

Washington Digest

See Internal Crisis Affecting Russ Policies

Report Army Looms as New Power as Factions Clash Over Broad Participation in Postwar World Affairs.

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What's happening inside Russia? Where there's smoke, there's fire. Vehement denials of the death of Marshal Stalin were followed finally by admission that the man who had more power than any czar could boast of was weary. That he was well, but that he was shedding some of his responsibilities.

It is interesting to note the reaction in this country. The wishful thinking of those who first announced the death rumor over the air and in print was not reflected in official Washington.

The very day before the first story appeared a high government official expressed the opinion in my hearing that the hope for understanding between the United States and Russia depended largely on Stalin. This was after the long series of disagreements beginning with the break-up of the Foreign Ministers' meeting in London, the refusal of Russia to take active part in the United Nations Food organization meeting in Quebec, the objections to various moves made by the members of the United Nations Executive Council. Everywhere "Russia objects" seemed to be the one answer which Russia's representatives had to offer to the suggestions made by the American and other governments.

When the real history of the international conferences, beginning with the Moscow conference which Secretary of State Hull attended, through Yalta and Potsdam, is written, I think it can be shown that Stalin, frequently against the advice of his councillors, was the one who broke the deadlocks and proposed or accepted compromises which were made necessary by his own colleagues' stubbornness.

It will be recalled that when the invitations to the meeting at San Francisco went out it was announced that Russia would not send her foreign minister as head of the delegation, but would leave that post to Ambassador Gromyko in Washington.

This made a bad impression, for it looked as if Stalin were damning the affair with faint support. However, after the American newspapers sounded off on the subject, Stalin had a change of heart—or perhaps the death of Roosevelt, which occurred in the interim, affected his course. Molotov was duly assigned to the job.

Molotov proved no simple primrose and more than once, it is reported, Stalin's intervention had to be sought to grease the wheels.

There was another occasion—just which one is not revealed—when the work was completely stymied and finally the President made a direct appeal to Stalin to accept the suggestions of the majority on a point that appeared to have hopelessly deadlocked the meeting. This time, against the counsel of his advisors, who were holding out, Stalin put his O.K. on the request.

Isolationists Bloc Grows

There is reason to believe that this "no vote" attitude of a number of the Soviet leaders who opposed what many have considered too deep entanglement in international affairs, which has been in evidence for a long time, finally wrecked the Foreign Ministers' conference.

As early as the time of the San Francisco meeting there were hints of a growing "isolationist" opposition inside Russia. Word reached certain members of the conference by a roundabout way, but from a thoroughly reliable source, concerning the status of former Foreign Minister Litvinov, Russia's crack diplomat, who negotiated the resumption of relations with the United States after the long hiatus following World War I. At one time it was reported that Litvinov had been purged. This was not so. But what had happened was that the "Russia objects" element had managed to shelve him because of his more liberal views.

This apparently was the beginning of what many called a "palace revolution," and which some people believe is now flaring up into full flame.

The story of the events which led up to the Litvinov affair has never been confirmed, but it is reasonable

to assume that it is true. In brief, there was a split in the all-powerful "Polit-Bureau" of the Soviets. The Political Bureau is a small body chosen from the central committee of the Communist party, which is the government's policy-forming entity. This body is composed of powerful Soviet leaders and it exerts a great deal of influence.

According to the reports touching on Litvinov's position, the Polit-Bureau was sharply divided into "isolationists" and those who looked upon the rest of the world with a less jaundiced view. At that time Stalin was said to be walking a tight-rope between the two and choosing carefully toward which side he would lean. Litvinov, who believed that Russia could not live by herself and who had always encouraged a sympathetic attitude toward the outside world, had been completely shelved for his ideas.

Little more was heard of these rumblings until after the end of the war, when the Red army became the symbol of Russian salvation. Then it appeared that the isolationist Russia, the big-army Russia, the Russia which wouldn't take anything off anybody, had a new and powerful backer—the officers (and perhaps some of the rank and file as well) of the Red army.

In any case, we know that the high officers of the army received all sorts of perquisites, rewards and privileges, which only the highest of the high receive.

Red Army Strong Factor

The assumption on the part of some observers is that with the ascendancy of the Red army element, not only the isolationists, but the Communist party as a whole, lost influence. There has always been jealousy between the two, though, of course, their membership overlaps in many cases. You will recall that at the beginning of the war civilian commissars were attached to army units and they censored all orders issued by the officers. This proved to be not only highly unpopular with the military, but also impractical. The civilian commissars were then withdrawn and only those with military training were appointed. Their authority, in effect at least, became merged with that of the military.

Now the high army officers are recognized as occupying virtually the same plane as the high party officials.

