

# Red Sitdown Stops Talks

PANMUNJOM, Dec. 12 (AP)—A Communist sitdown yesterday abruptly halted Allied efforts to complete explanations by the Dec. 23 deadline to former soldiers, including 22 Americans, resisting repatriation after Red captivity.

## GI Mother Puts Trust In Prayer

TOKYO, Saturday, Dec. 12 (AP)—An undaunted, greying American mother put her trust today in prayer and the U.S. Congress to help her get to Korea in time to save her soldier son from being lost forever to life behind Red China's Bamboo Curtain.

After flying nearly 7000 miles from her Alden, Minn., home, Mrs. Portia Howe got a fast turnaround yesterday from the Far East Command for permission to go to Panmunjom. There Pfc. Richard F. Tenneson, her son by a previous marriage, is among 22 Americans refusing repatriation after Communist captivity.

"I have not given up hope," she said firmly, managing a smile. "I am going to stay here for a while and wait and pray. I still hope to see my son."

**Mother Vows to Pray**  
"There is a great deal of power in prayer. Prayer has worked for me all the way through and I am still depending on it. And I am hoping for action in Washington that may clear the way. I met a number of congressmen who said they would try to help me."

The slender woman was whisked off to the Far East Command headquarters as soon as she arrived here and had a private conference with Gen. John E. Hull, Supreme Allied Commander.

**General Had to Refuse**  
After the meeting, Hull's headquarters issued a statement quoting the general as saying he had been "obliged to refuse permission" for the Minnesota woman to go to the demilitarized zone of Korea.

In Washington, the Pentagon issued a statement emphasizing that prisoners who refuse repatriation are under the control of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission and not the United Nations Command.

The only way an American civilian legally can visit a relative under neutral control is as a member of the UN explainer team, the Pentagon said.

## Johnson to Speak To Luncheon Club

George F. Johnson, professor of agricultural extension, will speak and show slides on "Colorful Pennsylvania Through the Four Seasons" with special emphasis upon the Christmas season at the Faculty Luncheon Club meeting at noon Monday in the Hotel State College. Club members on the steering committee for the spring semester are Ernest W. Callenbach, head of the Poultry Husbandry department; Hugh H. Chapman Jr., assistant professor of Romance languages; Marguerite L. Duvall, associate professor of child development and family life extension; Ruth R. Honey, professor of family economics and housing; and Charles J. Rowland, head of the Department of Accounting and Business Statistics.

## Town Men to Hear Blue Notes at Dance

The Penn State Blue Notes will play for a combination dance and jam session tomorrow afternoon in the Temporary Union Building. The dance is being sponsored by Town Council for men living in town.

The dance will be held from 2:15 to 3:45 p.m. After a half hour intermission, the jam session will be held until 5:15.

## Communists Occupy Lai Chau

HANOI, Indochina, Dec. 11 (AP)—The French disclosed today they have evacuated Lai Chau without firing a shot, leaving the Thai tribal capital they had vowed to defend to fall like a ripe plum to the Communist-led Vietminh.

Only a few pro-French Thai partisan fighters were left to stand between the sleepy, palm-lined town in northwest Indochina and the bulk of a rebel division when the last of the French Union garrison pulled out Tuesday.

The French high command staked all upon the newly fortified plain of Dein Bein Phu, 50 miles south of Lai Chau, to make good its pledge to "defend the Thai country"—the mountainous homeland of 300,000 tribesmen now almost wholly in Vietminh hands.

A temporary capital has been established for Thai President Deo Van Long at Dien Bien Phu, a collection of straw-thatched huts which French parachute troops wrested from the Vietminh three weeks ago. The President was reported to have assented to the switch. Thousands of fresh troops and huge cargoes of American-supplied war equipment were flown in to reinforce French regiments already based on the broad plain around the village.

Vietminh division No. 316 had split its force, with thousands of troops marching northwestward on Lai Chau, at the head of navigation on the Black River only 30 miles from Red China's frontier, and other thousands heading southwestward toward Dien Bien Phu.

