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Welles Says Facts In Moor Sinking Beyond Dispute

Washington, June 13.—(AP)—Sumner Welles, undersecretary of state, asserted today that the facts in the sinking of the Robin Moor were beyond dispute and indirectly accused Germany of violating an international treaty on submarine warfare.

The evidence of eleven survivors of the sunken American merchant vessel was very clear and there could be no dispute as to the facts, he told his press conference.

As to what action the United States will take, Welles said he would withhold a considered statement until the full depositions of the eleven survivors were received from American officials in Brazil and were investigated here.

An account of their testimony, however, issued by the State department yesterday, charged that the Robin Moor was sunk in the South Atlantic on May 21 by a German submarine which gave the passengers and crew 30 minutes to abandon the vessel before it was torpedoed and killed.

Welles was asked for comment on the statement of a German spokesman in Berlin that "we won't be buffeted by American and English discussions concerning the Robin Moor" and that "whenever any ship

with contraband sails for England we'll shoot at it."

Welles replied that the question of what constitutes contraband is one of the most controversial in all the world and that the American government had never acquiesced in contraband definitions of either side in the present war.

What the United States does stand on very firmly, Welles asserted, is that both Germany and the United States are parties to an international agreement entered into in 1930 under which submarines are bound to take proper precautions to insure the safety of crews and passengers of any merchant ship before it is sunk.

In the case of the Robin Moor, Welles declared that the facts speak for themselves.

Survivors were quoted as saying that the submarine left the 46 passengers and crewmen in open lifeboats hundreds of miles from land.

Welles was asked how the Robin Moor incident might affect President Roosevelt's recent re-assertion of the doctrine of the freedom of the seas. The President's statement spoke for itself, he replied.

Welles emphasized that every detail of the sinking which the State department received had been made available to the public and that this practice would be continued.

U. S. To Lodge Vigorous Protest On U-Boat Sinking Of The Robin Moor

Allies Close In On Beirut Nazis Say

Peace Move Is Rebuffed By Vichy

British and Free French Forces in Levant Reported Within 20 Miles of Beirut and in Outskirts of Damascus.

London, June 13.—(AP)—Rebuffed in a peace gesture, British and Free French forces in Lebanon and Syria were authoritatively reported today to be closing in on Beirut and broadening the base for perhaps the final assault on Damascus.

A high source in London declared that forces advancing along the Mediterranean shore of the Eilat lands had pushed north of Sidon to a point within 20 miles of Beirut, Lebanon capital, while Free French forces had taken two villages east of Kiseou, facing Damascus ten miles away.

The Middle East command at Cairo acknowledged that the allies had been "temporarily delayed in certain sectors by resistance of Vichy troops," but "had by yesterday evening made further progress in all sectors of their penetration."

The Vichy government was answering with the arms of its command a British overture through Madrid suggesting that to save French blood it should instruct defense forces to offer no further resistance to measures taken by the allies "to prevent the enemy from using Syria as a base of operations against them."

Reuters, British news agency, said it was understood in Cairo that the allies had practically surrounded Damascus and that discussions between the opposing forces with view to avoiding bloodshed had delayed entry into the capital of Syria.

Defenders of Democracy Roll Off the Line



Not singly any more but in scores, aerial weapons for America and Great Britain are rolling out of the Douglas Aircraft plant at Santa Monica, Cal. These swift attack-bombers are just off the production line and are undergoing final assembly before joining the hundreds of others already in service with the United States and Britain.

Nazis Say 'We Won't Be Buffaloeed'

German Sources Charge Ship Carried Contraband for England; U. S. Expected to Demand Restitution by Germany.

Washington, June 13.—(AP)—The United States will lodge a vigorous protest with Germany on the sinking of the Robin Moor, it was learned authoritatively today, citing the evidence of survivors that the vessel was torpedoed deliberately by a Nazi U-boat.

The State department's note, informed quarters predicted, will also demand that restitution be made for the loss of American life and property.

Berlin, June 13.—(AP)—An authorized German source said today "we won't be buffaloeed by American and English discussions concerning the Robin Moor."

"Whenever any ship with contraband sails for England we'll shoot at it, whether it is the Robin Moor, the Exmoor or anything else."

The Robin Moor, 5,000-ton United States freighter which was sunk in the South Atlantic May 21, was bound from Capetown, Union of South Africa. She formerly was the Exmoor.

