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Sees Better British-Jap Relations

British Ambassador to Japan Expresses "Definite Feeling of Confidence in Future"; Announces Holiday to America.

March 27.—(AP)—British Ambassador Sir Robert Leslie, in a surprisingly conciliatory speech, predicted today an improvement in relations between Britain and Japan.

"I am convinced," he said, "ultimately striving for the same objective—a lasting peace and the freedom of our institutions from any subversive influences."

At the same time he announced that Lady Craigie would leave for London.

London, March 28.—(AP)—The British ambassador to the State department today announced a surprise today that Britain's ambassador to Japan had declared that the two nations were striving for the same objective.

There was no official comment on the statement, but an observer drew from the declaration and one declaration of the American ambassador, Joseph J. Grew, last October, then told the Japanese that the Japanese adventure and the American rights were being resented by the Americans.

The observer speculated on the possibility that Britain might be trying to secure Russia's assistance to the west.

Other questions were raised: Should Congress authorize the embargo on the shipment of materials to Japan, where the British stand on the matter? Should Britain tend to condone the situation of China and thereby lose the support of Americans?

April for a two and one half month trip to the United States on a holiday.

The ambassador spoke to a distinguished audience at a luncheon of the American-British society.

In his mind the declared intention of the Japanese government and the measure of success already achieved. I have a definite feeling of confidence in the future of British-Japanese relations," he declared.

He said there was "room for satisfaction in the thought that the increasing good sense of our two nations has prevented animosities of the moment from hardening into permanent resentment or permanent estrangement."

Barkley To Favor Limit

Washington, March 28.—(AP)—Senator Barkley today introduced an amendment to the Hatch bill forbidding a national committee to spend more than \$200,000 in any campaign won by a candidate from Senator Barkley.

There should not be any real objection to that plan because it would apply to both sides," he told reporters.

The amendment by Representative Robert D. Wagner, Pennsylvania, would add expenditures of both the Republican and Democrat national committees far below the 1936 levels.

No Probe Of Plane Sales

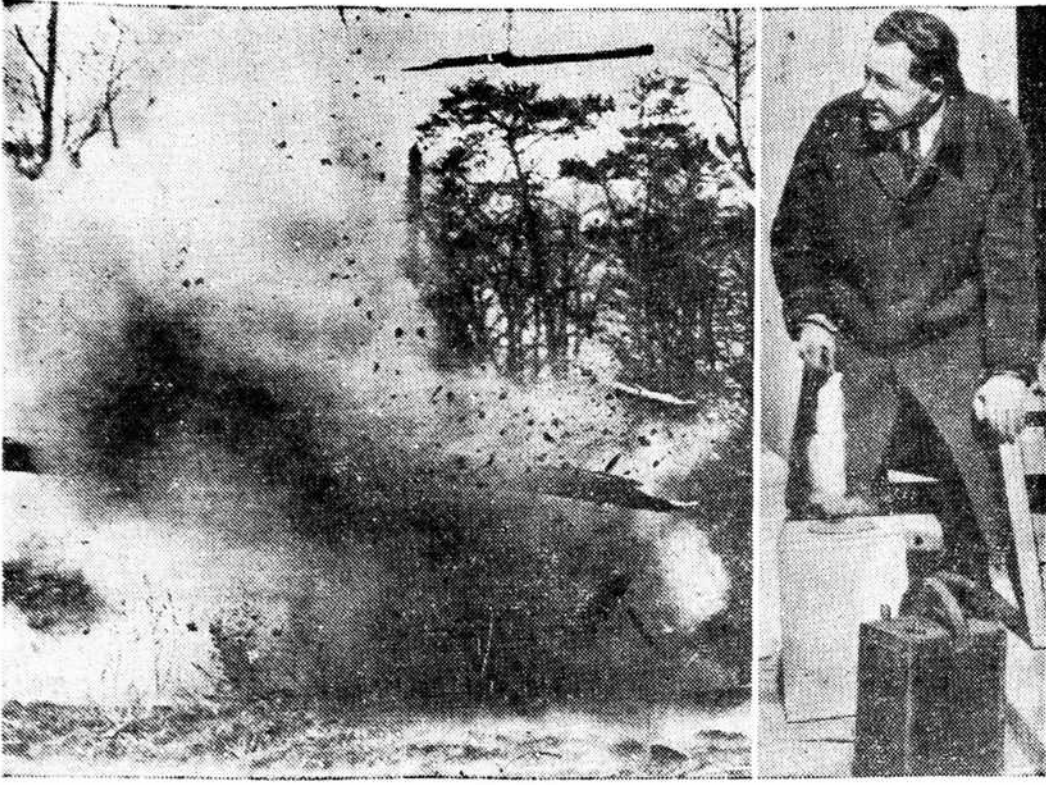
Senate Military Affairs Committee Votes Against Formal Investigation.

