

Fighting Will Halt Within 12 Hours If Truce Is Signed

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lacked the ability to sustain an offensive, but regarded the situation as explosive.

cated the formal signing was only precisely when a formal truce would be signed could not be told, although all outward signs indi-

a matter of days. Peiping radio said an armistice would "come soon."

Under provisions of the truce, fighting will halt within 12 hours after the signing. The opposing forces will pull back to a buffer zone two and a half miles wide within 72 hours and set in motion intricate machinery for the release of prisoners of war.

The UN command was understood to regard as complete the draft agreement as now drawn. How many administrative matters might be raised was not known.

One such matter was a revision of the demarcation line across Korea that would separate the opposing armies during the truce. The line has undergone battle changes since it was first drawn in November, 1951, but none have exceeded two miles in a static war of position.

The UN spokesman, Lt. Col. Milton Herr, said that "because of changed conditions since the original armistice draft, possibly some things have to be changed from an administrative standpoint."

The history making agreement on exchange of prisoners was signed at 2 p.m. Monday (11 p.m. CST Sunday) by Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison Jr. for the UN Command and North Korean Gen. Nam Il for the Communists. The South Koreans boycotted the meeting.

The agreement settled the major point blocking an armistice since an agreement was reached on the cease-fire line in November, 1951—a 19-months deadlock.

The heart of the prisoner exchange formula was a timetable for the disposition of 46,380 North Koreans and Chinese who have said they would refuse to return to their Communist homelands. Of these, 14,200 were Chinese and 32,180 were North Koreans, the UN Command announced. The figures were a slight downward revision of earlier figures.

The UN Command has refused to send home any prisoner against his will and this condition was upheld in the final agreement.

The exchange agreement provided this timetable:

- 1) Within 60 days after a truce is signed, both sides shall hand over in groups all prisoners who insist on direct repatriation. This was expected to include all the 12,000 Allied prisoners held by the

Reds; 70,300 North Koreans and 5,000 Chinese held by the Allies.

2) Within 60 days, prisoners refusing repatriation would be turned over to a neutral nations repatriation commission composed of one representative each from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and India with the last nation umpire and chairman.

3) The reluctant prisoners would remain in the custody of the neutral commission 90 days for an explanation period. During this time explanation representatives would be allowed to inform the prisoners "of any matters relating to their return to their homelands, particularly of their full freedom to return home to lead a peaceful life." The Communists were limited to a maximum of seven representatives per thousand prisoners, or a total of 322—an increase over the 190 representatives originally proposed by the UN Command. "Explanations" will be made in the presence of a representative of each of the five commission nations and a representative of the UN Command. No force or threat of force shall be used.

4) After 90 days of "explanations," a postarmistice political conference will try for 30 days to settle the question of what to do about prisoners still resisting repatriation. During this period the prisoners will remain under the custody of the neutral commission. If there are still prisoners remaining "for whom no other disposition has been agreed," then the neutral commission shall relieve the prisoners of their prisoner status and reclassify them as civilians.

5) Those who choose to go to neutral nations shall be assisted by the commission and the Red Cross Society of India but this operation was limited to 30 days. After this time the repatriation commission must cease functioning and dissolve itself.

All decisions made by the neutral commission will be by a majority vote. South Korean government leaders contended that the terms of the agreement and the makeup of the commission amounted to "surrender" to the Communists.

Lyuh Woon Hong, leader of Rhee's Liberal Party in the National Assembly, said the terms "mean ultimate forced repatriation."

He said the explanation teams

could force the prisoners into returning home. He argued further, as had some of his fellow government leaders, that India was pro-Communist and holds a tie-breaking vote on the repatriation commission.

Rhee issued a statement cautioning his people to refrain from unfriendly acts against Allies in Korea and instructed the national police to prevent disturbances.

The truce negotiations were thought here to be so near an end that Gen. Mark Clark was expected to fly from Tokyo to Korea within a week to sign the document for the UN Command.

Marshal Kim Il Sung of North Korea and Chinese Commander Gen. Peng Teh-huai will sign for the Communists.

Fighting men of the Eighth Army greeted the news of the prisoner settlement with delight, surprise and hope.

The first reaction among many American soldiers was "how soon do I go home?"

