

French Troops Agree To Evacuate Saigon

SAIGON, South Viet Nam, May 20 (AP)—Premier Ngo Dinh Diem won an important victory today in his drive to lessen French influence in South Viet Nam. His deputy defense minister announced France had agreed to withdraw its troops from the capital city of Saigon.

The minister, Tran Trung Dung, said that eventually the entire 75,000-man French expeditionary force will be shifted from the big southern cities to two or three coastal embarkation points. Diem's government contends the troops in their present concentrations have angered the Vietnamese people and fired Communist propaganda.

Dung's announcement followed disclosure that Gen. Paul Ely, French commissioner general in Indochina and commander of the French armed forces here, had asked Paris to relieve him of his post.

Comes as Surprise

Dung and Ely are working out details of the troops' regrouping. Ely's move came as a surprise, but it obviously was an outgrowth of his clashes with Diem on military and political policies, and of American support for Diem.

Diem asked the French government last week to move the troops northward to the border with Communist-held North Viet Nam, where they could guard against Red encroachment, or pull them out of South Viet Nam.

Succeeds Again

Announcement of the agreement on shifting the French forces to coastal embarkation points marked another success in Diem's determination to prove that South Viet Nam now is free, independent and sovereign.

The victor in the recent civil war with Bing Xuyen rebels, Diem is arranging elections of a National Assembly to set up a government on a broad basis which will decide the future status of absentee Chief of State Bao Dai.

Installed in 1949

Now living on the French Riviera, Bao Dai was installed by the French in 1949.

The Premier made a strong bid for top-level recognition a week ago when he invited the Western Big Three foreign ministers to come here soon to draw up with his government a common course of action against the spread of communism in Viet Nam.

So far no replies have been received.

Molotov Is Russian Envoy To UN Meeting

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 20 (AP)—Soviet Russia is sending Foreign Minister Vassily M. Molotov to the 10th anniversary meeting of the United Nations next month in San Francisco. Molotov so informed the UN today.

This makes certain the holding of new high-level East-West talks.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and French Foreign Minister Antoine Pinay announced earlier they will be in San Francisco. The British also are expected to send their foreign minister—Harold Macmillan if the Conservatives win next Thursday's election, a Laborite otherwise.

The four ministers have just met in Vienna for the signing of the Austrian independence treaty. They likely will confer at San Francisco on plans for the meeting of their chiefs of government later in the summer.

Molotov attended the UN founding conference at San Francisco in 1945. He will come from Moscow after talks with India's Prime Minister Nehru, who is slated to visit Moscow early next month.

V. K. Krishna Menon, foreign affairs advisor to Nehru, will represent India at the San Francisco session starting June 20. Menon is conferring in Peiping with top Chinese Communist officials.

Lattimore Trip OK'd

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—Owen Lattimore, today won State Department approval for a trip to Europe this summer despite the fact that he is under federal indictment on a perjury charge.

Senate Opens Highway Debate

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—A hot fight over America's highways-of-the-future opened in the Senate today, with Democrats and Republicans vying to put across rival plans.

Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) in the first major speech of the debate, declared that a bill he offered would criss-cross the country with "magnificent" new superroads.

"The like of it no nation has ever dreamed," he said.

Catholicism Restricted In Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, May 20 (AP)—Congress completed action today on a three-point program by supporters of President Juan D. Peron for restricting the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina.

The Senate passed unanimously a House-approved resolution to set up the process for amending the constitution to separate church and state.

The Chamber of Deputies approved 112-9 a Senate bill to cancel the tax exemption of churches and religious organizations.

Point three in the program was approved earlier in the current three-week session by both bodies—discontinuing Catholic religious education in the public schools.

All three measures await signature by President Peron but this is taken for granted, since Peron had said publicly he would sign any actions against the church taken by Congress.

Congressional approval of the program had been anticipated, since Peron's party controls all the Senate seats and has an overwhelming majority in the Chamber.

