

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

U. S. News War With Japan.
Japs May Seize U. S. Ships
 The beginning of actual hostilities between the United States and Japan may occur any day. It is no exaggeration to state that relations between the two countries will reach a crisis when American steamers, en route to Vladivostok, appear in Japanese waters.
 The seriousness of the situation is hardly appreciated by the American people. Japan finds herself in a precarious position, due entirely to a long series of aggressive moves in the Far East. Many experts in Washington, Tokyo and elsewhere believe that the steady flow of war supplies to Soviet Russia from American industry will shatter Japanese ambitions.
 It is officially admitted that steamers have departed from the United States loaded with supplies destined for Vladivostok, where, presumably, they will be transhipped to European Russia for use against the German invading armies. Every shipload which reaches its destination will strengthen the Soviet and increase its fighting power against Japan as well as Germany.

U. S. Within Its Rights.
Aggression Challenged.
 Americans should understand that the danger does not arise from any unneutral act of this country. The United States has a perfect right under International Law to send supplies to Vladivostok for the use of the Russian army. When its ships leave the United States with war supplies to the Soviet, the Japanese have no right to complain, much less to seize the supplies en route.
 Nevertheless, to understand the gravity of the present situation it is necessary to consider the position in which Japanese expansionists find themselves. Their program has been pushed as far south as possible without inviting actual warfare. Doubt exists as to whether the Japanese are ready to invite hostilities with Great Britain and the United States by continuing a southward push.

In Tokyo, the cry of encirclement is raised as Western nations get together for the defense of their interests in the Far East. This defense will be greatly strengthened if the Japanese are convinced that the Soviet is maintaining a Far Eastern force of sufficient striking power to actively intervene in that area.
Fear U. S. Aid To Soviet
Tokyo Faces Decision
 In other words, the Japanese find themselves blocked in the Southern Pacific by the determined attitude of the United States and Great Britain. They have probably harbored the hope that Germany's attack upon Russia will cause the Soviet to weaken itself in the Far East, thus opening the way for Japanese expansion from Manchukuo and, certainly, eliminating Soviet influence and pressure against the Japanese in relation to the Chinese campaign.

Obviously, if immense supplies of war materials reach Vladivostok the Soviet will continue to be a menace to Japan, able to block expansion on

the continent and because of air bases close to Japan, to threaten the islands in the event of hostility.
 It seems to be no exaggeration to say that the Russians will effectually challenge the continuance of Japanese policies in the Far East.
 Adroitly, the United States, without direct hostile act, puts Japan to the acid test and, unless the Japanese are willing, tentatively at least, to suspend their aggressive program, there is more than a possibility of offensive Japanese naval action against American ships.
 Whether the Japanese will go so far as to seize American ships is uncertain. If they do, they pass the buck to the United States and this country must decide then whether to abandon its pronounced policy of extending assistance to nations fighting Hitlerism. Moreover, the United States must surrender, almost without reservation, its favored "freedom of the seas" policy and back down in the face of hostile action on the part of the Japanese.

Head-On Collision.
Jap Situation Serious.
 We do not believe that the United States will surrender under pressure and we suspect that the Japanese will take drastic action to prevent the shipment of war supplies to Vladivostok. This is what diplomats recognize as a head-on collision and the chances are that it will mean actual shooting.

The best hope for peace, as far as we can figure it out, is that Tokyo will realize the almost hopeless position of Japan. Entirely isolated from her Axis allies in Europe, Japan will face the threat of Russia's air force and army in Siberia and the pressure of American and British naval and air strength in the South Pacific.
 Moreover, the bulk of the Japanese Army is engaged in a fruitless military enterprise against the Chinese. Despite the grandiose pronouncements from Berlin and Rome, there is nothing that Germany and Italy can do to help the Japanese if they find themselves at war with Great Britain, the United States and Soviet Russia.

Hitler's campaign plans against Russia probably included, besides heavy German attack on the eastern front, active participation by Japan when German pressure compelled Russia to weaken its Far Eastern forces. Beset on both sides, the Soviet, it was confidently believed, would prove easy prey to the aggressive armies of Germany and Japan. This scheme will never succeed if the Soviet is reinforced with supplies in quantity from the United States.

