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TOP OFFICIALS STUDY RUSSIAN ATOMIC REPLY

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The United States probably will send Russia a new note soon welcoming its avowed agreement to atomic talks and suggesting ways to get them started.

Top officials, who are still going over Moscow's Monday message with a magnifying glass, have yet to decide precisely how this country should proceed. Some authorities believe an exchange through normal diplomatic channels will be undertaken.

However, such planning is going forward in the State Department and Atomic Energy Commission AEC on the assumption that secret talks among the world atomic powers will open up under the sponsorship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission in late January—about a month away.

Ex-Ambassador Charges White For Cuban Plan

NEW YORK—(AP)—Former Assistant Secretary of State Spruille Braden says the late Harry Dexter White once drew up a fiscal reform plan for Cuba containing proposals that "even the wildest-eyed New Dealer wouldn't try."

He says the plan would have bankrupted the Cuban government and only 11th-hour intervention by him kept Cuba from passing legislation to implement it.

The onetime ambassador to Cuba and Argentina testified yesterday before the U.S. Senate internal security subcommittee. Braden's government service was in the Roosevelt-Truman administration.

His testimony about White, a former assistant secretary of the Treasury, underscored a warning of Communist penetration in Latin America and a plea that Senate probes look into "the Moscow-inspired conspiracy to destroy our country by spreading communism through the rest of this hemisphere."

Braden, in a prepared statement before his testimony, said the United States may yet lose Latin America to the Communists "as we did China." He added: Braden said he first learned of the White plan upon his appointment as ambassador to Cuba in 1952. He said he opposed the plan as "completely crazy and cock-eyed."

He testified that he refused to reverse his stand when directed to do so in a State Department message over then Secretary of State Cordell Hull's signature. He said he believed the directive came from Laurence Duggan, then head of the department's Latin American Division.

Duggan fell or jumped to his death from a New York building in 1948, a dozen days after he had been mentioned in secret testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee as a member of the Communist apparatus that included Alger Hiss, former State Department official convicted of perjury.

Korean Vets Hurried Home for Christmas

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—Military spokesmen said today every effort is being made to speed returning Korean combat veterans home for the holidays and that those men who aren't likely to make it for Christmas knew it before leaving the Far East.

A preliminary exchange of views which could be carried on by ambassadors, or perhaps by Secretary of State Dulles and Foreign Minister Molotov at the projected Berlin conference, might serve to clear the air of misunderstandings if any exist, officials said.

The Russian note conditionally agreeing to talks said President Eisenhower's proposal for an international atomic energy pool for peaceful purposes needed clarification—apparently on the point of what the President would do about weapons control.

Dulles Hopeful Dulles said yesterday the world might see a "recession of the horror of atomic warfare" in 1954 as a result of America's initiative in reviving atomic talks and Russian agreement to participate.

Authorities said two major moves must now be worked out in detail:

1. The international atomic agency which Eisenhower proposed in a U.N. speech Dec. 8 must be blueprinted so that the United States will be able to spell out precisely what kind of operation it would like to see, with what kind of management, and with what safeguards against use for war of any atomic materials contributed for peaceful uses.

2. An answer must be worked out to what appears to be a modified Soviet Proposal which probably represents the Kremlin's "new approach" to the problem of atomic control. Moscow's note served notice that the Soviet government would propose in any talks held that all participating nations pledge themselves not to use atomic weapons.

United Nations experts said this was a change from Russia's earlier insistence on barring the manufacture or possession of atomic weapons as a first step in international control of atomic energy. This country has insisted that a rigid inspection system be set up first.

On the face of it, American acceptance of a pledge not to use atomic weapons seems at this stage to be virtually unthinkable. U.S. military planning now regards atomic weapons as being conventional—that is, like gun-powder weapons. The Soviets are fully aware of this. They appear to have hit upon a new device which they hope will give them a propaganda weapon against the United States.

Living Costs Are Expected To Go Down

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The American housewife may get a Christmas gift today in the form of official word that the cost of living has dropped a little for the first time in eight months.

In advance of the issuance of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' official index, it seemed likely that lower prices for food and clothing would be major factors in halting a moderate rise which has continued unbroken since last February.

The expected decline would knock about 1,100,000 railroad employees out of the penny-an-hour wage boost due them had the index stayed at its October level. Their wage rates are geared by union-management contract to changes in the index.

The bureau's figures today reflect mid-November living costs. The index measures consumer price changes in principal cities from month to month, but its compilation lags about a month.

