

# Britain to Support Indochina Ceasefire

GENEVA, April 27 (AP)—Britain is supporting France in an effort to obtain a cease fire as the first step at the Geneva conference toward solving the bloody impasse in Indochina, a British source said tonight.

The 19-nation conference debated Korea today but the initial arguments foreshadowed the doom of efforts to unite and pacify that country.

## French Set For Stand In Indochina

HANOI, Indochina, April 27 (AP)—Under pelting rains and despite heavy rebel mortar and artillery fire the French flung up new "last ditch" fortifications today in the heart of Dien Bien Phu.

The long-awaited big seasonal monsoon rains turned the northwest Indochina fortress area into lakes of red mud and crippled French air strikes at the Communist-led Vietminh besiegers.

French Dig In  
But the French carved out more trenches and flung up thick mazes of barbed wire barricades in their main defense area, now reduced to a little less than a mile in diameter. They exchanged artillery blows with the Vietminh but there was no sign as yet of any mass rebel infantry assault.

One French patrol struck out from a southern strongpoint three miles away from the main defense complex and managed to destroy a long string of rebel trenches.

Tighten Defenses  
For the French the task was to tighten the defense bulwark as much as possible. All around the main defense area the Vietminh were chipping slowly away at key spots. The French operational headquarters of Brig. Gen. Christian de Castries were less than 600 yards from advanced positions of strong Vietminh forces.

On the rim of the fortress the Vietminh set up more machine gun nests and anti-aircraft batteries to try to shoot down the planes which parachute men and material into the fortress.

## Bently Returns to House

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—A standing ovation greeted Rep. Alvin E. Bently (R-Mich.) upon his return to the House today for the first time since he and four other congressmen were shot down by Puerto Rican fanatics on March 1.

# Byrd Asks Action On Housing Official

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.) called on the Justice Department today to start "immediate legal proceedings against Clyde L. Powell," the former housing official whom he described as "the key official" in current investigations of excessive FHA-guaranteed loans.

He asked the department also to look into the other programs of the Federal Housing Administration, using income tax returns if necessary, to "bring to justice any who may be criminally liable" and to seek recovery of excess profits which he said could exceed 100 million dollars.

Powell could not be reached for comment, but his attorney Daniel Maher, said he would have no immediate comment on Byrd's letter. Powell resigned as assistant FHA commissioner for rental housing. FHA said today its files show his separation as "removal with prejudice."

There was no immediate reaction from the Justice Department. Byrd, addressing his letter to Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, wrote as chairman of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Expenditures. Both that group and the Senate Banking Committee headed by Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind.) opened hearings last week into charges of inflated FHA-guaranteed loans on apartment buildings and alleged "fleeing" of home owners on FHA-insured repair and im-

On Indochina, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said Britain had refused to commit troops to fighting there while the conference is in progress. In the House of Commons at London, he held out the hope that the conference might work out a cease fire.

A widely circulated report here was that Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov and Red China's Chou En-lai planned to propose a cease fire within the next few days. A French spokesman regarded it as untrue.

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—Vice President Richard M. Nixon sought today to reassure America's governor, disturbed over the possible political dynamite lurking in talk about sending U.S. troops to Indochina. Nixon presided over a closed-door meeting, arranged by President Eisenhower, of the governors of the 48 states and the territories of Guam, Alaska and the Virgin Islands.

Prepared to Back France  
A top conference source said Britain was prepared to back up the French in seeking quickly a cease fire to be followed by negotiations with the Communist-led Vietminh. The position of the United States is that while a halt in the fighting is desirable, it should not be at the price of concessions which would ultimately prove of high cost to the Western powers.

Molotov and French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault met today at Bidault's lakeside villa. They reached a measure of agreement on invitations to be issued for the coming talks on Indochina.

Found A Way Out  
The optimism of the spokesman reporting this indicated the two ministers may have found some way of getting around the announced refusal of Bao Dai, the Viet Nam chief of state, to sit at the same peace table with representatives of the Vietminh.

Bidault meets Molotov again tomorrow for further discussions. A French spokesman said they did not take up a cease fire at their first meeting.

## Churchill Refuses Aid In Indochina

LONDON April 27 (AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill refused today to commit British troops now to Indochina. He held out the hope that the Geneva conference will arrange a cease fire in that troubled land.

Waves of cheers echoed through the House of Commons when Churchill—gripping the dispatch box before him—slowly and carefully said:

"Her Majesty's government are not prepared for any undertakings about United Kingdom military action in Indochina in advance of the results of Geneva. We have not entered into any new political or military commitments."

He said his Cabinet has the fullest confidence in the course it has agreed Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden "should follow in circumstances so largely governed by the unknown."

He did not elaborate on the further steps planned.

