

Russia Beams Plea For Japanese Friendship

TOKYO, Thursday, Dec. 16 (AP)—Russia yesterday made a strong radio plea for friendship with Japan and denied that as a condition it first wanted Japan to cut its close ties with the West.

Moscow beamed its broadcast—a sharp reversal of its propaganda—direct to Japan as the new government was questioned sharply by conservatives about its policy of closer relations with Communist lands.

Mamoru Shigemitsu, deputy premier and foreign minister in Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama's new conservative government, was asked sarcastically in a Foreign Affairs Committee meeting if Japan intends now to appease Russia and Communist China.

The questions were fired by former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida's Liberals conservatives, who had rebuffed previous overtures from the two Communist powers.

Shigemitsu replied that the government would study "practical methods" for readjusting relations. He said, however, that immediate "outright opening of diplomatic relations with Communist China was impossible." And the same is true for Russia, he added.

He told the Diet members Japanese relations with China probably will stress trade in the near future but would not overstep restrictions on shipping strategic materials imposed by the West.

Moscow's Japanese language broadcast, which stations in Japan picked up and carried in full, was far different from recent broadcasts which have called Japan a "vassal state" under the thumb of the United States.

The broadcast by commentator Ivan Protavsky was an "interpretation" of the Moscow-Peiping communique of Oct. 11. This communique declared the Japanese must begin "freeing themselves from dependance on a foreign power" as a first step toward restored diplomatic relations.

Wilson Announces Cut in Manpower

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (AP)—Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson said today there will be a cut in military manpower during the next fiscal year, beginning July 1.

But, in talking to reporters, Wilson declined to disclose the extent of the new decrease saying only that the strength of June, 1956, would be "less" than the 3,047,000 that had been planned up to now.

He was asked if all of the reduction would be in the Army. "No, but principally so," Wilson said.



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College Physician Resigns; Believes World Will End

EAST LANSING, Mich., Dec. 15 (AP)—A prediction that the world will come to an end Dec. 21 became a matter of official business today before the state Board of Agriculture, governing body of Michigan State College.

Dr. John A. Hannah, MSC president, reported to the board that Dr. Charles A. Laughead, a staff physician at the college hospital, had submitted his resignation because of his belief the world will end Dec. 21.

Dr. Laughead had been an MSC staff member since June 15, 1948. "I first heard about this business from a delegation of students who came to me," Dr. Hannah told the board. "They said Dr. Laughead had been holding meetings at his home and teaching the beliefs of some peculiar religious sect."

Dr. Hannah said the group believes the world will end Dec. 21 and that flying saucers from Venus or Mars—Dr. Hannah wasn't sure which—would rescue some of the survivors.

"We understand Dr. Laughead is disposing of his possessions and is getting ready to move to some mountain top to await the rescue," the MSC president said.

"He was perfectly willing to resign, and only seemed concerned about getting his pay immediately for the balance of the month of December."

Blaze Burns Coal In Saxton Fire

SAXTON, Pa., Dec. 15 (AP)—Fire which caused an estimated \$200,000 damage today destroyed a section of a coal tippie used by the Lunsted Coal Co. at nearby Riddlesburg. No one was injured.

Firemen from three volunteer companies battled the blaze for seven hours before bringing it under control. Ralph Wills, plant superintendent, estimated the damage. About 250 tons of coal was burned in the blaze.

The plant, owned by Don Marshall of Philadelphia, has been idle for the past several weeks. Three maintenance men were working when the blaze started. Cause of the blaze has not been determined. When operating at full capacity the plant employs 50 men.

Pope Pius Remains Weak; Illness Cause Not Known

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 15 (AP)—Pope Pius XII remains weak and his pulse is rather rapid, but he has no fever, his private physician said tonight on the eve of an X-ray examination intended to establish definitely the cause of his grave illness.

The physician, Dr. Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, said the pontiff's gastric juices were found normal in a four-man medical consultation last night. He described this finding as "comforting."

All was in readiness for the X-ray examination, which the physician estimated will take two hours.

Dr. Galeazzi-Lisi and three consulting specialists long ago ruled out cancer as a probable cause of the illness which has felled the

Roman Catholic leader twice in the last 11 months.

A source close to the pontiff raised the possibility today that an ulcer was involved. He said the Pope's condition was complicated by internal bleeding and anemia.

But bedfast as he was, the 78-year-old pontiff insisted on keeping a hand in some Vatican affairs. He studied today a report on the Philippine Marian Congress from a Spanish prelate who attended.

Leaders of NATO State Atomic Policy

PARIS, Dec. 15 (AP)—NATO's military leaders said today it is up to their governments to decide when and how the West shall use atomic weapons to repel any attack from the East.

The move by chiefs of staff of the North Atlantic treaty countries to sidestep the big decision was disclosed as U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles arrived here for a meeting of the NATO Council.

Gen. Augustin Guillaume, French chief of staff for national defense, acting as spokesman for the 14 staff chiefs of NATO countries, told a news conference the atomic decision is "up to the governments—it is not our responsibility." Guillaume said the staff chiefs agreed unanimously on a NATO "new look" Allied Commander defense plan based on use of atomic and other "wonder weapons."

"It will be up to the NATO Council to approve the recommendations we have made on this matter," Guillaume said. The staff chiefs' agreement to avoid any attempt to pick their own time for dropping atomic bombs or firing atomic cannon to halt a Communist attack apparently represented a retreat from the reported view of U.S. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, supreme Allied commander in Europe. Informants said earlier that Gruenther had asked the NATO Council to approve use of atomic weapons, without prior civilian okay, to meet the emergency of any Russian attack.

In London, diplomatic informants said Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden would fly to Paris tomorrow with instructions to insist on keeping a conditional check by government leaders on any military decision to open atomic warfare.

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Jury Convicts Woman

BEAVER, Pa. Dec. 15 (AP)—A Beaver County jury today convicted Mrs. Carrie Wingate of Aliquippa of voluntary manslaughter in the knife slaying of Joseph Harris, also of Aliquippa.

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