

Molotov Modifies Plan For European Security

BERLIN, Feb. 15 (AP)—Russia's V. M. Molotov tonight offered modifications of the Soviet proposal for a European security system. But he clung to demands that the European army must be banned, Germany neutralized, and American troops sent home.

Molotov fought a four-hour running word battle with the Western ministers at the Berlin Big Four conference in an effort to sell his plan as securing "Europe for the Europeans."

France's Georges Bidault and Britain's Anthony Eden charged the Soviet plan would outlaw the North Atlantic Alliance as a keystone of Western defense. They said they would never agree to this.

Molotov retorted, "The collective security treaty is an alternative project against the European Defense Community. The EDC is aimed at a rebirth of German militarism."

"It has been said the collective security treaty is aimed against NATO. Let's study this question, let's find out where and how this treaty is directed against any other treaty."

Trying to pin Molotov down, Bidault asked, "Isn't the treaty incompatible with NATO? What is your answer?"

Molotov snapped "I propose we adjourn."

Soviet Press Chief Leonid F. Ilychev confirmed later tonight that Molotov never answered Bidault's question. A French briefing officer had said earlier that Molotov replied "It is not against NATO."

Tax Payments Seen 'Easier' In Future

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—The time may come soon when about 35 million wage earners will be relieved of the chore of filing federal income tax returns—although they still will have to pay their taxes.

A House Appropriations subcommittee disclosed today that T. Coleman Andrews, commissioner of Internal Revenue, has reported considerable progress in a plan under which no tax returns would be required from persons whose entire income is subject to payroll withholding for tax purposes.

Andrews said he thinks the plan can be put into effect next year.

Employers would then file a single report, covering both income taxes and social security taxes. The government would compute the tax and send the taxpayer a bill or a refund.

Benson Urges Dropping Rigid Price Supports

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson has told Congress that losses under the government farm program could be staggering unless the present system of rigid price supports is abandoned.

"We cannot say what the government's eventual loss will be in connection with present inventories and loans" on government-supported commodities, he said.

Butter Price Cut

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—The government today announced a slash of about eight cents a pound in federal price supports for butter in a move to reduce its cost to housewives, spur sales and head off an increase in the already heavy surplus of dairy products.

The order is expected to bring an eight-cent drop in the price of butter on grocers' shelves.

Democrats Hit Rollcall Plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—Democratic senators poured ridicule today on a proposal by the Republican leadership to amend the Constitution to require record, rollcall votes on all treaties acted upon by the Senate.

"It's like dropping an atomic bomb to kill a mosquito," said Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.), who argued the same thing could be accomplished by a simple change in the Senate rules.

Sen. Ferguson of Michigan, chairman of the GOP Senate Policy Committee, proposes to tack the rollcall requirement onto the controversial amendment offered by Sen. John W. Bricker (R-Ohio), which is designed to fence in the president's treaty-making powers.

British Report Sabotage Incidents

LONDON, Feb. 15 (AP)—Sabotage incidents reported aboard British naval vessels during the last nine months reached 17 today when the Admiralty disclosed that anti-aircraft guns aboard the 36,800-ton aircraft carrier Eagle had been damaged.

Six sabotage cases have been reported within the last six weeks. Naval authorities have insisted that the damage done—only minor so far—does not look like the work of Communist agents.

Commission Discussed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed today that the reserve commission of Charles A. Lindbergh be restored, and that the flier be promoted to brigadier general.

Benson Hints At Shake-up

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15 (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson dropped a key holdover from the Truman regime today and hinted at a sweeping shake-up to oust hostile Democrats and replace them with Republicans in handling the administration's farm program.

Benson told a news conference that some Agriculture department employees are working against the administration's farm policies and seeking to undermine both President Dwight D. Eisenhower and himself.

As a result, he said, the department will soon make a careful study of the entire situation in an effort to achieve maximum efficiency and loyalty.

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