

Clarity Sought By UN Forces

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Saturday, May 9 (AP)—UN truce negotiations today were expected to tell the Reds what they think about a new Communist proposal which the Peiping broadcasts say has put a Korean armistice "completely within reach."

Red Forces Pull Back In Indochina

HANOI, Indochina, May 8 (AP)—One Vietminh garrison clung mysteriously to a strategic base in the heart of Laos today while the rest of the Communist-led invasion force pushed northward in a general withdrawal.

The rebel command appeared to be pulling back the bulk of its troops through pelting summer monsoon rains after they had managed to sweep over a third of the little Indochinese kingdom in less than a month without a major clash.

But one powerful detachment still held its grip on the important town of Xiengkhouang, seized when the French-Laotian defense garrison gave it up without a fight in the initial Vietminh invasion.

From there, troops of the Vietminh's crack 304th Division have stabbed southward to within 35 miles of Pak Sane on the Mekong River, which forms part of the frontier between Indochina and Thailand.

Assaults from Xiengkhouang still could be launched against the Laotian royal seat at Luang Prabang, 90 miles to the northwest, and the administrative capital of Vientiane, 80 miles to the southwest. Both of these towns also are on the Mekong.

The French had furiously built up defenses at Luang Prabang and on the Plaine des Jarres to the east with U.S. military assistance which was stepped up by emergency American grants at the first news of the invasion of Laos.

A French Army spokesman here, reporting progressive Vietminh withdrawals to their home bases in the sister Indochinese state of Viet Nam, said the "immediate threat to the royal Laotian capital has been removed."

U.S. Jet Damage Three Red MIGs

SEOUL, Saturday, May 9 (AP)—Communists pilots came out Friday to challenge U.S. Sabre Jets for the first time in eight days and Sabre pilots said they damaged three MIGs.

On the ground, U.S. and British Commonwealth division units on the Western Front threw back light Chinese Red probing attacks, aided by artillery.

There were no fresh reports from the Navy on the intense naval bombardment and carrier plane attacks which through Thursday had hit the Reds on the East Coast for a week.

Friday before dawn, troops of the U.S. Seventh Division on Pork Chop Hill clashed briefly with a Chinese company.

Rise in Population

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—The Bureau of the Census estimated today the population of the United States had crossed the 159 million mark by April 1.

The bureau said its estimates indicated that the population of the nation, including armed forces overseas, stood at 159,068,000 on that date.

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It also seemed likely that the UN team would ask the Reds to spell out the proposal a little clearer when the two sides convene after a one-day recess asked

PANMUNJOM, Saturday, May 8 (AP)—The Allies, answering a Communist compromise proposal for an armistice in Korea, today asked why it was necessary to hand over to a higher level political conference the disposition of prisoners refusing to go home.

by the Allies to study the latest Red offer.

Washington sources suggested that some parts of the Red offer appeared objectionable and that counter-proposals might be made later.

Thursday the Reds had offered an eight-point plan for settling the thorny prisoner exchange issue. It contained one major concession but the Communists declared the Allies would have to take it in total or not at all.

Red Proposal
The major concession was that 48,000 Red prisoners refusing to return to Communist rule need not be sent out of Korea to a neutral nation as the Reds had previously insisted.

Instead, the Reds proposed that they be kept in Korea, as the Allies have insisted all along, and placed in custody of a five-nation repatriation commission—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and India.

Washington Reports
Guarded by troops of these nations, these balking prisoners then would be interviewed by Red representatives during a four-month period in efforts to "persuade" them to go home. If they still balked after that, their fate would be decided in a post-armistice political conference.

Washington reports said strong objection was apparent to introducing in Korea the troops of the two Communist countries of Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Humphrey Says Balanced Budget Harms Security

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—Republican hopes of achieving a balanced budget next year were dashed today when Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey declared it can't be done.

"The risks that would involve our security would simply be too great," Humphrey was quoted as telling a closed-door session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"There is no prospect at all for anything but an increase in the national debt at the present moment," he was quoted.

Thus the administration's chief financial officer acknowledged that the administration does not hope to reach in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1953, the goal which Republicans set themselves in last year's campaign. The Republican platform and party speakers declared the budget should be balanced as soon as possible. They also called for reduced taxes.

President Eisenhower, in announcing last week that he would cut 8½ billion dollars off the appropriations request made by the Truman administration, said he did not expect this would make possible a completely balanced budget in the coming fiscal year. But he declared his administration was making progress in that direction—and thus toward lower taxes—every day.

The limit fixed by present law is \$275 billion. Today's daily Treasury statement on the government's financial position reported a debt of \$266 billion, compared with \$258 billion a year ago.

Government officials in close touch with the nation's financial affairs estimated today that Truman's January forecast of the deficit for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30, might fall short by a couple billion dollars.

Cabinet Likes Seaway

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—President Eisenhower and his Cabinet unanimously agreed today that U.S. participation in the St. Lawrence seaway project is highly desirable.

New A-Bomb Dropped

LAS VEGAS, Nev., May 8 (AP)—One of America's more powerful A-bombs blasted simulated military installations and set flaming torches amid a mock forest today on the barren desert of Nevada Proving Ground.

Two drone planes flew safely through the rim of the blast which was set off 2500 feet above Frenchman Flat, and Air Force planes, fully manned, cruised near the atomic cloud shortly after the explosion.

The bomb was dropped by a B-50 from Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, N.M., at 10 a.m. EST, momentarily dulling the sun.

On the ground, 2000 Army troops were able to move forward in maneuvers an hour after the blast to observe many fires burning in the area near ground zero.

The detonation tested bunkers and simulated fortifications, both above and underground, and a series of wall segments and textile samples mounted for civilian

defense experiments. Twenty-five autos which survived previous tests were also subjected to the blast.

This was the eighth shot, and one of the strongest, of the spring series. It was the first this year at Frenchman Flat.

The shock hit Las Vegas, 65 miles away, but caused no damage. The explosion was reported heard in such distant communities as St. George, Utah, and Bishop, Calif.

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AFL to Cleanup—Meany

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—President George Meany of the American Federation of Labor roared out today that the AFL—

not Sen. Tobey (R.-N.H.)—will decide what the federation should do about cleaning up waterfront racketeering.

Meany testified the AFL executive council has taken a step unprecedented in 70 years by demanding that the International Long-

shoremen's Association get rid of the "shape-up" hiring system and union officials with criminal records.

While senator and labor leaders shouted angrily at one another at times, they were in agreement that there are evils on the docks that ought to be wiped out.


Tobey had an idea the AFL and ILA aren't moving fast enough to correct conditions.

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