There was no immediate comment from the Roman Catholic clergy, who had sought to rally its supporters in defense of the privileges the church now enjoys.

Republicans, scoffing that the Gore bill would not do the job, bided their time to try to substitute an Eisenhower measure, turned down by the Public Works Committee in favor of the Gore bill. No Senate votes are to be taken until next week.

Sen. Edward Martin of Pennsylvania formally introduced the Eisenhower bill and served notice he would ask the Senate to pass it instead of the Gore measure. He praised the administration bill as a sound one, designed to modernize the nation's roads on a "pay as you use" basis and help cut down the traffic death toll.

The Gore bills calls for a federal-state outlay of \$17,941,000,000 in the next five years on the four road systems aided by federal funds—interstate, primary, secondary and urban. Of the total about \$12,750,000 would be federal money.

The Eisenhower plan would allot 38 billions of federal-state funds to the four systems over 10 years. Of this, 28 billions would be spent on the 40,000-mile interstate system, designed to link up all areas of the country.

A big bone of contention is the method of financing the interstate system. Under the Eisenhower plan the federal government would put up 25 billion for this, raising 21 billion of it by 30-year bonds issued by a special federal corporation, whose borrowing technically would not be counted in the federal debt. The bonds would be paid off from gasoline taxes, and other motor vehicle taxes.

Democrats, including Sen. Byrd (D-Va.) have attacked this financing plan, saying it would involve heavy interest payments and evasion of the ceiling on the federal debt.

Auto Price, Rent Declines Reported

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—The government reported today that consumer prices for both automobiles and rents declined in April because of record production in the auto and housing industries.

The price declines were modest but possibly significant in view of tremendous output in both industries. They were chiefly responsible for an over-all slight reduction in the nation's living cost level for April.

The Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said that between mid-March and mid-April its consumers' price index declined a tenth of one per cent to 114.2 per cent of the 1947-49 average.

Lowest Since 1953

This is three-tenths of one per cent lower than April of last year. It is the lowest living cost level since May, 1953 when the index was 114.0.

The rent decline was only a tenth of one per cent. On a \$1.00 monthly rent this would be only a dime a month. But it was the first time rents over the nation have averaged lower since the government rolled them back in wartime 1942. The earliest previous reduction in a free rent market, without controls, was back in 1938.

No Break Evident

Mrs. Arnyess Jov Wickens, housing commissioner of labor statistics, said no break was evident in the housing market. She said rents have declined in some spots over the nation for a year, being over-balanced by increases in other spots. This was the first month the declines outweighed the increases.

"It's just that we have a better housing supply," she said.

This is similar to what's happened in auto prices. Dealers have been giving more and more concessions off list prices so that costs of both new and used cars have dropped by more than 20 per cent between March and April. Here again Mrs. Wickens said there was no market break.

Rise in April

Food prices rose nearly half a per cent in April. This was largely due to a late March freeze in Southern states. It helped send potato prices up by an average of 30 per cent, 60 per cent over last year. Prices for most fruits and vegetables increased for the same reason. Meats were about the same, but poultry and dairy prices declined.

Wadsworth Hits Russia On Attitude

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 20 (AP)—U.S. Delegate James J. Wadsworth said today there will have to be a change of mind at the top level, especially on the Soviet side, if disarmament talks are to be made any progress.

Wadsworth returned from the London conference of the five-power UN Disarmament sub-committee, made up of Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union and Canada.

He told a news conference that new instructions on major points must be handed down from the higher level. This means the sub-committee will take up less important matters until policy decisions are made at the expected summer meeting of President Dwight Eisenhower, Soviet Premier Bulganin, British Prime Minister Anthony Eden and French Premier Faure.

The London conference recessed this week after 13 weeks of sessions. The Soviet Union on May 10 put up a newly phrased peace plan. It had some apparent concessions to Western views but Wadsworth felt the Russians did not go far enough.

The Russians suggested once more the creation of an international control commission to check on observance of any plan for disarmament.

