

United Nations' Parley Holds Hope of World

Russia Important Factor in Outcome of Peace Conference; U. S. Delegation Working For Successful Formula.

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I walked down the cool, twilight corridor of the senate office building and out into the warm spring sun. As I crossed the threshold, the light on the bright white marble steps blinded me and for a second I groped downward blindly.

As I stood a moment recovering my equilibrium the thought flashed through my mind that this experience was very much like the longer one which preceded it. I had been talking with Vice President Truman, Senators Connally, Vandenberg and others about the forthcoming meeting in San Francisco of the United Nations.

I recalled Truman's nervously energetic speech as he assured me that he was giving his time to just one thing: acting as liaison between the President and the senate to keep the chief executive and the legislative leaders as nearly in step as possible.

I recalled Senator Vandenberg's expression as I left him plunged deep in the thousand extra tasks and worries which his function as Republican member of the delegation had plunged him. He had said: "If San Francisco doesn't succeed it will be the greatest moral blow the world has ever experienced."

I thought of Connally's careful policy of withholding public comment or quotation concerning the coming conference, except carefully thought out statements or speeches such as the one he will make in the senate before the conference. His is the delicate task as senior administration representative on the delegation of maintaining a balance between the views of the Republican members represented on the delegation, the administration's viewpoint, and his own and other personal views. After all, as senate majority leader he is responsible for helping to carry out a policy which not only a majority, but two-thirds of the senate will accept.

I also thought of the wide variance of views expressed by members of both houses not directly connected with the negotiations and of the great reticence of many who hesitate to express any view at this time.

And I thought of the out-and-out isolationists; a very few who admit that position and others whose doubts and suspicions battle with what they feel has been the strong trend for wholehearted cooperation which the various polls and other media of public expression appear to register.

These kinetic thoughts moving now in harmony, now in friction, seemed suddenly to have generated a blinding light that burst into the shadows of the complacent assurance which had enveloped me and left me a little dizzy. What a tremendous opportunity seems to be offered to a war-weary world; what a fatal possibility if the effort fails.

Fear of Russia Shades Future

It is clear that such doubt and suspicion as may have arisen as to the possibility of failure of achievement of world cooperation arises chiefly from one thing: fear of Russia. Next is the feeling in some quarters that Churchill's inability always to get along with Stalin bodes ill for tripartite harmony and some feel that the United States instead of trying to bring the two closer together should identify American interests more closely with Britain as opposed to those of Russia.

Then there is still the unhealed sore which President Roosevelt's personal emissary, Edward Flynn, has been trying to heal, the friction between the Vatican and the Kremlin.

Lastly and perhaps more disturbing is what appears to be unilateral action toward small countries on the part of Russia in spite of the Yalta agreement.

Now those persons like Vice President Truman, who take the more positive and more hopeful view, feel that some of these factors have been built into bogey-men, that granted they exist as facts, that Churchill and Stalin don't always see eye to eye and that even less sympathy exists between the Catholic church and the head of the Communist party, none of these situations need affect the creation of an international organization.

As to fear of Russia. Well, frankly, I cannot understand the workings

of the official Russian mind, I cannot understand the hysterical attacks in the Russian press on Walter Lippman, for instance, who has been in the first ranks of those who urge Russo-American unity; attacks on Senator Vandenberg against whom they throw their whole book of anti-fascist vocabulary when he is on record as supporting a three-power treaty for disarming the axis which would be the basis of the chief thing Stalin wants—an agreement of the only two great powers besides his own country, which would guarantee Russian security.

I do not understand all this. I do not accept the propaganda which tries to say that communist government is democracy. But there is one thing which sold me on playing ball with Russia. That is the patient, earnest and convincing argument of former Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who certainly has no more love for communism than he has for fascism, who was never accused of wandering with his head in the clouds or of trying to reform the world, or square the circle, and although he has faith a-plenty he wouldn't try to move a mountain without a bulldozer.

His argument boils down to this: Russia and America need each other. Russia knows this. There are fewer obstacles to a practical understanding between the countries than there are reasons why we should work together for mutual benefit.

