

Ike to Order Lift Of China Blockade

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (AP)—President Eisenhower announced to a heavily applauding Congress today he is ordering the American navy to stop protecting Red China from Chiang Kai-shek's forces on Formosa.

He also disclosed, in his first State of the Union message, that he is preparing to repudiate any "secret understandings" of the Roosevelt-Truman era which permitted Russia to "enslave" free peoples.

Republican ranks whooped it up when the new President declared that price and wage controls must die in April.

But both Democrats and Republicans managed only mild applause for Eisenhower's idea of putting off tax cuts until the unbalanced budget is brought under control.

Eisenhower said he has ordered the U.S. Seventh Fleet to stop "shielding" Chinese Reds from attacks from Formosa. There is "no logic or sense," he said, in guarding Communists who are killing American and United Nations troops in Korea.



The order clears the way for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces to mount on Formosa any attacks they are capable of turning against the Communist mainland.

Yells, cheers and handclapping greeted official disclosure of this reversal of one phase of the Truman foreign policy. Yet widespread comments of approval from Republican lawmakers were offset to a degree by expressions of hope from leading Democrats that the step won't mean a bigger war or full scale support of Chiang in anything he undertakes.

From Paris late today came word from informed sources that Secretary of State Dulles had assured nervous French officials the United States would not support any "reckless actions" by Chiang.

Eisenhower said nothing of rescinding the second part of the Truman-Formosan policy—which the U.S. Fleet guards Formosa from attack from the Red mainland. Truman's policy, adopted before the Chinese Reds entered the Korean War, was designed to prevent expansion of the fighting in the Far East.

Thunderous applause, largely from Republicans, greeted Eisenhower when he said he intends to ask Congress to adopt a resolution making it clear the American government will not be bound by any secret deals which, he said, permitted enslavement.

Eisenhower did not explain what understandings he had in mind. Members of Congress took it he was drawing a bead on concessions made to the Soviet Union at the Yalta and Potsdam conferences.

It was the first time in over 29 years a Republican President had appeared before Congress in person to talk official business of a major nature.

The World At a Glance

British Plane Believed Lost Over Atlantic

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Feb. 2 (AP)—A four-engine British troop transport plane with 39 persons aboard was believed to have crashed in the icy, gale-whipped North Atlantic today. Strong winds and torrential rains restricted search operations, and little hope was held for rescue.

The plane, operated by Skyways, Ltd., of London, was bound for Gander, Nfld., from the Azores. It radioed an SOS 359 miles east-southeast of Gander. At that time winds up to 75 miles an hour churned the ocean.

Nat'list Raids Expected From Blockade Lift

TAIPEH, Formosa, Tuesday, Feb. 3 (AP)—The new U.S. policy toward Formosa is expected to step up Nationalist raids on the mainland of Red China and may permit an airlift of men and material to Chinese Nationalist forces clinging to a foothold in the Burma border region.

These possibilities arose today as headquarters of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek surged with new hope of an eventual comeback on the mainland.

Czech Gov't Revised

VIENNA, Austria, Feb. 2 (AP)—Czechoslovakia's Communist bosses have reorganized the Soviet satellite's government and set up a Russian-type presidium to "direct and control" the Czech ministries, Prague radio said tonight.

The new presidium includes Premier Antonin Zapotocky and his deputy premiers. The number of deputies was boosted from four to nine, however.

U.S. Sabres, Tanks Shatter Red Lines

SEOUL, Tuesday, Feb. 3 (AP)—U.S. and South Korean tanks, striking like bolts of lightning along 20 miles of the Central Front, shattered more than 1400 deep Communist bunkers since Jan. 10 in the so-called "impregnable" Red line, the Eighth Army reported Monday.

In addition nearly 20 Red gun and mortar positions, nearly 150 artillery and ammunition caves and more than half a mile of trenches were knocked out.

In the air, Sabre jets shot down two Red MIG fighters, probably destroyed one and sent two more limping home riddled with bullets, the Fifth Air Force announced. It was the 15th straight day of air combat.

Naguib, Minister Confer

CAIRO, Egypt, Feb. 2 (AP)—Italy's Defense Minister Randolfo Pacciardi held a top-secret conference here today with Prime Minister Maj. Gen. Mohamed Naguib. Neither would confirm or deny widespread reports that the talks concerned plans for defense of the Mediterranean. Pacciardi brought with him a group of senior officers from the Italian Army, Air Force and Navy.

Aegean Sub-command

ATHENS, Greece, Feb. 2 (AP)—Adm. Pyrros Lappas, chief of the Greek naval staff, was appointed today to head an Aegean Sea sub-command for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO. An act setting up the sub-command under Adm. Lappas was signed today by Defense Minister Panayotis Canellopoulos.

Dulles Calms French On Ike's China Action

PARIS, Feb. 2 (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was reported to have assured anxious French officials today that the United States does not intend to support Chiang Kai-shek in any "reckless action" against Communists on the Chinese mainland.

At the same time, an informant said, Dulles declared the Chinese Communists could place any interpretation they desired on President Eisenhower's decision to end the U.S. Seventh Fleet's blockade around the Nationalist Chinese fortress of Formosa.

Tempest, Flood Claim 948 Lives

LONDON, Feb. 2 (AP)—The sodden and shattered coastal towns of Britain, Belgium and Holland counted 948 dead tonight in one of the worst flood and tempest disasters of their history.

The final toll may go over 1000 when the hurricane-lashed tides have receded on both sides of the North Sea.

Canvey Island, submerged in mud and water and the worst hit place in all flood-devastated southeastern England, still had 500 of its 13,000 inhabitants missing after counting 100 dead.

More than 1000 were unaccounted for along a 20-mile stretch of British coast.

A freak combination, the highest tide of the month coinciding with a hurricane that slammed through the North Sea, piled great walls of water down the narrow southern end of the sea.

Dulles conferred with top bracket French Cabinet members, headed by Premier Rene Mayer, on Eisenhower's State of the Union message in which the President announced he was ordering that the fleet "no longer be employed to shield Communist China."

The report of what Dulles said at his conference with French leaders was given by a responsible source with full authority to disclose what went on at the day-long session.

Dulles told them the President's action was expected to draw Chinese troops from the north and south to a central front facing Formosa, thus relieving pressure on Korea and easing a threat of Chinese participation in the war in Indochina.

In London, the British government was reliably reported planning to make an oral protest against ending the blockade.

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