Red Envoy Refuses to Act on Taxes

BERLIN, May 20 (AP)—Soviet Ambassador G. M. Pushkin rejected today a Western appeal for Soviet help in getting Communist East Germany to pare down stiff highway taxes in effect since April 1.

He again told the Big Three Western ambassadors the levies slapped on West Berlin's truck traffic are the sole responsibility of the East German republic.

Four-Hour Meeting

The ambassadors met with Pushkin for four hours in the first formal meeting of top Western and Soviet officials in Germany since 1948. They proposed that the four powers occupying Berlin appoint German experts to study the tax problem and recommend a solution.

In rejecting this, Pushkin insisted the question could be settled only by direct negotiations between the West German government and the Eastern government, which the West Germans refuse to recognize as legal.

When the higher levies went into effect, Western spokesmen denounced them as blackmail intended to gain formal diplomatic recognition of East Germany by the West. They also charged the taxes were aimed at weakening the West's bargaining position in future talks on German unity.

Dependent on Transport West Berlin, isolated within East Germany, depends heavily on trucks to bring foodstuffs and consumer goods from West Germany 110 miles away. In hiking the taxes, East Germany asserted more money was needed to keep the roads in repair.

The Western ambassadors estimated the new rates will cost West Berlin 7 to 10 million dollars a year, unless a compromise can be reached. The old tax was boosted 100 per cent for the largest class of Western trucks to 240 marks—\$57.12 for a round trip on the Berlin autobahn. This is a tax of about 25 cents a mile.

Mao, Nehru Confer; Formosa Expectant

TOKYO, Saturday, May 21 (AP)—Amidst new reports of something brewing over Formosa, the top man in Red China, Mao Tse-tung, conferred yesterday in Peiping with the foreign policy adviser of India's Prime Minister Nehru.

Peiping radio tersely reported that Mao received India's V. K. Krishna Menon and that Red China's Premier Chou En-lai also was present.

Ike Weekends at Farm

GETTYSBURG, Pa., May 20 (AP)—President Eisenhower arrived at his country home here this afternoon for a weekend of rest.

'Pop Music Off Key,' Says British Conductor

BATH, England, May 20 (AP)—Sir Thomas Beecham, Britain's noted conductor, today called modern music a cinch to play. There's so much discord in it, he explained that no one notices when you sound off with a wrong note.

Sir Thomas, who at 76 is famed both for his baton waving and acid tongued lectures to audiences, told the Bath Music Festival: "In old music you stand alone, alone and naked, and every note you play has got to be perfect. No one notices in modern music how many wrong notes you play. 'The cry today is 'down with Mozart.' To hell with anyone who can write a tune. Give us discord."

Judgeship Nominations Sent to Senate

WASHINGTON, May 20 (AP)—Nominations for four U.S. District Court judgeships in Pennsylvania were sent to the Senate today by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in an apparent effort to end the long-standing shortage of federal jurists in the Keystone State.

Immediate reaction from Capitol Hill sources was that there was no guarantee the nominations would win immediate approval.

The most dangerous day of the week for driving is Saturday.

State Senator Won't Answer Clinic Queries

PITTSBURGH, May 20 (AP)—State Sen. John J. Haluska (I-Cambria), militant advocate of a controversial cancer treatment, invoked the Fifth Amendment today and refused to answer government questions about establishment and operation of the Hoxsey Cancer Clinic.

First witness in an investigation by federal authorities of the Cambria County clinic, Sen. Haluska opened proceedings with a five-page prepared statement attacking the government and the American Medical Assn.

In his statement, Haluska, administrator of the clinic, referred to the inquiry as "persecution" and "harassment."

He charged the government prematurely released "evidence" to newspapers and accused it of becoming a "conscious participant in trial by newspaper."

The Cambria County Democrat said the government's action against the clinic was part of a campaign by the AMA to penalize those "who refuse to conform to the AMA and their political and economic beliefs."

What'll you have?
The Chuck Wagon
 Light up in
The Chuck Wagon
 Good to the last drop at
THE CHUCK WAGON