Sponsors Provisions For Adjustments

Though it is generally agreed that the support of the American people of any international organization of which Russia is a part depends on the conduct of the Kremlin between now and the end of the San Francisco conference, Senator Vandenberg goes farther than that. He says that the support of the necessary two-thirds of the United States senate for any organization which recognizes international organization depends upon inserting into the document which defines it, what he calls an "escape clause." That escape clause would permit the re-adjusting of certain conditions now existing, certain sore spots which he feels may become cancers. The escape clause would permit the United Nations to escape from any restriction which prevented what they feel is the righting of wrongs.

"Injustice," says Vandenberg, "is a strait jacket and you can't keep the world in a strait jacket."

Of course, there are a lot of Polish votes in Vandenberg's constituency and a member of congress is such by virtue of, and the powers he exerts are delegated by, the people who put him in office. Nevertheless, he is not speaking merely for his Polish constituents when he talks about including in the jurisdiction of the United Nations, the administering of justice. That is the trademark he wants to put on any organization which comes out of San Francisco.

Other members of the delegation have trademarks of their own. But as nearly as I can judge all are willing to make considerable sacrifice of their personal views, rather than shake the world's morale with failure to produce anything.

The safety record of the railroads in the present war is much better than that in the First World War, the Interstate Commerce commission reports.

This is true, the commission points out, despite the fact that there has been a substantial increase in the last few years in the number of accidents arising from the operation of trains and the number of casualties resulting therefrom.

"It appears," the commission says, "that for each class of person the fatalities were much greater in World War I than they were in World War II, the total for all classes being 10,087 in 1917 and 9,288 in 1918, compared with 5,337 in 1942 and 5,051 in 1943. In the two decades prior to our entry into the present war, notable progress was made in reducing railway accidents, and especially those resulting in casualties to passengers and employees. In 1932 and again in 1935 but a single passenger was reported as killed in a train accident, although 18 and 24 respectively in those years were killed in the train-service accidents, as in getting on and off cars."

Navy in Khaki Crosses Rhine



Upper photo shows a powerful Sherman tank, ready for the crossing of the Rhine. Lower left shows naval personnel in army khaki, as they took part in the crossing of the Rhine at various points. Much of the success of the crossing was given to the navy. Lower right, Comdr. William J. Whiteside, U. S. N., of New York City, who was in command. This is the first time that the navy personnel, in any size, has been taken inland to aid with land operations. The navy relieved many army men in the operations.

'Will You Spare What They Need?'



These Greek boys get new hope as a relief worker tells them that clothing for children and grown-ups is on the way to their cold mountain village. The United National Clothing Collection is making an appeal for 150,000,000 pounds of serviceable clothing, shoes and bedding for relief of people in war-devastated areas.

Allied Occupation of Germany



German civilians are shown in upper photo, filling bomb craters in streets and highways of Prum, Germany, after the city was captured by U. S. 3rd army. Lower left shows Germans seeking information at American headquarters in Homburg, Germany. Lower right, a group of German prisoners, taken after the crossing of the Rhine.

Next Move Toward Tokyo Assured



A bedding roll serves as a chess table for marine airmen between flights at the Motoyama airfield, No. 1 on Iwo Jima. Figuring for the next move are, left to right, 1st Lt. Byron W. Mayo, Portland, Ore., and William H. May, Meridian, Miss., pilots of a Leatherneck torpedo bomber squadron. The capturing of the airport was made possible by the landings of the marines on Iwo and the capture of Iwo Jima.

Awarded Medals



First Congressional Medals of Honor won by army personnel in the entire Pacific area have been awarded posthumously to Lt. Col. William J. O'Brien, top; and Sgt. Thomas A. Baker, lower, both of Troy, N. Y.

Visiting Kit Fox



Native of the desert, the Kit Fox, weighing not more than four pounds, full-grown, has moved on Boulder dam, one of the nation's mightiest monarchs of wartime hydroelectric power, and is shown surveying this man-made project through a fork of a tree.

English Aides



Miss Elen Wilkinson, parliamentary secretary to the ministry of home security, and Miss Florence Horsburgh, parliamentary secretary to the ministry of health, who are both included in the British delegation to United Nations conference. The United States delegation will consist of one woman, Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve.

Young Navy Genius



Ensign S. Jerome Tamkin, 18, instructor at 16 of an indicator of combustible gases which will bring him \$10,000 a year, is shown with his bride, Rita.