Explaining the withdrawal from Lai Chau, which a high command spokesman declared only Wednesday would be kept in control of French and Thai troops, Gen. Rene Cogy said cryptically: "We do not defend the town itself because it is like a mousetrap . . . The mousetrap is now ready for the Vietminh troops."

### French Club to Meet

Le Cercle Francais, French club, will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in 1 Main Engineering. Winston R. Weisman, assistant professor of fine arts, will discuss French manuscript illumination. He will illustrate his talk with slides.

### Pre-Vacation Class Cuts Need Profs' Excuses

Students desiring to be excused early from classes to work before Christmas vacation begins Dec. 19 must receive approval from their instructors; Frank J. Simes, dean of men, has announced. No excuses will be approved by the Dean of Men's office, he said.

Whether the explanation could get going again by switching from balky South Koreans to the Americans remained to be determined.

Yesterday 25 South Koreans, obviously taking their cue from the Communists, suddenly refused to face interviewers unless they could make time-consuming "counter-explanations."

**30 Refuse to Answer**  
Thirty more South Koreans were called up today but with no assurance they would respond.

If the South Koreans continue to resist, the UN Command conceivably could switch to the 22 Americans and a Briton. These men have indicated they would face explainers but that they want the right to fire a big barrage of questions at the interviewers.

An atmosphere of frustration also hangs over the tent in Panmunjom where today negotiators round out seven weeks of talks, as far apart as ever over efforts to arrange for a Korean peace conference.

Reports were that U.S. Envoy Arthur Dean may go home soon and leave an aide to carry on the talks, thus putting it up to the Reds whether they are to be broken off.

**South Koreans Questioned**  
Before the latest prisoner stall, 224 South Koreans had run through explanation booths, all electing to stay with the Reds and be sent to a separate compound.

Twenty-six others who heard explanations Thursday refused to move to the separate compound and went back into the area where prisoners are awaiting the talks.

Only 5 of 30 requested prisoners showed up yesterday and they had to be tossed out when they attempted to give their own explanations. The other 25 wouldn't even come inside.

## Wurfl Will Lead Christmas Sing

George J. Wurfl, professor emeritus of German, will lead the 24th annual Christmas Sing at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Schwab Auditorium.

The sing, sponsored by the Department of German, is open to the public.

Wurfl will read the account of the Nativity according to St. Luke in German, and George E. Ceiga, University organist, will play the prelude and postlude.

The entire Chinese language is made up of words of one syllable. Each sound may have ten or more meanings and the language has no rules of grammar.

## Military Strength Vital, Says Marshall

OSLO, Norway Dec. 11 (AP)—Nobel peace prize winner Gen. George C. Marshall said today military strength is vital in the "present highly dangerous situation," but that keeping up big armies indefinitely is not a promising policy for lasting peace.

The American soldier-statesman outlined in a lecture at Oslo University festival hall the broad steps he believes would lead to the end of wars.

Most important of these, the 78-year-old sponsor of the Marshall Plan declared, is "a spiritual regeneration which would re-establish a feeling of good faith among men generally."

He called on the democratic nations to provide leadership against intolerance, distrust and "that fatal insecurity that leads to war."

Marshall said that, because the United States is made up of so many nationalities, Americans have acquired a concern for other peoples' problems and a "deep urge to help the oppressed and to give aid to those upon whom great and sudden hardship has fallen."

Marshall did not once mention the Soviet Union or communism. But the speech he had prepared long in advance replied directly to Communist critics and in effect to a group of young Red demonstrators who yesterday interrupted the award ceremonies to protest.

"There has been considerable comment on the awarding of the Nobel peace prize to a soldier," Marshall said pointedly. "I am afraid this does not seem as remarkable to me as it quite evidently appears to others. I know a great deal of the horrors and tragedies of war."

## British Party Split on Suez

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill flew home today from the Bermuda conference and landed in the middle of a growing fight within his own conservative party over plans to withdraw British troops from the Suez Canal Zone.

