

Radford Hints French Air Aid

WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hinted at possibly greater U.S. air aid to France's Communist-beset forces in Indochina today.

Emerging from a 30-minute conference with President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the White House, Radford told newsmen the United States "will certainly consider" sending more B-26 bombers to help the hard-pressed French forces if such a request is made.

He also commented that if more planes are sent, he does not believe it will be necessary to send additional American air technicians to Indochina to keep them in flying operation.

Will Need Personnel
At Hanoi, Indochina, Brig. Gen. Jean Dechaux said if more U.S. aircraft are sent now, it would be necessary to send service crews along to maintain them because the French are short of that type of personnel.

Dechaux commands French air operations in the current bitter battle against Communist-led Vietminh forces besieging the French bastion of Dien Bien Phu. More than 300 U.S. Air Force technicians and civilian transport pilots are now aiding the French in servicing planes or delivering supplies in Indochina.

Radford's hint of a possible step-up in U.S. air aid came as he left the White House with Gen. Paul Ely, chief of the French armed forces, who is here on a three-day visit.

No Request by France
Radford told reporters that as far as he knows there has been no formal request by France for more air aid.

Despite the reported gravity of the French position at Dien Bien Phu, Adm. Radford told newsmen confidently that "the French are going to win" the battle there.

Radford also reiterated that the contingent of U.S. Air Force technicians now in Indochina will be withdrawn in June according to plan.

Police Begin Hospital Probe

HARRISBURG, March 22 (AP)—A state police investigation is being made of reports of inaccuracies in the accounts of Shamokin State Hospital.

Revenue Secretary Otto F. Messner, who ordered the probe, said today a preliminary report has convinced him that "nothing serious" is involved.

The Philadelphia Bulletin said Sunday that in 1951-53, it cost the state \$714,000 to operate the state-owned hospital but that only \$233,000 was collected from patients.

The newspaper said the hospital's revenue agent listed 67 accounts as uncollectible because he was unable to find the patients or their families but that reporters located 58 of the 67.

Messner conceded this was "a bad thing" but explained that it was a bookkeeping procedure occasionally used in small debts.

Specialists Suggest Gear Shift Shoes

CLEVELAND, March 22 (AP)—Shoes equipped with a kind of automatic gear shift are one way to give us happier feet, two bone specialists suggested today.

The idea is to put into shoes movable joints which will automatically adjust to the shifting of bone and muscle "gears" when we walk or stand.

From a scientific study of feet and shoes, this is one of several changes proposed by Drs. Harry C. Stein and I. E. Fixel, orthopedic surgeons of New York City.

They find eight major defects in the engineering of conventional shoes and propose the changes "to make our feet the boss of our shoes, instead of our shoes bossing our feet."

"We're becoming a nation of foot cripples with aching feet, bunions and other troubles largely because our shoes aren't best engineered for our feet," they said.

Senate Vote To Decide Seat Dispute

WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—The chances of Sen. Dennis Chavez (D-NM) keeping his Senate seat brightened today as floor debate opened on a recommendation that he be ousted because of a 1952 New Mexico ballot dispute.

With a showdown vote expected soon, probably tomorrow, there were signs some Republican senators would support Chavez and others might not be present for the vote. Indications were that the Democrats would solidly oppose the resolution to declare the New Mexico senator's seat vacant.

Even if all Republicans went against Chavez they would need some Democratic help to oust him. The Democrats outnumber the Republicans 48-47 and the lone independent, Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon, is counted in Chavez' camp.

Morse, however, was the only dissenter in a voice vote to lay aside the Hawaii-Alaska statehood bill and take up the New Mexico dispute. The Oregon senator said he didn't consider the Chavez question of such "emergency" nature as to warrant the switch.

He said it offered "precedential weight" for continued delay in consideration of statehood for Hawaii and Alaska by bringing up "some other issue and then some other issue."

Sen. William E. Knowland of California, the GOP floor leader, told Morse he had given the Democrats a "firm commitment" to consider the New Mexico election dispute.

Before the Senate is a resolution approved by its rules committee that Chavez's seat be declared vacant.

Elish Drops from Race

HARRISBURG, March 22 (AP)—Peter Elish, Washington County controller, withdrew today for the Democratic nomination for secretary of internal affairs.

Two Rob Bank; Lock President, Patrons in Vault

SHARON, Pa. (AP)—Two bandits robbed the First National Bank of nearby West Middlesex of an undetermined amount of cash today after locking up the bank's president and several customers in a vault. They fled in a waiting auto.

The bandits, both brandishing pistols, entered the bank about 10 a.m. One of them yelled: "this is a stickup. Take it easy and nobody will get hurt."

They forced Ernest Klinger, the bank's president, three other employees and three customers into the bank's vault before cleaning out the teller cages of cash.

Mrs. Jim O'Neil, a depositor, entered the bank several minutes after the robbery. She saw nobody but heard voices in the vault. The frightened woman ran out to get help.

Several minutes later she returned with John Walker, a hardware store proprietor, and Dan Grundy, a station filling attendant. They opened the vault door on instructions from Klinger from the inside.

None of the employees appeared hurt. Klinger had no immediate comment except to say he said he did not know immediately how much cash was taken.