Pincers Press Japan May Fight To Break Through
 As matters now stand in the Far East, a strong stand by the United States and Great Britain will reverse the situation, putting Japan between the pincers and make the Island Empire the victim of its own greedy aggression. From the standpoint of strategy, concerned solely with the defense of American interests in the Far East, the United States can hope

for no more favorable position.
 Before Hitler's attack upon Russia, it seemed likely that Japan would be able to advance in the South Pacific with complete assurance that Soviet Russia would remain neutral during the struggle. If the fighting begins over American attempts to send supplies to Soviet Russia, the Soviet would naturally take appropriate action to defend its line of communications with this country.
 Frankly, the writer does not know how far the United States will go to protect its ships on the way to Vladivostok. Neither have we any available information as to the probable action of the Japanese Navy when the supply ships reach Japanese waters. It may be that incidents will occur and that both nations will seek adjustment of the situation. But, nevertheless, the stage is set for an explosion in the Far East when American ships begin to deliver supplies to Vladivostok in quantity.

The consequences will depend entirely upon the decision of Japanese statesmen in Tokyo. The United States has set its course. The Japanese consider their interests challenged and seriously menaced. What will they do? The chances are about even that they will precipitate the gravest crisis that has marred Japanese-American relations and it may be one that offers no settlement by peaceful means.

Rules of the Road

At Railroad Crossings

Section 104, Motor Vehicle Laws of North Carolina:—"Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a highway and interurban or steam railway grade crossing and a clearly visible and positive signal gives warning of the immediate approach of a railway train or car, it shall be unlawful for the driver of the vehicle to fail to bring the vehicle to a complete stop before traversing such grade crossing."

This means that you are required by law to come to a full stop at all railroad crossings where a light or bell device warns of the approach of a train. You also are required to stop at crossings marked by an official eight-sided, black and yellow STOP sign, whether any automatic signal device is present or not. Of course, all school trucks, and passenger buses are required to come to complete stop at all railroad crossings.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Hermap Wiggins, of Whiteston, a son, in a Suffolk Hospital. Mother and baby are doing nicely. Mrs. Wiggins is the former Miss Alceora Winslow.

CHAPANOKE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Mann and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Mann, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Russell, of Old Neck have returned home after visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Elnu Lane and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Deal.

Rev. J. D. Cranford was the dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Symons on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday he dined with Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Quincy. On Thursday Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lewis entertained him at dinner and on Friday evening he was the dinner guest of Mrs. Addie Bright.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Garrett spent Friday in Washington, N. C. Miss Alma Leggett accompanied them home for a visit.

Miss Doris Miller, of Winfall, is spending a few days with Miss Janet Quincy.

Miss Elizabeth Nixon, of Hertford, was the dinner guest of Mrs. John Symons on Friday.

Mrs. Elihu Lane was in Elizabeth City Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Bell spent the day with friends in Currituck Thursday.

C. A. Ownley and Mrs. Bertha Whitehead attended the revival services at Corinth Baptist Church on Thursday evening.

Mrs. P. L. Griffin, Mrs. Emmett Stallings and Miss Lena Symons spent Sunday in Norfolk, Va., with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chambers and little son, of Norfolk, Va., spent Sunday with Mrs. Chambers' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Deal.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Garrett and Miss Alma Leggett spent Saturday evening at Manteo and saw "The Lost Colony."

Mrs. J. C. Wilson was the dinner guest of Mrs. T. S. White on Thursday evening.

Oscar Bundy and James Ownley spent Sunday in Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. George Scales, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. White, has returned to her home in New York.

Mrs. Harry Hollowell and children are spending a few days with Mrs. Archie Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilder and Miss Evelyn White were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wilder Sunday.

Mrs. John Asbell spent Sunday morning with Mrs. Earl Wilder.

Mrs. C. L. Jackson has returned from Plymouth, where she visited her daughter, Mrs. Raymond Leggett. Miss Evelyn White, of Chowan

County, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Earl Wilder.
 Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Quincy and

Miss Janet Quincy went to Norfolk, Va., Monday morning. Mr. Quincy returned home Monday night. Mrs.

Quincy and Miss Janet remained for several days and while there Miss Janet will undergo a tonsilectomy.

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NEWS and FACTS of Statewide Interest

PROTECTION

For over two years this Committee has waged its "Clean Up or Close Up" campaign to protect the legitimate beer retailing business by eliminating those few undesirables who use their beer licenses as a cloak for unlawful activities.

Law enforcement agencies and the brewing industry both recognize that no program can be entirely successful without the approval and active support of law-abiding citizens.

We ask your cooperation in this work. Please do not patronize beer outlets that tolerate anti-social practices—that compromise ethical conduct.

BREWERS AND NORTH CAROLINA BEER DISTRIBUTORS COMMITTEE

Edgar H. Bain, State Director, Suite 813-817 Commercial Bldg. Raleigh