

POW Argument Nears Showdown

SEOUL, Friday, Jan. 8 (AP)—The Communists today pushed the explosive dispute over prisoners closer to a showdown with demands clashing head-on with the UN Command's stand that the 22,000 Chinese and North Koreans must be freed as civilians after Jan. 22.

The Reds insisted that a majority of the supervisory commission agreed with them in the main. They quoted a hitherto highly secret memorandum of India's chief custodial officer as saying armistice terms were not specific "about custody by Indian troops coming to an end."

Shortly before last midnight, a Red messenger at Panmunjom turned over a letter demanding that explanations to the prisoners be resumed and that the prisoners be held until a peace conference deals with them, regardless of when it is convened.

The letter replied to requests from Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, India's chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, that both sides present their views and help the commission reach a decision on what to do about the prisoners.

Period Ended Dec. 23

Earlier, the UN Command had sent its reply stating that the 90-day explanation period ended Dec. 23 as called for in the armistice terms and that if no peace conference was set up in time to deal with the prisoners by Jan. 22 their release was automatic.

Peiping radio, quoting from a confidential memorandum which Thimayya sent along with his letter to both Communist Czechoslovakia and Poland, said the explanations should be resumed.

The UN Command, advised of the broadcast, made no immediate comment.

Prisoners Refuse Head Count
Another development in the fast-forming crisis was a reliable report that the Indian command had asked for a new head count today in the anti-Red compounds but the prisoners refused.

On Dec. 31, the Indian command made a roll call of nearly 5,000 Chinese during which 135 asked and were granted repatriations to the Communists. The Reds, who insist on doing their own explaining, denounced the move as "illegal screening."

South Korea, opposed to India's role in the armistice, issued a veiled warning that any attempt to renew it might bring South Korean steps to free the 7,500 North Koreans among the 22,000 in the anti-Red compounds.

Snow, Floods Strike Italy

LONDON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Beset by an Adriatic flood which laid waste six villages in the Po River delta, Italy braced today for new peril from the north. Wind-whipped blizzards, swirling across Western Europe, isolated dozens of Alpine hamlets.

Age-18 Vote Amendments Introduced

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Acting promptly on President Eisenhower's proposal to lower the voting age to 18, constitutional amendments to bring this about were introduced in both houses of Congress today.

Sen. William Knowland of California, Republican leader of the Senate, offered a measure which won the immediate endorsement of five other senators from both parties.

A similar bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Widnall (R-NJ) who said American youth is ready to shoulder more responsibility for the government of the country.

Since the Constitution does not set forth the qualifications of voters, this matter has been left to the "reserved powers" of the states. Forty-seven states require voters to be 21, but Georgia has permitted 18-year-olds to vote since 1944.

A constitutional amendment, if passed by a two-thirds majority of Congress and approved by three-fourths of the states, would establish on a nation-wide basis the right of young men and women to cast a ballot upon reaching the age of 18.

Eisenhower devoted a paragraph to the problem in his State of the Union message to Congress today. "For years our citizens between the ages of 18 and 21 have, in time of peril, been summoned to fight for America," the President said.

"They should participate in the political process that produces this fateful summons. I urge Congress to propose to the states a constitutional amendment permitting citizens to vote when they reach the age of 18."

Gruenther States "Peace In Balance"

PARIS, Jan. 7 (AP)—Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe, said today the world's uneasy peace is balanced between Russia's military superiority and the West's ability to deliver crushing air blows to Soviet industry.

"We still do not have enough forces in any area, particularly the central area, to meet an all-out Soviet offensive," Gruenther said, "but neither do the Soviets have the capability to defend themselves from an aerial attack on their industrial potential."

Reviewing accomplishments of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the three years since Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower arrived to head SHAPE in 1951, Gruenther told the American Club, a group of U.S. businessmen here, that important progress has been made in long range air power.

"We have the capability to be able to wreak a great deal of damage on Soviet industrial potential and they are unable to meet this development at this time," he said.

NATO, a defensive alliance of 14 nations, actually has no long-range bombers within its military command. In case of war, they presumably might be made available to the organization by the U.S. Strategic Air Command.

At the moment, F84G Thunderjets are the only atom-bomb carrying planes at NATO's disposal.

The development of an air striking force which could cripple Soviet industry is "one of the consoling features in the balanced picture" of over-all defense, the general said.

He recalled that when Eisenhower took the SHAPE command, the Western cause was in a sorry condition. The Korean War seemed lost. There were only about 14 divisions, at Eisenhower's disposal. There were 1800 planes. There were only 15 air fields.

The Soviet Union had—and still has—"probably the strongest army, numerically the strongest air force and the second strongest navy," Gruenther said.

Instead of the 15 NATO airfields, there now are 120 and more will be added in the next two years. The European nations of NATO are spending \$11,600,000 a year for defense, instead of the \$7 1/2 billion they were spending in 1951.

Gruenther said his headquarters is studying the effect of the new atomic weapons on military planning, taxes and defense costs of the NATO nations.

He said it is a certainty that NATO will, through atomic weapons delivered by air, guided missiles and artillery, have increased fire power in the future.