U.S. Loans Pay Allied Debts

WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—U.S. foreign aid hit a record high of over 6 1/4 billion dollars last year, enabling foreign countries to pay their trade debts and tuck 2 1/4 billions into their gold and dollars savings, the Department of Commerce said today.

Foreign countries were able to build up their gold and dollar reserves even though they received about 2 1/4 billion dollars less than they spent in commercial transactions with the United States in 1953.

Foreign reserves outside the Iron Curtain reached an all time high of 23 billion dollars in readily available gold and U.S. and Canadian dollars at the end of 1953, the Commerce Department reported.

But to what extent other countries were approaching the point where they could get along without U.S. aid was still uncertain, the department's report on the balance of payments for 1953 indicated.

Trieste Issue Dims Hopes for Defense

ROME, March 22 (AP)—Scandal, communism and a revival of the Trieste issue today dimmed prospects for rapid ratification of the European Defense Community treaty by Italy.

Creation of EDC—the major objective of the current U.S. foreign policy toward Europe—already is snarled by the French-German dispute over the Saar. The French Assembly has made a settlement of the quarrel a condition of ratification.

Premier Mario Scelba, whose new government previously planned to push EDC through quickly, hinted at a luncheon of foreign correspondents that a settlement of the Trieste question favorable to Italy would ease the treaty's road. Yugoslavia disputes Italy's rights to the Trieste area.

Responsible sources said the main reasons for new delay in bringing EDC before Parliament are these:

1. The government is preoccupied with the Wilma Montesi case, which brought out allegations of misconduct in high places, led to the resignation of the national chief of police and resulted in a wave of popular indignation.
2. Officials are busy with plans for a crackdown on communism, which will include measures against Communist-controlled trade agencies and infiltration into lower civil service ranks.
3. Parliament will be busy with a budget, and social and broader land reform bills are scheduled. The Social Democrats, whose 19 votes represent the margin of power for Scelba's center coalition, insist on priority for these as the price of support.
4. Shaken by the Montesi scandal, the government at this tricky moment does not want its slender majorities put to the test of far left and far right opposition by putting up EDC. Enough deputies displeased by the Montesi developments might bolt party lines to bring down the government.

Polish Premier Resigns

WARSAW, Poland, March 19 (AP)—Boleslaw Bierut, Premier of Poland since 1952, has given up the post to be first secretary of the United Polish Workers' Communist party, it was announced today. Bierut, also a former president, has been Poland's No. 1 Communist since World War II.

Egypt Gets Ultimatum on Sniping

LONDON, March 22 (AP)—Britain told Egypt today that if the Egyptians want the Suez Canal zone talks resumed they will have to stop sniping and ambushing British troops there. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden said four British soldiers have been killed and several others wounded the last few days.

Egypt just as bluntly rejected Britain's representations about the attacks. A Cairo official said the mere presence of British forces in the zone "constitutes an aggression against Egypt."

Egypt wants the British to remove 80,000 soldiers from the zone. The British say their removal would endanger the security of the canal.

The worsening British-Egyptian relations brought a surprise Cabinet meeting tonight. Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill called in his top military advisers to the meeting two hours after Eden spelled out the new warning to Egyptian authorities in the House of Commons.

All Cabinet discussions remain secret pending announcements in Commons. But it was clearly understood in the lobby before the ministers filed into the meeting that the prime minister called them together to consider the pressing Suez problem.

Eden told the House of Commons that four British servicemen have been killed and several others wounded in a series of attacks by Egyptian guerrillas in the Suez area the last few days. He said two other British soldiers have disappeared.

Eden said conditions in the canal zone deteriorated "very seriously" in the last week. Egyptian authorities were told that "in the present conditions—which are due to their failure to take the necessary steps to maintain order—a resumption of discussions is not possible."

Britain provisionally agreed to withdraw her 80,000-man garrison if she is given specific right of re-entry under certain circumstances and if a caretaker force of British technicians keep the base in good order.

Egypt's prompt rejection, the Cairo official said, referred to "organized aggression of British forces against Egyptian civilians in the canal area." Egypt also contended that the current disorders followed the shooting of an Egyptian police officer by British soldiers March 11. Egyptian civilians in the Suez area have acted "in several instances in self defense," the Egyptians said.

Langer Bill Will Reaffirm War Power

WASHINGTON, March 22 (AP)—Sen. William Langer (R-N.D.) today introduced a resolution which he said would reaffirm the "exclusive power" of Congress to declare war.

The resolution says in one provision:

"... The armed forces of the United States shall not be ordered into action against the territory or armed forces of any foreign nation without a prior declaration of war, except to the extent necessary to repel an armed attack against the United States or any of its territories or possessions."

Langer told the Senate when introducing the resolution that Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in a speech last week "gave the impression that war could be declared without the consent of Congress."

Dulles interpreted the North Atlantic Treaty as empowering the President to order instant retaliation in event of an attack on a nation allied with the United States under that treaty.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower has said he would act within constitutional processes. He also has said that a president who did not act to repel attack on this country, without waiting for congressional action, should be impeached and hanged.

Flying Discs Seen

HAZLETON, Pa., March 22 (AP)—Four "flying discs" spinning in circles and making passes at an airliner were reported by a disabled veteran and his wife today. Michael Kuritz, 44, said he and his wife and mother-in-law saw the "flying discs" from his home at Weatherly, five miles southeast of here.

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