The question was exclusively military, these sources said, but certain American quarters were giving it a political angle "in order thereby to further a war psychosis."

"And, of course," it was added, "England tries in every manner to make political capital thereof."

The German public still was unaware that the United steamer Robin Moor had been sunk by a submarine.

Britain Hopes For Nazi-Soviet Break

Unconfirmed Reports Say German Demands on Russia of Such Magnitude as to Loosen Soviet Hold on Baltic and Black Sea.

London, June 13.—(AP)—British dreams of a Soviet Russian-German disagreement bordering on active warfare were nourished today by repeated but unconfirmable reports that Berlin demands on Russia were of such magnitude that acceptance would loosen Moscow's military hold on the Baltic and Black seas.

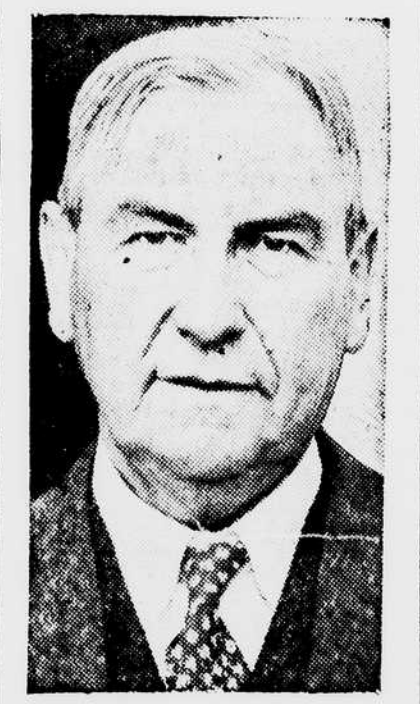
Informed quarters said discussions between Sir Stafford Cripps, British ambassador to Moscow, and government leaders here were "primarily concerned with Russian-German relations."

It must be emphasized that reports of disagreement between Berlin and Moscow and Nazi concentrations on the Soviet border conceivably fit into the pattern of the British diplomatic nerve war which, by scaring Russia, it is hoped here might force the USSR into more friendly relations with Britain and eventual collaboration in the war.

Reliable sources said that demands made by the Germans had been received in Moscow and were under study.

Sir Stafford reached London by air from the Soviet capital Wednesday for what was described as a trip in line with Britain's policy of having her envoys report periodically and to establish contact with the home government.

Chief Justice



Nominated by President Roosevelt to be Chief Justice of the United States is Justice Harlan F. Stone of New York, Republican named to the Supreme Court by President Coolidge in 1925. Stone is considered one of the "liberals" of the high tribunal.

Allied Forces Reach Sidon Outskirts

Vichy, June 13.—(AP)—Allied forces in a tank-led drive of several kilometers have reached the outskirts of Sidon, on the Lebanese coast 25 miles south of Beirut, and are now battling French defenders in the environs of Damascus, the French high command acknowledged tonight.

The communiqué asserted that Canadian troops were in the van of one allied column that gained a foothold in a trench advance post in the Merdayoun-Hadaya area.

Both at Sidon and in the vicinity of Kiseou ten miles south of Damascus, French forces are still vigorously resisting the war bulletin reported.

When the British were repulsed in an attack on Kiseou, it said, their pressure veered to the east "where combats are in course."

Nazi Battleship Hit

Horton Supporters Charge 'Direct Hit' By Torpedo

Agreement Broken Through Failure To Re-Name Griffin

London, June 13.—(AP)—The air ministry announced tonight that a German pocket battleship had been hit by a torpedo fired by a British plane off the Norwegian coast early today.

The communiqué said that "dense clouds of smoke rose from the vessel" and that later the battleship, which the admiralty did not identify, was seen to be stationary off the southern point of Norway.

Still later the battleship and escorting destroyers were observed to be retiring toward the Skaggerak at a greatly reduced speed," the communiqué said.

Germany has only two pocket battleships—strong, swift ships of 10,000 tons, carrying eleven-inch guns—since the scuttling of the Admiral Graf Spee off Montevideo, Uruguay, December 17, 1939.

The remaining two are the Admiral Scheer and the Luetzow, formerly the Deutschland.

The battleship when first sighted was heading north and informed quarters said "it is inconceivable that she was going anywhere except on a raiding expedition."