Just where Stalin stands as a result of this change in the fabric of Russian national policy it is impossible to say. It has been rumored that he has relinquished his function as commander-in-chief. It has also been rumored that he is ready to drop out of the picture completely and choose a successor. In that connection it was hinted that General Zhukov, Russia's Eisenhower, was afflicted with a "diplomatic illness" when he suddenly gave up a widely advertised trip to the United States, which it was said he had looked forward to with considerable zest.

This might have been a signal that Russia was drawing further within herself.

Some believe that it indicated that Zhukov was the chosen successor of Stalin and that, until a new regime was firmly established, the Soviets would maintain a negative policy in foreign relations.

In any case, it is clear that the "Russia objects" policy was inaugurated for some reason and naturally, since in the past Stalin had always been the one who was able to play ball with the Allies, at least to the point where progress seemed to be made toward working agreements, Washington is by no means anxious to see him fade from the picture.

Meanwhile, the one hopeful view which is being taken of the Russian situation is that it may be that there is some kind of a change taking place within Russia and that the present policy of stalling means nothing more than a necessary marking time on the part of the Soviet leaders until the outcome is settled.

And then there is always another reason which pops up as an explanation of almost anything these days—the atomic bomb.

Wireless Phones Tested in East



Shown atop the New York telephone building are the antennas used during demonstration of a secret army radar microwave relay system. The demonstration, conducted by Bell telephone laboratories, included a two-way voice transmission carried out successfully over links totaling 1,400 miles. It was announced as entirely practical and successful.

Convalescent Soldiers Turn to Art



Soldier-artists at Torney General hospital, Palm Springs, Calif., enjoy instructions from noted artists. Pfc. Johann Kaesarak of Lorain, Ohio, center, and Pfc. George Pearl of Menard, Texas, are sketching Joyce Rosenberg, New York City artist, who varies a period of teaching as she poses for the two soldiers in a life class.

'Little David,' World's Largest Gun



World's largest cannon, a 36-inch mortar known as "Little David," was developed as a secret weapon by the U. S., and ready for action when war came to an end. Air photo shows mortar in firing position. It was capable of hurling 3,650-pound projectile. It was considered far more dangerous than "Big Bertha" in World War I, used by Germans against Paris.

Every Day Fishing Day in Maine



Father and son admire their catch, a nice string of salmon. Father-and-son teams are becoming quite popular in the Maine forests and lakes, where sports enthusiasts are giving their sons an early start in the pleasures of hunting and fishing. Young Joe deserves as much credit for the catch as does his father.

Wants A-Bomb Secret



Soviet Foreign Commissar Molotov, shown in air photograph as he addressed the Soviet council and announced that the Soviet "will have atomic energy" and that the atom bomb "must not be kept secret." The request is not being met in U. S.

Said to Be Kidnaped



Three-year-old Dickie tum Soden, now believed to have been kidnaped from his home near Downsville, Calif. His parents, who are of prominent mining family, report that they have been unable to contact kidnapers.

Prisoners Broadcast

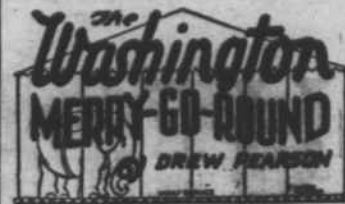


In an unusual broadcast within San Quentin penitentiary, California, the prisoners shown before the "mike" have since been executed. Five condemned men competed with five others on a quiz program. The program created considerable interest in the state.

Joins Smith Pickets



Edward G. Robinson, shown in high school students' picket line outside the Polytechnic High school where Gerald L. K. Smith was scheduled to speak at open meeting.



BARUCH PREDICTS INFLATION

WASHINGTON. — Elder Statesman Bernie Baruch revealed some interesting figures on inflation recently in an off-the-record session with 14 younger congressmen at his Shoreham hotel apartment. Baruch's prediction was that the nation was hell-bent for inflation—and soon.

Piecemeal increases in wages, profits and the cost of living have been uneven, Baruch said, with wages lagging behind. For that reason he no longer favored his prewar idea of a freeze on both prices and wages. Our only hope, said the elder statesman, is that we can weather the next six to nine months without running into serious inflation. If we do that, our chances of a strong recovery from the war boom are good.

"The huge pent-up demand for products which we will see during the next nine months is a very serious threat," said Baruch, stressing the importance of holding prices down.

He amazed his listeners by saying that he is completely opposed to tax reduction of any nature at this time. "Not only does the government lose needed revenue, but it is an unhealthy thing for our general economy," argued Baruch.

