

### Need More Time To Secure West Against Russia

#### Present Weakness Admitted But Line Can Be Held Within a Year

Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe—(near Paris)—Staff officers at SHAPE told a small group of visiting reporters this week that within a year the Allies may be in a position to stall a Soviet invasion of free Europe long enough for the free world to rush sufficient reinforce-

ments into the battle to stabilize a line in western Europe. General Dwight Eisenhower received some 17 reporters personally at Allied headquarters near Paris and talked off the record for half an hour. Among the reporters received was this correspondent. Eisenhower's talk was preceded by an hour-long briefing by General A. M. Gruenther, Chief of Staff to the Supreme Commander. Gruenther told the 17 reporters—selected by the Defense Department to represent a cross section of the United States—that Allied prospects were neither bright nor hopeless. Reporters get a picture of the present situation in western Europe that runs something like this:

The Russians have 175 divisions in eastern Germany, and nearby, which could be used to launch an invasion of western Europe. About 65 or 75 of these divisions are either armored or mechanized. Another 125 second-class divisions are available to the Soviet Union within 30 days. In addition, the Soviets can call on approximately 60 satellite divisions—now formidable divisions for the first time in several years due to modernization. To match this the Allies today have a small and inadequate force. No one attempts to hide this fact. But within a year SHAPE expects to command the troops necessary to hold an enemy invasion to relatively moderate progress. During

#### SHAPY GUES CASUAL



Movie actress Sally Forrest is no different from other fashion-minded young girls. She loves to don a tailored corduroy jacket and slim skirt in darker cotton corduroy for casual wear. The blonde actress is one of MGM's rising new stars.

this holding period SHAPE hopes to be able to rush Allied reinforcements in sufficient numbers to stabilize a line somewhere in France.

Allied headquarters in Europe presents a drab picture for those who expected it to be an elaborate organization. It is more like a temporary army camp, with wooden buildings one story high windows without screens, and few luxuries. Enlisted men in the headquarters are overworked and homesick. Officers are overworked. But everywhere there is praise for Eisenhower as the commanding officer.

Reporters who heard General Eisenhower's speech were not unanimous in their reaction. Some were inclined to believe it was a political speech, others—perhaps a majority—thought it was sincere and straight from the shoulder. In effect, Eisenhower's message was not a military one but an idealistic one. The Supreme Commander is a great believer in

democracy and the American way of freedom. He believes if we sell the world this story of America—rather than a materialistic one—we will win the global propaganda now in progress and perhaps, prevent a war. At SHAPE there is little talk about inadequate troops, but rather much talk about future capabilities. The stress is laid upon the bright side of the picture, in the future, rather than the dark side of the picture, which is the present—as far as numbers are concerned.

There is no attempt to hide the fact that air fields in France are one of the pressing problems of the moment—and that they are in short supply. Nor is there any hiding of the fact that Allied strength in first class infantry and armored divisions is below minimum requirements. The German problem is one of the biggest being faced at SHAPE to day—how to utilize German troops and get other western European nations to agree to their utilization. Eisenhower himself believes the use of German troops would give the Allies a great boost. But it seems to be months away, at best.

Thus, the present picture is one of waiting for a year, at least, until we are ready to put up effective resistance to any Russian invasion. It is one of tenseness but of extreme anxiety—for there are several reasons the Russians might not be inclined to attack the West at this time.

First—the threat of United States strategic bombers worries the Russians.

Second—the Russians have not reached their production goals in steel, oil or coal—as outlined by Stalin himself as necessary for the waging of prolonged warfare.

Third—the Russians know they do not have anywhere near the free-world supply of raw materials, so necessary in the waging of long-term warfare.

Fourth—the Russians would possibly have to use all their satellite armies to subdue Yugoslavia in the event of war.

Top officials in SHAPE are pleased with Yugoslav disaffection and make no attempt to hide that fact. They believe the Yugoslavs are good fighters, well-led and loyal to Tito. They see in Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey the strength for a possible Southern front offensive.

But over and above all other considerations General Eisenhower

er stresses the morale factor. He repeatedly told newsmen invited to his conference a few days ago that morale of troops and peoples in Europe is the key to everything, success or failure of his missions. Reporters agreed the General was sincere. The big question not asked was whether Ike intended to enter politics in 1952. Several reporters touched on the political side in questions but Eisenhower gracefully explained that he could not speak out on his views now—though he was emphatic in reminding reporters he had definite views. He said that as Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers

in Europe it would be highly improper for him to start talking politics. Eisenhower did not say when he would return home, when asked by this reporter. He merely said he was terribly busy at present—and that the next three weeks were a full schedule for him. Whether the three-week remark means anything is questionable. When told that his name was being mentioned more frequently at presidential press conferences in Washington than any other, he smiled but made no comment. Ike is in good health, good spirits, and going fifteen hours a day,

**Steals "Cold" Cash From Deep Freeze in Basement**  
Haslett, Mich.—It was really "cold cash" which a thief stole from Ivan Palmer, of Haslett, when someone took \$100 from the deep freeze in the basement of his home. according to SHAPE officers. But reporters who saw him at SHAPE the other day believe he is under a great political strain. There were some signs of that tension in the General's behavior toward the 17 visiting reporters, perhaps due to the widespread political speculation concerning the General.

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