The 79-year old statesman was in a buoyant mood as he stepped out of his plane. There were strong indications he had American backing for his policy in the Middle East. The Suez Canal Zone is a vital link in the defense of that area.

Some 30 conservative members of Parliament have drafted a motion opposing the government's proposals for a gradual withdrawal of the 70,000-man garrison with the exception of 4000 technicians needed for safeguard maintenance of the billion dollar installations.

### Johnstone to Speak

Professor Henry Johnstone, assistant professor of philosophy, will discuss "Proofs on the Existence of God" at a joint meeting of the Young Friends and Young Unitarians at 6:15 p.m. tomorrow in 304 Old Main.

# U.S. May Examine Near East Policy

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec. 11 (AP)—Competent sources predicted today Vice President Richard Nixon's return to Washington Monday will signal the start of a wide-spread re-examination of U.S. policy toward southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Behind this, they said, is a question whether the United States is still satisfied to permit Prime Minister Nehru's India to dominate the region or intends to build up another nation—probably Pakistan—to challenge Nehru's leadership.

The question of Indian reaction has been studied carefully, these sources said, but a final decision will be taken only after Nixon reports to President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and the Department of Defense.

Key U.S. officials have expressed strong doubts during visits to this area that past American policy toward Nehru has achieved even "friendly neutrality" on the part of the Indian leader.

There is a strong feeling here that a decision on American mili-

tary assistance to Pakistan—certainly a major factor of new policy—will be taken within weeks, if not days. Long delay in deciding whether it is wise to build up Pakistan in the face of certain Indian opposition has had the effect of leaving smaller nations dangling in uncertainty, informants said.

Nixon has behind him direct discussions with Nehru, Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammed Ali and the leaders of other nations from Thailand to Iran on the

question of proper U.S. policy toward this vast area.

What he intends to tell Eisenhower is a strict secret, but competent sources in this Moslem capital believe he will recommend it is time to abandon the present "soft policy" in relations with Nehru.

United States leaders are believed most nettled by Nehru's furious opposition to proposed military assistance for Pakistan so much as by his attitude on Korean War questions.

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## Divorcee Protects Ex-husband

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—A slender brunette divorcee refused today to tell anything about the whereabouts of her former husband, described by Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) as a member of the Rosenberg spy ring and as a fugitive from the FBI.

"Your refusal means that you are equally guilty with him," McCarthy told Mrs. Louise Sarant, called before the Senate investigations subcommittee in its search for Soviet radar spying at the Ft. Monmouth, N.J., Army Signal Corps laboratories.

Mrs. Sarant, refusing at first to discuss her family, finally identified herself as the daughter of an Ithaca, N.Y., lawyer. McCarthy said after the hearing her former husband, Al Sarant, is believed to have left the country.

One other witness today was a New York lawyer, Joseph H. Percoff, who swore he never engaged in espionage but then refused to say whether he ever passed secret government documents to Communist spies.

Percoff contended McCarthy had no right to question him about "political activities" and also questioned the senator's power to make rulings with no other committee members present.

McCarthy told him sharply, however, he already had waived immunity from questioning, so far as any spy activities were concerned, by denying he ever took part in an espionage conspiracy.

## Strickler Undecided On Political Race

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—Maj. Gen. Daniel B. Strickler, former lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania, said today he hasn't decided whether he will enter the 1954 gubernatorial race in Pennsylvania.

Strickler, 56, of Lancaster, told a reporter he has received many requests from all parts of the state that he seek the Republican nomination for governor.

"As the movement grows," he said, "I realize I'll have to make a decision whether to enter the political picture or remain in Army service."

He explained he would of course, have to give up his military post, as did President Eisenhower, if he re-entered politics.

### Orientation Counselors

The student orientation counselor committee will meet at 10 a.m. today in the Dean of Men's office to discuss talks with new students entering the University in February. Harold W. Perkins, assistant dean of men, has announced.

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