Rep. Andy Biemiller of Milwaukee asked what Baruch thought of the statement by General Motors' president C. E. Wilson that if wages are raised 30 per cent, prices must go up 30 per cent. Baruch talked at some length on the general question of rising prices, but gave no direct answer. Finally, Biemiller repeated his question.

"I'm afraid I can't agree with Mr. Wilson," Baruch said.

WAGE NOT PRICE INCREASE

"Isn't it true that industry can give a 30 per cent wage increase without having to raise prices more than about 7 1/2 per cent?" Biemiller persisted.

"You are approximately right," Baruch agreed. "I believe the figure you may have heard is actually 8 1/2 per cent."

Baruch also told his guests that he felt we were making a mistake in speeding manpower demobilization. "With the world in its present situation," he said, "it seems to me it would be wiser to proceed slowly with demobilization, in order that we not weaken ourselves at a time when power is apparently still an important thing."

He agreed also with an idea proposed by one of his guests, Estes Kefauver of Chattanooga, to have cabinet members and other high officials appear on the floor of congress where they can be questioned by congressmen. Such a practice would make for much greater cooperation between the executive and legislative departments, Baruch said.

Present in addition to Biemiller and Kefauver were Representatives Albert Gore and Percy Priest of Tennessee, John Sparkman of Alabama, Mike Mansfield of Montana, Henry Jackson of Washington, Jerry Voorhis and Chet Holifield of California, Bob Sikes of Florida, Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, Bob Ramo of Georgia, and Jamie Whitten and Arthur Winstead of Mississippi.

CHURCHILL IN DEFEAT

Winston Churchill recently told friends how he felt after his defeat in the British elections. The first few days after his defeat were terrible, Churchill confessed. The very next morning he arose and fretted because there were no diplomatic cables to read. Through the war, his first morning chore was to read the top-secret military and diplomatic cables from all over the empire; and he paced up and down intermittently for days, fretting because there were no cables coming in and because, though he felt things were going wrong, there was no one to whom he could send cables to straighten things out.

"Finally I went down to the south of France," Churchill confessed. "They treated me well there. I painted several pictures and they fed me some wonderful food. But still I couldn't get over this idea of no cables coming in and no cables going out. Each morning I fretted when I read the papers. But finally one morning I felt better. It suddenly dawned on me that I wasn't prime minister any more and it wasn't my worry, and I've felt better ever since."

Note — Churchill's health is touch and go. His doctor has ordered him to cut down on his food and drinking.

SENATE ELDER STATESMEN

Here are the ages of the elder statesmen of the senate: Bankhead of Alabama, 73; George of Georgia, 67; Thomas of Idaho, 71; Willis of Indiana, 70; Capper of Kansas, 80; Reed of Kansas, 74; Barkley of Kentucky, 68; White of Maine, 68; Walsh of Massachusetts, 73; Bilbo of Mississippi, 68; Murray of Montana, 69; McCarran of Nevada, 69; Bailey of North Carolina, 72; Moore of Oklahoma, 74; Green of Rhode Island, 78; Austin of Vermont, 68 and McKellar of Tennessee, 76.

Gems of Thought

TRUTH, justice, and reason lose all their force, and all their lustre, when they are not accompanied with agreeable manners.—Thomson.

A brave man struggling with adversity is a spectacle for the gods.—Seneca.

After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relatives.—Wilde.

The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.—Seneca.

Everything has two handles—one to be held by, the other not.—Epictetus.

SNAPPY FACTS

about RUBBER

Twenty-five years ago passenger tires used only three to five pounds of rubber, not counting tires. Today the average car contains fifty pounds of rubber products.

More than half of all the estimated 100 million automobiles which in America are now rolling on synthetic rubber.

Stanford University is experimenting with a new type of seed with a view to growing rubber in some of the wild regions of China.

New automobiles built this year will be delivered without spare tires.

Don Manning

More miles with

B.F. Goodrich

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Bass-Baritone

REGINALD STEWART
Guest Conductor

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8 to 9 P. M.
Eastern Time

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WFDW—WFLA
WWSB—WEEB
and other A. B. C. stations

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When Your Back Hurts

And Your Strength and Energy is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove waste and other waste matter from the blood.

You may suffer aching backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and easy urination with burning and burning in another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won countrywide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.

DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The Salvation army gave service to 225,000,000 servicemen during the war in their clubs, hostels and mobile units. But I'll bet they didn't surpass those doughnuts they served us in World War I.

Two hundred and seventy million dollars worth of highway projects, frozen during the war, are now starting.

The air transport command recently took 34 queen bees from America to France. This is a record for transporting royalty.

Is the sun burning up your crops? There are plenty of surplus bombers no good for anything else which could fly in formations and squirt out enough water to make clouds—so we're told.