MACARTHUR-KIRK DUEL
WASHINGTON.—In a highly secret session before the senate military affairs committee last Thursday, Gen. George Marshall, army chief of staff, refused to guess when the end of the war with Germany will come. According to all logic, he said, the German resistance should be at an end now, but there is no sign that the army is collapsing. The Gestapo still retains its hold of terror on Germany.

Marshall pointed out that German gasoline stocks are practically dried up, and that the Nazis do not have enough fuel to move their supplies, let alone their armored vehicles and artillery. On the other hand, he said, their supply problem is far simpler than ours because they are fighting at home. Their repair and replacement job for tanks and other vehicles is also comparatively simple. When Allied armor is knocked out, it means that it is lost if the damage is too much for the field repair bases, while a Nazi tank which has suffered far more serious damage can be taken right into a tank factory not so many miles from where it was hit. This is a tremendous advantage, he said.

The chief of staff also told the senators that it is a mistake to figure that the Japs will fold up quickly once Germany is out of the war. Although its losses have been heavy, Japan still has a formidable army and vast stores of supplies. He would not estimate the length of time needed to defeat the island empire. But he insisted it would be extremely tough going.

Marshall said nothing during this session about his plan to take over as supreme commander in the Pacific once Germany falls, but members of the committee now take that for granted.

Explanation?

General MacArthur's army friends in Washington have a unique explanation for his refusal to let Maj. Gen. Norman Kirk, surgeon general of the army, visit Manila on his recent inspection tour. They say privately that no suitable housing was available for General Kirk. One MacArthur supporter, who is familiar with the Kirk incident, added, "When you are a five-star general, you don't have to give an explanation for what you do."

Further details of General MacArthur's refusal to let General Kirk touch foot even on the Island of Luzon in order to inspect army hospitals there have now leaked out. Kirk, as head of the army medical corps, arrived in Leyte with a staff of medical experts ready to place them in strategic positions in Luzon where fighting was heavy at that time.

As a courtesy to MacArthur, Kirk radioed him from Leyte island that he was coming. He received in reply a message saying that his presence was not needed.

Scarcely believing his eyes, General Kirk gave MacArthur a chance to change his mind by sending another telegram which said in substance: "Don't understand your message. Do you mean by your telegram number so-and-so that my assistance is not welcome?"

General MacArthur's reply was brief and to the point. It read: "No, repeat no."

Kirk then got in his plane, boiling mad, and came home.

Note—The war department for some time has been split into the pro-MacArthur and the anti-MacArthur schools. Many of the general's own contemporaries don't like him, feel that he has never given sufficient credit to men who bore the brunt of the Pacific fighting such as General Krueger, Eichelberger, Kenney, Arnold and others. They also resent the fact that news dispatches from the Pacific must bear the date-line "General MacArthur's headquarters," and point out that in contrast Eisenhower requires no such date line and has given much credit to Generals Patton, Hodges, Simpson, Patch, and Devers, all of whom are well known to the public, whereas few know the names of the generals commanding MacArthur's armies.

Here is one story as to how American troops managed to capture the important Ludendorf bridge across the Rhine. A group of anti-Nazi students are reported to have been quietly organizing in the Rhine valley, and secretly joined Hitler's Elite guard, the "Schutz staffel" in 1942 where they have been boring from within ever since. It was this group that is reported to have tipped off the American command that the Remagen bridge would be intact.

EUROPEAN DEATH TOLL

One thing Joseph Stalin pointed out to Roosevelt and Churchill that greatly impressed them at Yalta was the terrific toll the Nazis had exacted from the people of Europe. One-seventh of Poland's population has been destroyed by the Nazis, Stalin said a preliminary investigation disclosed.

Stalin also pointed out that Hitler had won a tremendous victory over the Allies by permanently frustrating the birth of some 10,000,000 in conquered countries.

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BARBS... by Baukhage

The cherry blossoms in Washington best spring by 2 1/2 hours—which shows that even the good old spirit of competition and free enterprise is favored by Nature herself.

About the only long-horn cattle left are the ones in the Washington zoo, the stuffed one at the Houston airport and the photographs of them in the Texas congressman's office.

What is a Brahmin? An Indian priest? Maybe, but for many a southwestern farmer it is half of an American calf.

Vice President Truman is an expert in artillery (World War I). I am an ex-lieutenant in the same branch of service. The other day we remained on dodging the fast ones, then and now.