One air-launched torpedo scored a "direct hit amidships" and another was launched into the smoke which quickly enveloped the warship, the air ministry news service said. This meant that more than one airplane participated.

The battleship was accompanied by five destroyers, the service added, but not a single shot was fired at the attacking planes.

The ships were first sighted by coastal bombers which, just before had spotted a German seaplane. Informed sources said that the German plane probably was on scout duty for the pocket battleship and her destroyer escort.

It is certain that some months ago McDonald was confident the governor would do nothing to replace Griffin. He then felt that he had received sufficient assurance, either from the governor himself or from those very close to the governor, that there would be no shakeup of the school commission drastic enough to include the firing of Griffin.

All of which tends to indicate that the new administration lineup will be a conglomerate of conservatives from the so-called "Sandy Grammar" group and constitutional rebels against the "machine" who fought under the McDonald banners when he almost purveyed opposition to the sales tax into a room in the big Blount street mansion which houses North Carolina's No. 1 citizens.

The Dick Reynolds lineup in his committee battle with former Governor Hovey showed the same thing. For the Winston-Salem "angel" of the national Democracy were Grahamster of 1926 such as Libby Ward, John Folger and others, with a sprinkling of such McDonaldites as were listed in the state executive committee roster.

To the membership of the new school commission there hasn't yet been any notable reaction one way or another, probably for lack of time in which to hear it. Of hand and first impressions views have been general laudatory.

Oil Case Near Jury

Strickland Suit Expected to go to Texas Jury Next Week; Large Sum Involved.

Conroe, Tex., June 13.—(AP)—The famous Wilson Strickland oil case, in which several hundred heirs of Strickland and of Colonel Allen Vince, Texas Revolutionary soldiers, are seeking title to 500 acres of oil land near here worth \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000, is expected to go to the jury next week.

The case, which began last August, is a three-way affair, several major oil companies, which developed the tract from a pine forest, and the state of Texas, which claims title to the land, also are parties.

Judge Ed E. Murphy has dismissed the jury until Monday when he hopes to have his charge ready.

It is expected that another 100 hours will be needed to argue the case before it is given to the jury.

The land originally was given to Wilson Strickland, a soldier of fortune from North Carolina, as a reward for services in the Texas War of Independence against Mexico.

Vince heirs lay claim to the land on the contention that Strickland lost the land to Colonel Vince on a judgment.

The oil companies developed the

Three Killed At Beaufort

Beaufort, June 13.—(AP)—Three men were killed early today when their trailer-lorry truck, venturing on the Atlantic Beach causeway, and plunged into a canal.

The three were identified as John Douglas Bean, 31, of Winter Garden, Fla.; Eddie Hundley, 25, and Dominic L. Vitare, 31, of Newark, N. J.

The men were drivers of large trailer trucks engaged in hauling Carteret county produce to northeastern markets.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday except for a few widely scattered showers.

Extended weather forecast for the period from 7:30 p. m. June 13 to 7:30 p. m. June 18—partly cloudy weather with widely scattered thundershowers is indicated for this district for the entire period, except little or no rain at beginning of period in central Florida. Temperatures near normal or slightly above.

British Planes Are Believed to Have Seriously Damaged German Pocket Battleship.

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RIGHT OF WAY GIVEN NAVY BLIMP MEASURE

Washington, June 13.—(AP)—The House rules committee granted legislative right of way today to a measure for the establishment of stations for naval blimps at Elizabeth City, N. C., Boston and Sunnyvale, Cal.

The bill authorized an appropriation of \$4,500,000 for each of the three stations.

House Group Divided On Seizure Bill

Washington, June 13.—(AP)—A sharply-divided House military committee took up the Senate's property seizure legislation today, but opposing factions expected that agreement on "some kind of bill" would be reached before nightfall.

Some committee members contended the revised proposal of Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, went too far. Others claimed that it had been "weakened" by amendments before the Senate finally passed it by a 67 to 7 vote yesterday.

The property seizure legislation was included in a bill amending the selective service act.

NAZI TROOPS MOVE TO NEW POSITIONS OPPOSITE RUSSIA

Moscow, June 13.—(AP)—Soviet Russia said tonight that German troops, freed from operations in the Balkans, are moving to eastern and northeastern Germany (where they face Russia) but added that "it must be assumed" that the movements have no bearing on Russian-German relations.