UN Command Ends Effort To Repatriate Prisoners



REUNITED AFTER 58 YEARS—Luke Ward of Tyler, Tex., is shown as he was reunited with his two sisters in Tyler after 58 years. Shown with Mrs. Hattie Weaver (right) of Mertens and Mrs. Jesse Lewis (left) of Fairfield, Tex. The 78-year-old man left his family unannounced 58 years ago to seek his fortune and until the reunion had not seen any of his family since that time. Since leaving home he had lived in Oklahoma and Arkansas as well as Texas. (AP Photo)

Laniel Withdraws From French Vote

VERSAILLES, France—(AP)—Overseas Minister Louis Jacquinot replaced Premier Joseph Laniel today as the Independent party's candidate for the French presidency. Socialist Marcel-Edmond Naegelen remained the other leading candidate as the divided Parliament began its 11th ballot in a week of fruitless voting.

Laniel, who came with 22 votes of victory Sunday night and topped the poll on the last 8 of the 10 ballots, withdrew late last night after it became apparent he could not pick up support from middle-of-the-road factions.

He urged non-Communist groups to agree on another national leader to succeed outgoing President Vincent Auriol.

Before the four-hour voting began today, his Independent party caucused and chose Jacquinot, a 55-year-old political veteran of



TREED BY HOUNDS, SIGHTED FROM AIR—Three escapees from the Fisher County jail at Roby, Tex., are shown in the Nolan County jail at Sweetwater, Tex., after their capture. Left to right, they are Benny Bolton and Jack Pitts, both of Dallas, and John Tarlton of Snyder. They surrendered meekly after bloodhounds chased them up a tree near Sweetwater. (AP Photo)

SANTA AT WRONG PARTY

DALLAS, Tex.—(AP)—It was time for the Christmas party at Mrs. J. W. Sanderson's kindergarten. The tree was up and trimmed. The kids were excited. The doorbell rang.

Sure enough, it was a resplendent Santa Claus at the door. Mrs. Sanderson was agreeably surprised, and the youngsters were delighted. With a chance to relax, Santa and Mrs. Sanderson struck up a conversation. And, yep, Santa was at the wrong party.

Cold Weather To Continue, Says Bureau

By ASSOCIATED PRESS Numbing, sub-freezing temperatures and snow flurries smashed Texans' hopes of a mild Christmas Tuesday night.

The Weather Bureau said shortly before midnight that only the Lower Rio Grande Valley could escape a hard freeze. Minimums nearing zero were predicted in the Panhandle.

A late forecast said the freeze would continue through Wednesday with a slight warm up and possible showers expected Thursday—Christmas Eve.

Snowfall ranging up to two inches between El Paso and Wink closed down busy U.S. Highway 80 between Kent and Toyah. Motorists were turned back at Pecos because of ice and sleet on the highway. Other highways in the area also were weatherbound.

Snow also fell during the day at Amarillo, Lamesa, Midland and other points. Coldest spot late Tuesday night was Dalhart with 12 degrees. Amarillo had 13, Lubbock 19, Childress, Fort Worth and Dallas 21, Wichita Falls 20, El Paso 26, Wink 25, Waco 27, Austin 31, San Antonio 34, Junction 28, College Station 30, Lufkin 31, Beaumont 37, Houston 37, Tyler 24, Corpus Christi 40.

POWs Drown Out Late Broadcasts

By FORREST EDWARDS

PANMUNJOM—(AP)—American war prisoners who embraced communism chanted Red songs, shouted and linked arms with fellow captives in a wild swirling dance today, drowning out last-minute broadcast appeals to return home.

The U. N. Command said the broadcasts a few hours before the midnight deadline for explanations to balking prisoners ended efforts to woo home 22 Americans, 1 Briton and 327 South Koreans who stayed with the Reds.

The Communists, who have pressed repeatedly for an extension of the explanation period, asked to interview more Chinese prisoners from the anti-Communist South Camp tomorrow. But the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission ruled that the explanations had ended.

The commission approved a request from the pro-Communist Americans and the Briton to meet Allied and Red news correspondents inside their compound tomorrow.

12 Broadcasts Loudspeakers outside the barbed wire enclosure broadcasted 12 times during the day—four appeals each to the 22 Americans, 1 Briton and 7 South Koreans who had not been interviewed individually. All of the 250 South Koreans interviewed earlier elected to stay with the Communists.

