

NATO Powers Support Western Stand in Berlin

PARIS (AP)—A solid rank of North Atlantic treaty powers pledged yesterday full support to the Western Big Three in their determination to reject Russia's demand that they get out of West Berlin.

Then they promptly declared their willingness to negotiate with the Russians on Berlin, and on Germany as a whole, security, and disarmament.

Iraqi Plotters Face Gallows; Tension Mounts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Foes of Iraq's Communist-backed regime are reported facing a silent and terrifying threat—a hangman's gallows outside the Baghdad jail.

This information has reached diplomatic officials who are watching what they consider to be a powerful new upsurge in Communist strength throughout Iraq.

The gallows have been erected in the past few days, they said, amid mounting Red pressure on Premier Abdel Karim Kassem for a savage crackdown on alleged enemies of the revolutionary regime.

The development coincides with what are called pretty solid rumors that some low-level foes already have been executed after swift, secret trials. They apparently were accused of plotting to overthrow the regime as part of an alleged conspiracy exposed by the Baghdad regime last week.

Anti-Western sentiment is reported boiling in the northern Kurdish areas. This has been fanned by Communist agitators, but there are few reliable reports on what is occurring in that region.

Douglas, Flood to Push Bill For Aiding Depressed Areas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Backers of legislation to aid chronically depressed areas agreed yesterday to drive for early passage of a new bill.

Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) and Rep. Daniel J. Flood (D-Pa.) told a group of about 50 persons at a strategy meeting they will lose no time in introducing a new measure in the 86th Congress.

They made it plain that they are undaunted by any prospects of a presidential veto. President

Eisenhower vetoed an area redevelopment bill passed in the last Congress.

The veto was used as a major campaign issue in the recent elections in such economically hardpressed states as Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maine and others.

The bill would have authorized 279½ million dollar fund to provide for loans and grants to establish new industry and provide other projects in areas of long-standing depression.

Dirksen to Seek Senate Leadership

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Everett M. Dirksen said yesterday he will fight for and expects to win the post of Senate GOP floor leader.

The Illinois senator, describing himself as a down-the-line supporter of President Eisenhower "for whom I have carried the flag when the legislative going was rough."

In a communique issued at the end of their first day's meeting, the 15 nations declared: "The member states of NATO could not approve a solution of the Berlin question which jeopardized the right of the three Western powers to remain in Berlin as long as their responsibilities require it."

Moreover, they declared the Soviet Union would be wholly responsible for any hampering of traffic between the West and the former German capital.

Paul-Henri Spaak, NATO's secretary general, told a news conference after the communique was issued that "this is not a provocation."

The West, he said, wanted to demonstrate that threats don't pay, and that on "big questions, we are united."

The West Germans were pleased with the communique. Press chief Felix von Eckardt said "the NATO Council has reaffirmed the viewpoint of the German government in a way which is both distinct and impressive."

Supreme Court to Pass On Voters' Literacy Test

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to pass on the validity of a North Carolina literacy test for voters.

The test was challenged by a Negro voter who contended it resulted in discrimination.

Public Assistance Board Okays Recommending Birth Controls

HARRISBURG (AP)—The State Board of Public Assistance yesterday adopted a ruling permitting its case workers to recommend birth control clinics to relief recipients.

Welfare Secretary Harry Shapiro declared immediately that he will not put the ruling into effect "unless directed by law to do so."

The controversial ruling was adopted by a 4-3 vote of the board, a policy making agency for the Public Welfare Department on relief matters.

The educational director for the United Steelworkers introduced the proposal, referring to it as "planned parenthood." He stressed that the change would be permissive and in no way binding on the case worker.

The action would upset former welfare policy prohibiting case workers to supply information on birth control unless it was specifically requested by an individual.

Under the new ruling the case worker may make the first overture toward recommending such measures.

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