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Reds Gain On Central Front

Anti-Axis French Union Seems Near

Invitation To de Gaulle Seeks Pact

Fighting French National Committee to Consider Message From Giraud

Alfort, March 16—(AP)—The union of French elements resisting the axis under General Charles de Gaulle appears nearer today with the disclosure of an invitation by General Henri Giraud, the French Charles de Gaulle to enter into an agreement for unity.

The invitation followed swiftly a broadcast by General Giraud Sunday in which he announced the need for such a union, embracing the principles of the Atlantic charter and promising to abolish all Vichy legislation in north Africa.

Alfort, March 16—(AP)—Frenchmen in the north African colonies there would be a spark of unity, said General Georges Catroux, chief of French defense forces in north Africa, in a speech to his troops. He said the French had to unite to repel the Germans and to defend the principles of the Atlantic charter, and these principles were embodied in the new government.

Alfort, March 16—(AP)—General Charles de Gaulle summoned to Alfort, French national committee to a special session today for quick consideration of General Georges Catroux's invitation to discuss details for the union of all French forces now opposing the axis powers.

Alfort, March 16—(AP)—The French national committee of the Free French movement has invited General Georges Catroux, chief of French defense forces in north Africa, to meet it at Alfort, March 16, to discuss details for the union of all French forces now opposing the axis powers.

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RUSSIAN TOWN OF GZHATIK was liberated by the encroaching Red Army, the citizens of the once quiet cultural city received their first news of the war, being distributed earlier by a Soviet radio station. It shows the thronging people in the town, the first news the residents had of the sweeping Russian advance.

Lewis Gives Major Problems Ultimatum Confront Congress

Miners to Strike April 1 Unless Pact Is Negotiated, UMW President Declares

New York, March 16—(AP)—John L. Lewis says that miners' northern soft coal operators negotiate a pact with the United Mine Workers by March 31, the miners will not begin work April 1.

On the eve of the miners' strike, Lewis told the miners of the iron, steel and copper workers to strike April 1.

He said the miners must negotiate a pact with the operators of the coal fields before April 1, or if the coal operators do not do so, the miners will not begin work April 1.

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Post-War, Taxation And Manpower Issues Gauge Attention On Capitol Hill

Washington, March 16—(AP)—A year of controversies and a year of grave post-war tax and manpower problems occupied most of 1943's attention today while the war production board maintained a nationwide production control scheme and the war labor board announced to be "dead" in the little steel" because of a lack of increase factors.

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MacArthur's Rliers Bomb Jap Vessels

Increasing Attack On Jap Concentration Reported; In Burma, Allies Beat Off Raids

(By The Associated Press)

For more than a week, General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters has noted increased allied attacks against Japanese shipping in the Pacific seas. Today and other days British and American planes bombed northwest of Australia.

Again today, a communiqué reported that United Nations heavy bombers attacked two Japanese ships at Bitzmaro Bay in northwest Dutch New Guinea and damaged an enemy gunboat offshore in the Banda Sea after weeks.

Dispatches from allied headquarters said no Japanese were missing from and some 300 men were missing from a perimeter of island bases northwest of Australia, thereby prompting speculation that the enemy was preparing either for an invasion of the "down under" commonwealth or for defense against new allied counterblows.

A communiqué said that more than 100 Japanese bombers had been destroyed in the last week, probably in raids on the Japanese base at Rabaul.

On the Burma front, British headquarters reported that Field Marshal Sir Archibald P. Wavell's forces driving back into Burma from India beat off a series of fierce Japanese attacks in the Rangoon area, 25 miles north of the British base at Akyab.

British forces also repelled a Japanese attack on the western side of the Arakan front, where the British had been driven back into the hills.

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Pione Stowaway



MEMBER OF THE PIONEER, this boy, was shown away on a long trip home to see his family again. He is the first member of the crew to be released from the ship.

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