Churchill declared the immediate military problems of the French Union forces in Indochina should not color too much the thinking at Geneva. He said:

"The timing of the climax of this assault with the opening of the Geneva conference is not without significance, but it must not be allowed to prejudice the sense of world proportion which should inspire the conference and be a guide to those who are watching its progress."

This remark was interpreted by some as indicating that the British do not regard the possible ultimate loss of Dien Bien Phu as seriously as do the French and possibly the Americans.

## Wool Bill Given Senate Approval

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—The Senate passed a bill today providing for government payments to encourage domestic wool production, but refused to tack on to it an amendment to support major crops at 90 per cent of parity for another year.

Both votes were victories for the Eisenhower administration.

The wool program, approved 69-17, had full administration support. But Secretary of Agriculture Benson wants a lower, more flexible system of farm crop supports after the present law expires at the end of the year.

Grape nuts, the first packaged cereal, were originated by Charles William Post in 1897.

# Surgeon Testifies In Dickenson Trial

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—A surgeon who spent four years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp testified today at the court martial of Cpl. Edward S. Dickenson that 98 per cent of complaints made by POWs against one another "are false."

This statement was made by Dr. Philip Bloemsa. He was called on behalf of Dickenson, who is charged with collaborating with the Chinese Communists while a POW in Korea and with informing on his buddies.

Bloemsa Gives Testimony  
Bloemsa's testimony followed two developments at the seventh day of the history-making trial:

1. One of the prosecution's star witnesses, Cpl. Thomas A. Carrick, of Blacksburg, Va., testified that he was so confused he wanted to have all his testimony stricken from the record. The testimony was not thrown out, however.

2. Dickenson's mother, Mrs. Bessie Dickenson, 46, of Cracker's Neck, Va., collapsed outside the courtroom and was ordered to take a rest after an Army doctor reported she had suffered "a nervous attack."

"Fence Complex"  
While the eight-member court listened with rapt attention, Dr. Bloemsa, a native of Holland and now a Washington surgeon, testified at length about a mental condition he described as a "fence complex."

The doctor said nearly every POW "loses his sense of right and wrong" after he is held captive behind a fence for any length of time.

"The fence is stamped on his mind," Bloemsa said.

This fact, the witness testified, leads POWs to "very peculiar" activities. They lose their sense of values, he said, and are willing to listen to all manner of rumors.

Earlier, Carrick had been recalled for cross-examination about his testimony that he had overheard Dickenson tipping his Chinese captors to Carrick's escape efforts.

## Business Head Deplores Fear Of Depression

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—President Richard L. Bowditch of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said tonight a depression is unlikely, but he is convinced that certain elements are trying to create one.

He charged that these elements are "conducting a form of economic germ warfare by spreading the virus of fear and hysteria," although economists and business men see no serious troubles ahead.

"The people who want a depression are the same people who would like to see our free market system come to a dead end—and then be taken over by a planned economy," he said.

"For the most part, these people have long histories of identification with so-called 'big government' movements and anti-business crusades..."  
Bowditch, a Boston business

## Schwable Reprimanded By Court

WASHINGTON, April 27 (AP)—A special court of inquiry today recommended against disciplinary action for Col. Frank H. Schwable, 45, flying Marine, but said his false confession of germ warfare in Korea had "seriously impaired" his military career.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, Navy Secretary Robert E. Anderson and Gen. Lemuel Shepherd, Marine Corps commandant, approved the court's recommendation.

Shepherd said in a statement he accepted the court's opinion that Schwable's conduct was "excusable on the ground that it was the result of mental torture."

Confession "Wrong"

Nevertheless, Shepherd said Schwable's confession—wringing from him under agonies of "brain washing" mistreatment by his Chinese Communist captors—constituted "a severe blow" to this country's interests, despite its falsity.

As a result, Shepherd said, the colonel's future assignments would be restricted to duties imposing "minimum demands... upon the elements of unblemished personal example and leadership."

Future Cloudy

With his future thus left under a cloud, Schwable went to the Pentagon late in the day to inquire about his next assignment from the chief of Marine aviation. His wife told newsmen Schwable did not plan to resign or seek retirement.

The court of inquiry had been set up to determine whether Schwable's confession—wringing from him while a captive of the Reds, justified a court-martial or other discipline.

## Yugoslav Council OKs Turkey, Greece Alliance

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, April 27 (AP)—The Yugoslav Executive Council, the country's top parliamentary body, today approved a proposed military alliance of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece.

First steps in forming such an alliance were taken during the mid-April visit by President Marshal Tito to Turkey.

man and former president of the New England Council, spoke at the annual reception and dinner given by the Council and New England Chambers of Commerce for the area's members of Congress.

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