They got their answer beforehand from the Eighth Army commander, Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, who said an armistice would not justify the departure from Korea of U. S. and other Allied soldiers.

He said the war would not be over until there was a political settlement.

In Seoul, the South Korean Cabinet and 12 national assemblymen appointed to a "truce crisis" committee met in extraordinary session and resolved to continue fighting and not recognize a truce.

The assemblymen's committee departed for Pusan to lay before the full assembly their resolution.

Within minutes after the news of the signing of the prisoner agreement reached Seoul, the streets blossomed with signs reading "United Nations and United States must not sell out Korea" and "United States which divided Korea must take responsibility for unification."

At his official residence Rhee stroked his dog, toyed with two bear cubs and told Associated Press Photographer Fred Waters "we won't pay any attention to that (truce)—the Korean people will pay no attention to that."

"Our boys are fighting the Communists on the front and now they want to open the back door and let the Communists in that way," he added. "I am being criticized by

everyone—except the Korean people."

Home Minister Chin denounced the prisoner of war agreement as "failure of the United Nations to live up to their fundamental principle of human freedom."

"Everything is now through," he said. "Koreans who have been depending on the UN leadership have lost confidence and are deeply disappointed. It is an established principle that we should drive to the north."

In a conversation with a report-

er, Rhee labeled the Eisenhower letter received Sunday as "unsatisfactory." In a later meeting with newsmen, he declined to say whether he would accept the terms of the U. S. chief executive's appeal, adding:

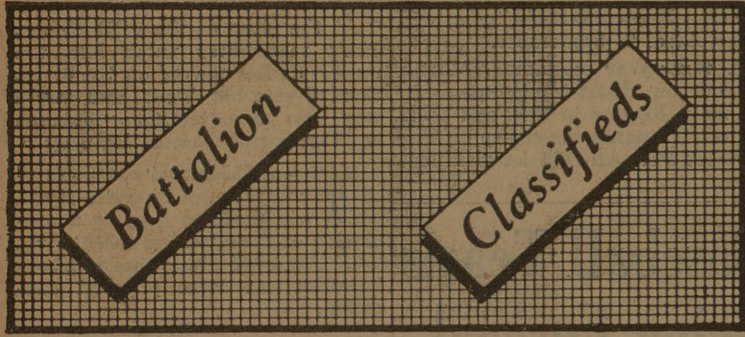
"I have not decided yet." The Red Chinese radio announced Monday that complete agreement had been reached on exchanging prisoners and predicted a "complete cease-fire and armistice without delay."

High officials in Washington and London generally withheld comment pending further developments but in other capitals leaders hailed the news as representing a defeat of Communist aggression. Some said it could stabilize world peace in general.

But Premier Nguyen Van Tam of Viet Nam said a Korean truce would have "catastrophic consequences" if serious measures were not taken to prevent Red China from increasing military aid to the Communist-led Vietminh fighting French Union forces in Indo-China.

Sources in Singapore reported a fear all through Southeast Asia that the Communists may move southward if freed from fighting in the north and pose invasion threats to Thailand and Burma.

Concern over the stand of South Korea on an armistice was evident in London. A Foreign Office spokesman said inquiries were being made to determine whether there was real danger the South Koreans would ignore a truce and upset a cease-fire.



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Notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held in the City Hall of the City of College Station, Texas, at 7:30 p.m. June 15, 1953 on the city's budget for the fiscal year 1953-54.

S/N. M. McGinnis
City Secretary

Dr. Carlton R. Lee
OPTOMETRIST
303A East 26th
Call 2-1662 for Appointment
(Across from Court House)

Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

quired to buy tickets, said White, but other persons will have to buy single admissions or season tickets.

An adult season ticket to the movies will be \$1.50 and children's tickets will be \$1.00. Single admissions will be adults, \$.25 and children (12 and under) \$.09.

Children under 6 will be admitted free if accompanied by a parent, said White.

"The Pirates of Penzance" will be presented July 14 and 15 by Bill Turner. This is a musical comedy by Gilbert and Sullivan which will be presented with a community cast and orchestra.

There are several vacancies in the cast and orchestra, said Turner, and he requested anyone interested in trying out for a part in the play to contact him.

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