantastic" to infer that he had anything to do with the alleged plot.

The shakedown story was told to the inquiry group—a House ways and means subcommittee—yesterday by Abraham Teitelbaum, a well to do attorney and real estate operator in Chicago.

Alpha Epsilon Delta To Hear Dr. Brown

Dr. Charles L. Brown, dean of Hahnemann Medical College, will speak to Alpha Epsilon Delta, pre-medical honorary, at 7 tonight in 121 Sparks.

"The Impact of Pre-medical and Medical Education and Research on the Practice of Medicine" will be his topic for the lecture which is open to the public.

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7000 Flee Homes After New Eruption

MAHINOG, CAMIGUIN ISLAND, Philippines, Thursday, Dec. 6—(P)—Seven thousand refugees crowded into this coastal village Wednesday as a new shower of hot ashes from Hibok Hibok cascaded down from the north end of Camiguin Island.

The known dead from Tuesday's violent volcano eruption stood at 146. Gov. Paciencia Ysalina estimated at least 500 more bodies lie in the smoking ash and lava between the peak and the north shore.

Finance Committee OK's Taxes

HARRISBURG, Dec. 5—(P)—The Senate finance committee broke a long tax stalemate tonight by approving the bulk of a \$113 million patchwork tax program. The committee was virtually unanimous on most of the fine bills in the package, although Democrats voted against one or two of them.

The Republican-dominated Senate immediately geared its operations to pass the House-approved tax measures by the time the House reconvenes Dec. 10.

The \$113 million tax package, plus \$30 million in appropriation cuts and a \$5 million boost in revenue estimates, is expected to be enough to balance Gov. John S. Fine's \$1,220,000,000 budget for the current two-year fiscal period.

The tax package (with revenue estimates in parenthesis) include: (1) Collecting 30 months of corporate net income taxes within the present two-year fiscal period (\$61 million).

(2) Imposing a new one per cent tax on real estate transfers to be paid by the seller (\$20 million).

(3) Removing exemptions from payment of the eight-mill tax on gross receipts of public utilities for for-hire truckers and bus firms which are now allowed to deduct the amount of license fees paid to the state in their returns (\$19 million).

(4) Increasing inheritances taxes from 10 to 15 per cent on others than direct heirs but leaving the two per cent levy on direct heirs intact (\$10 million).

(5) Remove the exemption of mutual fire, casualty and marine insurance companies and life insurance firms with headquarters in Pennsylvania from payment of the one per cent tax on premium collections (\$5 million).

All of the bills except the real

estate transfers levy reached the floor. That tax measure was held up for amendments dealing with the tax to be paid on ground leased for oil or gas well drilling.

The first estimate of more than six square miles of devastation seemed conservative. Here and there could be seen the remains of what once must have been houses. They appeared as charred timbers set in small openings in the coconut groves.

Press reports said that while the lava fields had begun to cool, the heat was so intense that rescue workers still were unable to reach the heart of the disaster area.

Seen from the air today, the peak of 5,620-foot Hibok Hibok was a smoking, lava-filled crater. Yellow clouds, poisonous looking, boiled up.

On the north end of the island could be seen the bare trunks of thousands of coconut palms thrust up through a layer of smoking ashes that covered the ground.

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