

More Allied POW's Promised Freedom

PANMUNJOM, Thursday, April 23 (AP)—The Communists today promised to free more than the 605 Allied sick and wounded pledged originally for the historic first prisoner exchange of the Korean War.

The good tidings came amid thunderous reverberations as a big gun duel shook the hills around the Panmunjom plain where the disabled captive exchange rolled into its fourth day.

Fourteen Americans, five Australians, six Colombians and 25 South Koreans were handed over to the Allies at 9 a.m., 7 p.m., (EST) Wednesday. Fifty South Korean disabled were to be released later in the morning.

With today's 14, the Reds now have returned 79 disabled American prisoners of war.

To Include New Captives
Rear Adm. John C. Daniel said the Reds at a brief liaison meeting today agreed to release more disabled captives than they had pledged in the exchange agreement.

PANMUNJOM, Thursday, April 23 (AP)—Allied and Communist liaison groups met at this prisoner exchange neutral zone today and quickly adjourned.

The brevity of the meeting indicated that a communication was handed over by one of the groups. There was no immediate hint as to its nature.

Daniel, chief Allied liaison officer, quoted Maj. Gen. Lee Sang Cho as saying the additional repatriates would include "those captured recently at the front."

Lee presumably was referring to U.S. Marines and Colombians captured within the last month in the fierce battles around Old Baldy, Vegas, and Carson Hills near Panmunjom on the Western Front. His offer also presumably included Australians captured in the Little Gibraltar fighting last January.

UN Returns Move
All three nationalities were among the prisoners released today by the Reds.
Lee was quoted as saying, "the number of personnel to be repatriated by our side is more than the estimated figure of which your side had previously been informed."

Senate Tables Tide-Lands Vote

WASHINGTON, April 22 (AP)—Senate leaders today postponed until next week a test vote on state-vs-federal ownership of offshore submerged lands, but ordered round-the-clock sessions to speed up the final decision.

Majority leader Taft (R-Ohio), changing signals for the third time in a day, announced a delay until Monday in his plans to bring a vote on the "main issue in the controversy."

It would come on a motion to table a substitute proposal by Sen. Anderson (D-N.M.) to provide for federal administration of offshore oil leases, and another by Sen. Hill (D-Ala.) to use revenues from the oil for aid to education.

Russia, Western Powers Join Against Nationalists

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 22 (AP)—Russia and the Western powers joined without a dissenting vote in a resolution today deploring the presence of Nationalist Chinese troops in Burma and calling on all countries to aid in settling the Burma-China dispute peacefully.

The decision, in effect, gives the green light to the United States to continue its behind-the-scenes efforts to get the 12,000 Chinese troops out of Burma.



Sen. Styles Bridges Heads Atrocity Probe

Senate Group Probes Rumors On Prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP)—Administration leaders were called before a Senate committee yesterday to tell what they know about the spreading reports of Communist atrocities against U.S. prisoners of war in Korea.

Chairman Bridges (R-N.H.) said his appropriations committee will make a full-scale investigation of the reports.

"This nation," he said, "cannot tolerate such carryings on. And I trust we will not do so."

Bridges Reports
Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith was the first witness summoned to a closed-door meeting of the committee this afternoon. Defense Department officials were to testify later.

In advance of the hearing, Bridges told newsmen:
"We want to get all the information they have about the Red atrocities against U.S. and UN prisoners, all the background we can get on such treatment and what they are doing about it now."

Claims Truman Knew
"We have to find out the truth about reports that the Reds are releasing only a small part of the sick and wounded prisoners they are holding and see what can be done about getting more of our people out of Korea, if this is to mean anything."

On the House side of the Capitol, Rep. Sheehan (R-Ill.) charged that the Truman administration knew about atrocities in Korea but suppressed the information "because they did not want these facts to influence the election last November."

Sheehan renewed a demand for an investigation which he first made last January. His resolution for the inquiry has been bottled up in the House Rules Committee. Military officials were reported to have advised House leaders to go slow, on the ground that an inquiry might lead to further atrocities.