Washington, March 28.—(AP)—The Senate military affairs committee today voted 5 to 4 today against conducting a formal investigation of military plane sales to France and Britain.

The decision followed categorical denials from War department officials that such sales had interfered in any way with production for the armed forces.

Chairman Sheppard, Democrat, Ohio, said he believed all the facts raised by Senator LaFollette, Progressive, Wisconsin, in a resolution requesting the investigation had been answered satisfactorily in a closed session by Secretary Woodring and Assistant Secretary Johnson.

Testing World's Deadliest Bomb at Baltimore



This terrific blast resulted when what is claimed to be the world's deadliest bomb was tested before naval and military experts at the Glenn L. Martin proving grounds near Baltimore, Md. At right, Lester Barlow, inventor of the explosive, is shown setting the charge of the liquid oxygen-carbon bomb.

George Declares Trade Pacts Might Be "Vitaly Necessary"

Freeze May Be Helpful To Peaches

Raleigh, March 28.—(AP)—Wintery weather over last week-end "spot damaged" the North Carolina peach crop but the freeze might prove helpful for a high quality fruit, Randall Etheridge, chief of the agriculture department market division, said today.

"From reports received from the peach belt," Etheridge said, "the red and white varieties, trees planted in low areas and weak trees were hard hit. However, the crop was very heavily budded and, generally speaking, the freeze might have proven helpful as it furnished a good thinning."

Prospects from strawberry production in both the Burgaw, Mt. Olive, and Taber City areas were lowered somewhat as the light bloom and the few formed berries were killed out, Etheridge said. The damage will also delay opening of the market until about the last of April.

Calls Made For Bank Statements

Washington, March 28.—(AP)—The comptroller of the currency issued a call today for the condition of all national banks at the close of business Tuesday, March 26.

Raleigh, March 28.—(AP)—Bank Commissioner Gurney Hood today called for a report of the condition of all state banks as of the close of business Tuesday, March 26.

J. M. Peace To Aid Broughton

Raleigh, March 28.—(AP)—J. Merrill Peace of Henderson has been appointed Vance county manager of J. M. Broughton's campaign for governor. It was announced today by E. B. Denny of Gastonia, State manager for Broughton.

Infant Found Murdered

Philadelphia, March 28.—(AP)—The mutilated body of an infant girl was found today in a cellar coal bin after the mother discovered her child was missing from a crib.

The head of Beatrice Menichella, three weeks old, had been severed from her body. The head and body were placed in a burlap bag. A newly cleaned kitchen knife was found in the kitchen.

Just before dawn, Mrs. Menichella groped for her daughter's crib and found it empty. Her screams awoke neighbors who joined police in a search of the premises which resulted in the discovery.

Georgia Senator Defends Reciprocal Agreements As "Only Step Taken" Looking to Readjustment of World Trade.

Washington, March 28.—(AP)—Senator George, Democrat, Georgia, told his colleagues today that the administration reciprocal trade program might become "vitaly necessary" to protect American interests during rapidly changing conditions abroad.

The Georgia senator, devoting most of his Senate address to a defense of the program's constitutionality, declared also that "it is the only step taken by any great commercial nation during this hectic period looking to the readjustment of world trade on anything like an equitable basis."

Administration leaders hoped to obtain a vote tomorrow on an amendment by Senator Pittman, Democrat, Nevada, to subject trade agreements to Senate ratification. Both sides in the fight, which began on the floor Monday, conceded that the vote would be extremely close.

Other developments in Congress today: The House reaffirmed its decision of yesterday to increase President Roosevelt's recommendation for next year's NYA activities from \$85,000,000 to \$102,450,000. The decision came on a 162 to 144 tally vote.

However, the economy forces in the House will be permitted to ask for still another vote—a roll call vote later.

A little earlier the House shouted down a request by Representative Taber, Republican, New York, to slash the fund to \$45,000,000.

An outstanding trend pointed up in the House was Congress' switch from an attitude of economy to one of election year spending.

Pennsylvania State College Co-ed, Brutally Attacked, Found Slain Today.

State College, Pa., March 28.—(AP)—A freshman girl student at the Pennsylvania State College who had been brutally attacked was found slain today in the driveway of the Lemont consolidated school near here.