'Quake' Hits Reading, Shocks Reach NY

READING, Pa., Jan. 7 (AP)—The Reading area was shaken by earth tremors today that tumbled sleepers out of bed, toppled chimneys, rattled houses and tumbled liquor bottles from shelves in a state liquor store.

There were 11 tremors in all, the first at 2:30 a.m. and the last at 1:45 p.m. Fordham and Columbia Universities in New York said that seismographs there registered the shocks.

The Rev. Joseph J. Lynch, Fordham seismologist, termed them local "settlement" shocks. He said that their exact cause could not be determined.

Dr. L. M. Levitt, head of Philadelphia's Franklin Institute Observatory, said the tremors were recorded on his instruments as "very mild earthquakes." Dr. Levitt said they probably were caused by the "release of strains or stresses stored up in the earth's crust; the aftershocks like a bouncing ball or vibrating rubber band."

N.Y. Writer Backs Male Debate Team

Even the women are on the side of the Men's Debate Team as they go into action against the Mount Mercy Girls' Team at 7:30 tonight in 121 Sparks.

A letter sent by the Men's Team to Doris Blake, advice to the lovelorn columnist for the New York Daily News, requesting her opinions on her recent column topic which discussed, "Will the recent trend of women going from the home to industry do more harm than good?" brought the following reply:

Regret that I can't be there but, "Wish your team good luck in the debate."

Miss Blake said in her letter that she could not give her opinions on the topic in a letter because it is contrary to her practices as a columnist.

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Allies Swap Big 4 Ideas With Reds

BERLIN, Jan. 7 (AP)—Representatives of the three Western Allies swapped views with the Russians today to try to smooth the way for the Berlin conference of the Big Four Foreign Ministers. But they had to schedule another session for Saturday after failing to agree on a site for the parley.

West Berlin's three Allied commandants conferred for six hours at British headquarters with Sergei A. Dengin, Berlin representative of the Soviet High Commission.

After what was officially described as "an exchange of views," the four decided to meet again Saturday at Soviet headquarters in Karlshorst, East Berlin.

The Allies have proposed the 500-room former Allied Control Authority building in the American sector of Berlin for the conference, to open Jan. 25.

Allied spokesmen said the talks were conducted in "a friendly atmosphere" and cautioned against any pessimism because the first preparatory parley did not produce agreement.

Before the meeting got under way, a Russian-licensed newspaper featured a front-page story declaring West Berlin was not safe for the Foreign Ministers conference.

West Berlin, meanwhile, took a favorable view toward the Big Four talks.

Runaway Lovers Wed

KELSO, Scotland, Jan. 7 (AP)—Love triumphed tonight for Isabela Patino and Jimmy Goldsmith, the runaway romancers.

The 18-year-old Bolivian tin heiress and her dashing English fiance, 20, were married in this picturesque border village seven hours after her father, multi-millionaire Antenor Patino, withdrew a court ban in Edinburgh against their marriage.

Spy Probers Warned of Waste

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) urged the Senate today to guard against "waste and extravagance" in its investigations.

He took his stand at the outset of a prospective new wave of congressional spy-hunting probes.

Hayden told the Senate he will invoke a long-dormant rule to force a delay of at least one day—thereby providing time for debate—before the chamber acts on proposals for investigations.

Jenner Asks New Funds

The Arizona Democrat's move came as Sen. Jenner (R-Ind.) asked the Senate for \$170,000 in new funds to carry on his Senate Internal Security subcommittee's investigations of communism.

Jenner beat Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.) on the punch in introducing his resolution for

new funds. McCarthy has said he plans to ask an increase over the \$200,000 allotted to his Senate Investigations subcommittee for last year.

Jenner's request for \$170,000 is \$20,000 more than his subcommittee received in 1953.

Contempt Citations Voted
Hayden denied to newsmen that his slow-down move was aimed at McCarthy or any other senate inquiry group.

McCarthy's subcommittee voted at a closed-door meeting to ask the Senate for contempt of Congress citations against three balking witnesses.

The three are:
1. Corliss Lamont, wealthy New York writer and philosophy teacher, who was accused by McCarthy on some "two dozen" contempt counts for refusing to answer subcommittee questions.

2. Albert Shadowitz, of Nutley, N.J., an engineer formerly working for a plant doing work for the Signal Corps. He refused to answer subcommittee questions at a New York hearing last Dec. 16 with the explanation that Dr. Albert Einstein, the famed physicist, had advised him not to do so.

3. Abraham Unger, a New York City lawyer.

Asks for 4th Citation
McCarthy said the subcommittee also voted to ask the Justice Department to determine whether a fourth witness should be cited for alleged perjury in denying under oath that he was a Communist party member.

McCarthy described the man as an employee of the General Electric plant at Schenectady, N.Y., who testified at a recent closed-door hearing in Albany.

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Novelty TV Set
NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (AP)—A television set on which hubby can watch wrestling from one station and the wife at the same time see a whodunit from another was demonstrated here today.

The set, so far only in the novelty stage, was developed by Ailen B. DuMont Laboratories, Inc. which calls it Duoscopic. Basically, it's two complete sets built into a single cabinet.



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