NATO Leaders To Meet to Boost Defense Program

PARIS, April 22 (AP)—The top military and political leaders of the North Atlantic treaty nations meet tomorrow to pump more guns and planes into a defense program they hope will get still softer words out of Russia.

U.S. military leaders especially were demanding a beefed up building program and, with some reluctance, European nations appeared willing to go along.

Seek To Double Air Force
On the eve of the meeting of the foreign and defense ministers of the 14 countries, a general agreement had been made by the military advisors to propose:

1. 500 million dollars to double Western European air strength in the coming two years.
2. \$890,000,000 to build airports, pipelines, radar warning nets, naval installations and a vast list of other permanent structures.

At a news conference tonight, NATO Secretary General Lord Ismay was asked whether NATO defense preparations had been slackened off because of the Soviet peace gestures.

"No," he barked.

U.S. Sets New Policy
Almost the first thing on the program tomorrow will be a careful study, led off evidently by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, of what the Russian peace gestures mean and what NATO should do about them.

Besides the problem of Russia, the NATO ministers were confronted with what was clearly a new policy of the United States. Instead of the year-to-year assistance given heretofore, American officials appeared ready to promise to share in a long range program.

McGrath Resigns Over Budget Cuts

WASHINGTON, April 22 (AP)—The commissioner of education, Earl J. McGrath, resigned today saying he could not condone "indefensible" budget cuts which "reduce the quality of education of American children."

Instead of testifying before a senate committee, as scheduled, to defend the Office of Education budget—which he said he saw in final form only yesterday—McGrath marched to the White House with a letter of resignation and protest. He did not see President Eisenhower.

Then the angry educator personally carried carbon copies to press association, and newspaper offices and went home—out of a \$14,800 a year job.

The letter told Eisenhower that budget slashes already have "markedly damaged the morale of a highly competent professional staff," and the proposed new budget will "further damage" the federal program supporting education.

McGrath informed the President he could "not in good conscience be a party to carrying out such a policy," and wrote:

"I therefore submit my resignation at this time in order not to have to undergo the embarrassment of trying to defend before the Senate Appropriations Committee at 11 a.m. today a budget which I consider indefensible."

He sent copies of his letter to Secretary of Welfare Hobby and to Sen. Bridges (R-N.H.), chairman of the appropriations committee.

McGrath thus set off the first public flare-up in the newly created Department of Health, Welfare and Education, of which his office is a part. Mrs. Hobby had no comment; neither, for the present, did the White House.

The proposed budget for education in the fiscal year starting next July was not made public. McGrath gave reporters an example which he said was typical—a four million dollar or 24 per cent, slash in the \$18,400,000 item which former President Truman proposed for vocational education.

ROKS Raid Red Lines

SEOUL, Thursday, April 22 (AP)—South Korean raiders slashed into Chinese Communist trenches near Panmunjom at daybreak today under cover of tanks and a thunderous two-hours artillery barrage.

Overhead Allied planes bombed and strafed the Red positions—just one mile and a half southwest of the Panmunjom neutral zone a few hours before the fourth exchange of prisoners took place.

State to Study Temporary Sales Tax Plan

HARRISBURG, April 22 (AP)—A move was started in the House today to pass a sales tax on a temporary basis until the people can vote on a graduated income tax.

Rep. Nolan F. Ziegler (R-Dauphin) introduced a bill to clear the way for enactment of a graduated income levy by the 1957 General Assembly. Such a tax would require an amendment to Pennsylvania's Constitution—a procedure that takes at least five years.

"If we pass a sales tax at this session I would want it to be on a temporary basis," Ziegler told a newsmen. "Then we could let the people themselves say what kind of tax they want."

Rep. Albert W. Johnson, Republican floor leader, said he hadn't seen Ziegler's plan and had no idea how the GOP caucus would react to the proposal of making the sales tax temporary.

Johnson is working on another compromise to end the tax deadlock—a 1 per cent sales tax with four temporary levies dropped.

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