State Motor Patrolman James G. Griffith said the victim had been identified as Rachel Hutchison Taylor, about 16, a student in the home economics department at the college, and a resident of Wildwood, N. J.

Many Planes Delivered To Allies

Washington, March 28.—(AP)—American aircraft plants, an official report disclosed today, have delivered about 1,600 warplanes to French and British fighting forces in the last 14 months and are rushing production on 2,700 more.

These initial European war contracts were generally regarded as the forerunners of a large scale allied program for the purchase of an additional 3,000 ships at an estimated cost of one billion dollars.

Aviation spokesmen, after conferring with army and navy officials, voiced confidence that aircraft plants could handle the expected heavy increase in foreign buying.

They predicted also that the big buying program would materialize quickly in view of the war department's decision to permit the export of latest model American military aircraft. Heretofore, the allies have been slow to place additional orders, contending that anything but the latest planes would be obsolete by the time mass deliveries were made.

Secretary of War Woodring explained the new export policy to the House military committee yesterday and the arrangement won its general approval.

Mrs. Fiermonte, Socialite, Dies At Palm Beach

Palm Beach, Fla., March 27.—(AP)—Socially prominent Mrs. Madeline Force Astor Dick Fiermonte, whose first husband, Col. John Jacob Astor, lost his life in the Titanic sinking of 1912, died at her winter home early today of a heart ailment. She was 47 years old.

The wealthy society woman created a sensation when she married Enzo Fiermonte, an Italian boxer, November 27, 1933, in a New York hospital where she was a patient. The marriage ended in divorce at Palm Beach June 11, 1938.

Shortly after her graduation from a New York finishing school Mrs. Fiermonte—then Miss Madeline Force—married Astor at his home in Newport, R. I.

They were returning to America from Europe in 1912 when the Titanic struck an iceberg and sunk. Mrs. Fiermonte was saved.

Death Plot Disclosed

New York, March 28.—(AP)—District Attorney William O'Dwyer disclosed today that gunmen seeking to investigate of murder, inc., intend to assassinate them in their Manhattan hotel.

Britain And France Agree Not To Make Peace Individually

British Down One Plane And Lose 2

One British Bomber Shot Down by Netherlands Pursuit Plane; German Plane Shot Down Off Northeast Coast of Scotland

London, March 27.—(AP)—British fliers shot down a German warplane today off the northeast coast of Scotland, but acknowledged the loss of two of their own—one to fliers of the neutral Netherlands—during the night in a dogfight.

Netherlands pursuit planes machine-gunned a British bomber early today over Netherlands territory, an Amsterdam communique announced, and sent it down in flames southwest of Rotterdam.

One of the crew jumped to his death, but the remaining four stayed with the ship and escaped being burned. Netherlands authorities said they would be interned.

The other of the two British aircraft which the air ministry reported failed to return from "extensive reconnaissance flights over northwest Germany" was reported shot down over Helgoland.

(The German high command's communique said the Germans themselves accounted for two British planes. It said German pursuit planes shot down a British bomber at Helgoland while during the night another was shot down by anti-aircraft fire and a portion of the crew captured.)

(Meanwhile the official German news agency quoted an authoritative source as denying a British report that at least five German planes were shot down yesterday.)

Dozenberg Is Sentenced

New York, March 28.—(AP)—Nicholas Dozenberg, one-time Soviet army intelligence agent, was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison today on his guilty plea some weeks ago to an indictment charging use of two passports obtained by fraudulent statements.

Federal Judge Samuel Mandelbaum rejected the recommendations of U. S. Attorney John T. Cahill that Dozenberg be sentenced to two and one-half years after Dozenberg personally made a plea for an opportunity to "take my place in American society as a loyal and patriotic American citizen."

Scandinavian Policy Of Allies Watched

Berlin, March 27.—(AP)—The Allies' attitude toward the neutrality of Norway and Denmark, whose territorial waters provide Germany a sea lane from the north, is being watched with "the most profound attention," authorized German sources said today.

They said the Reich was reckoning with the possibility that the western powers "might assume the right to police territorial waters" of the northern nations in view of a statement issued in Paris last night. Informed quarters left no doubt such a step would be met by German counter measures.

The semi-official French news agency Havas, in a statement outlining the Allied attitude toward neutrals, made a sharp distinction between active and passive neutral nations.

February Traffic Toll Is Heavy

Chicago, March 28.—(AP)—February, short in days, was long in traffic deaths this year.

The national safety council reported there were 2,170 deaths in February, a ten percent increase over February, 1939.

Not since March, 1937, has any month shown so sharp an upward trend in highway fatalities.