The broadcasts were greeted by wild demonstrations as the prisoners danced, sang, shouted and cheered in unison.

Only 17 Americans were counted inside the compound. The Indian command said three were in a nearby hospital and did not hear the broadcasts. Two others apparently remained inside the huts where the prisoners live. The Indian command said 18 were inside the compound.

POW's Identified News correspondents standing outside the wire identified from pictures Sgt. Richard Corden of Past Providence, R. I., striding about the enclosure with a short coat thrown over his shoulders as he led the demonstration. Corden and British Marine Andrew Condron previously had been identified as leaders of the non-Korean prisoners.

Correspondents also identified from photographs: Claude Batchelor, Kermit, Tex.; Richard Tenneson, Alden, Minn.; William C. White, Plummerville, Ark.; R. E. Douglas, San Angelo, Tex.; Howard C. Adams, Corsicana, Tex.; and L. V. Skinner, Akron, Ohio.

Three in Hospital Indian guards said Otho G. Bell, Olympia, Wash.; W. A. Cowart, Monticello, Ark.; and Larance Sullivan, Omaha, were in the hospital. Tenneson's mother, Mrs. Portia Howe, flew to Tokyo to try to persuade him to come home. Tenneson wrote his mother that he was not going to return.

Batchelor recently wrote his Japanese wife that he was going to remain with the Communists because "I have the ideas of a Communist."

With the end of the explanation period all of the Americans become absent without leave. In another 30 days they will be listed as deserters.

One More Chance Under terms of the armistice all unrepatriated war prisoners are to be held in the neutral zone until Jan. 22, when they are to be released as civilians. During the 30-day period they can still ask for repatriation.

The Communists want the prisoners kept in custody until a peace conference decides their fate, but the Allies have refused to agree. A few miles from the compound where the Allied broadcasts were made Communist explainers won back 11 of 250 Chinese and 1 North Korean out of 41 interviewed on the final day of explanations.

It was the ninth day that the Communists have tried to change the minds of some 22,500 Chinese and Korean prisoners. During that time they have talked with 3,173 prisoners and

have won back 138 or about 4.3 per cent. The tape recorded broadcast to American prisoners in the North Camp was made by Maj. Edward Moorer of Tacoma, Wash. His voice booming from the loudspeakers sent the prisoners into a demonstration described by one observer as "an awesome display of the collective mind shutting out what it fears."

Benson Asks Date Extension On Rail Rate

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Agriculture Secretary Benson renewed Tuesday his request that eastern railroads extend to March 31 the present emergency freight rates on hay shipped into designated drought areas.

The railroads rejected yesterday a similar request which Benson had submitted earlier in the month, but the Agriculture Department said today Benson is asking a reconsideration.

The emergency rates, only half the regular rates, were put into effect Oct. 10 and are scheduled to expire Dec. 31.

Benson asked their renewal for the full three-month period of his original request. Earlier in New York, E. V. Hill, head of the Traffic Executives Assn. of the eastern road, said he understood Benson would ask a one-month extension in place of the rejected three-month period.

In his new appeal, Benson said much of the hay that has been contracted for by states cooperating in the hay program will be shipped after the Dec. 31 expiration date. Several states only recently included in the program, he said, have been unable to arrange for shipments fast enough to benefit from the rate reduction.

Benson has asked similar extensions of emergency rates from western and southern railroads, but has not yet been notified of their decision.

Prominent Doctor Leaps From Bridge After Slaying Wife

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—A prominent physician leaped 140 feet to his death in the Mississippi yesterday after killing his wife with a carving knife.

Dr. Marx Sterbow, 43, an outstanding authority on children's allergies, and his 27-year-old wife Marcia had been estranged several months.

Detective William Bazajou said the physician nearly severing his wife's head with the knife, then sped to the Mississippi River bridge, nine miles above the city and jumped.

The body had not been recovered. Bazajou said Mrs. Sterbow had taken her 3-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter to a nursery school and afterwards gone to her husband's apartment with a friend to pick up some articles for a party.

Weather Today



Continued cold weather is in store for Wednesday and Thursday with a low of 22 expected Wednesday. Maximum temperature Tuesday was 49 low was 27. Low Wednesday was 21 and high this afternoon 36.

24c, 33c, 25c, 25c, 47c, 31c, 29c, 75c, 47c, 24c, 19c, 25c, 39c, 25c, 39c, ET, N, & 26