Traffic deaths for the first two months of 1940 totaled 4,800 compared with 4,550 in the same months of 1939, a five percent increase.

Britain Calls Envoys Home

Representatives to Balkan Countries To Report Early In April for Conference.

London, March 27.—(AP)—The British ambassador to Turkey and ministers to Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, Hungary and Yugoslavia have been recalled for consultation with foreign secretary Lord Halifax.

The move, which was interpreted as foreshadowing a British diplomatic offensive in the Balkans, was announced by the foreign office news department as coming from "authoritative sources."

The envoys are expected to arrive in England early next month, when the British ambassador to Rome also is expected in London.

Authoritative sources said "the only thing possible to infer at the moment" from the announcement was that Lord Halifax wished to confer with men on the spot about German and Russian "economic and diplomatic offensives in the Balkans."

Great Britain and France are arranging immediate consultations on means of intensifying the war against Germany and on what status to assign Soviet Russia in the conflict.

The Russian question was brought into sharper perspective by the recall from Paris of the Soviet ambassador and the British detention of two Russian ships in the Far East.

No Comment From Welles

President's Fact-Finder Returns From European Tour and Declines Discussion.

New York, March 28.—(AP)—Sumner Welles, sent to Europe on an exhaustive fact-finding tour for President Roosevelt, returned today to report in person to the Chief Executive on conditions in that war-torn continent.

Affable, but silent as usual on his highly confidential mission, Welles was to entrain immediately for Washington.

The undersecretary of state, guarding closely the information gathered in conferences in Italy, Germany, France, and Great Britain, arrived on the liner Conte di Savoia.

These conferences contributed the basic facts in his report.

An hour-and-a-half talk with Chancellor Hitler. It had been nearly two years since an American ambassador had last seen him.

A discussion with Premier Mussolini in Rome.

Long and private discussions with former Premier Deladier in Paris and with Prime Minister Chamberlain in London.

Welles' answer to virtually all questions was "no comment."

He steadfastly declined to discuss or comment on any of the personalities with whom he conferred in Europe.

"I had every opportunity given to me to get the information for which I was sent," he said.

Also Agree On Alliance After Peace

Decisions Reached at Sixth Meeting of Supreme War Council, Attended by Reynaud and General Gamelin in London.

London, March 28.—(AP)—The British and French governments agreed today that during the present war they would neither negotiate nor conclude an armistice or treaty of peace except, by mutual agreement.

This decision was taken at the sixth meeting of the allied supreme war council for which France's new premier, Paul Reynaud, came to London, accompanied by the allied generalissimo, Maurice Gamelin.

The allied war leaders also agreed, said a communique, not to discuss peace terms before reaching complete agreement on the conditions necessary to insure effective and lasting guarantees of security.

Finally, they agreed to maintain after the conclusion of peace community of action in all spheres," the communique declared.

German Sub Is Interned

Oslo, March 28.—(AP)—A German submarine which became stranded in Norwegian waters was interned with its crew today at the port of Mandal on the southern tip of Norway.

A Norwegian ship towed the submarine into harbor.

The German minister to Oslo asked that the submarine and crew be freed on the grounds that the vessel took refuge in territorial waters because of bad weather and engine trouble.

The Norwegian admiralty ruled after an inquiry that the submarine was stranded due to an error in navigation and that engine trouble resulted.

Pittsburgh Communist is Second Cited Recently By Dies Committee.

Washington, March 28.—(AP)—The Dies committee voted today to cite George Powers, Pittsburgh communist leader, for contempt for his failure to answer questions and produce communist party records.

The committee's action came at the conclusion of a hearing at which Powers had refused flatly to give the committee names of communist party members on the ground that "you're trying to blacklist our people in industry."

It was the second communist against whom such action was taken in the last few days. Previously Chairman Dies recommended to House Speaker Bankhead that contempt proceedings be started against James H. Dolsen, another Pittsburgh man, who balked at questions Monday.

Powers, husky, Russian-born man told the committee that he had not brought with him to the hearing records which he had been asked to produce.

Powers had been called by the committee investigating un-American activities to shed what light he could on issuance of a communist party card bearing the name "Franklin D. Roosevelt."

It was in connection with this card that Dolsen had refused to answer committee questions.

The Powers hearing, however, threw no light upon issuance of the card or persons responsible for it.

Powers said he had been an official of the communist party in North Carolina in 1929 while residing at Charlotte and Winston-Salem.

Weather

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.
Mostly cloudy, probably scattered showers, slightly warmer tonight, followed by colder in the mountains.