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PROSPECTS OF EARLY PEACE TALKS

Corner Turned At Paris Ministers' Conference HOPE OF COMPROMISE ON TRIESTE

PARIS, June 30. THE corner has been turned in the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' conference. When it meets again tomorrow it is expected that agreement will be rapidly reached on calling a full peace conference of 21 Powers.

This dramatic new turn to the fortunes of the conference is the result of yesterday's momentous five-hour meeting, at which a compromise proposal for the settlement of the Trieste problem, advanced by the French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, was accepted as the basis for discussion by the three other Ministers.

Under this plan Trieste is to become, with its neighbouring territories, an autonomous territory administered by the "Big Four," Italy and Yugoslavia. It will be guaranteed by the UNO Security Council and equipped with a freely elected legislative assembly.

International control is to last for ten years, and before this period ends, the "Big Four" will submit further proposals to UNO.

During the ten years a Government, appointed jointly by Italy and Yugoslavia, will preside over the six-Power Government, which in turn will be responsible to a supervisory body formed by the four Powers and the Security Council.

Tomorrow's formal agenda includes: Firstly, Trieste, which will be discussed after the week-end examination of M. Bidault's plan by the other three delegations; secondly, Italian colonies; thirdly, the date for the 21-Power peace conference, which the delegations' officials now forecast round July 25, and fourthly, Germany.

It is scarcely likely that the Ministers will complete the whole agenda, but if agreement in principle on Trieste is reached, it would open the way for rapid disposal of all the five draft treaties at least to a stage where they could be submitted to the peace conference for final discussion.

When M. Bidault's Trieste plan comes up for discussion, tomorrow, two crucial points are expected to dominate the debate: Firstly, what is to be the exact area surrounding Trieste included under the suggested international regime and secondly, what will be the form of the control during the ten-year period?

DURATION OF REGIME
Another question is whether, if agreement is reached on internationalisation, the regime should be temporary as proposed by M. Bidault or permanent as suggested by M. Molotov.

No one—not even M. Bidault—will pretend that the plan is perfect. It clearly bristles with practical difficulties, but it remains the only means of reconciling previously diametrically opposed standpoints of the "big four" which threatened a deadlock on the conclusion of the entire European peace settlement.

With the virtual solution of the Danubian clauses of the Balkan treaties yesterday, as a result of another compromise plan by M. Bidault, the stage now seems well set for agreement on the Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian draft treaties. The Finnish treaty is regarded as completely ready except for the final wording of certain clauses.

Although the Italian reparations problem remains temporarily shelved through Anglo-Russian differences, it is safe to say that if agreement is reached on Trieste, the reparations question is most unlikely to hold up the conference.

The third week of the conference is opening with better prospects than ever before. An end of the long attempt to agree on the five draft treaties is today within sight for the first time.

Greece, which previously claimed £2,632,000,000 reparations from Italy has now scaled down her demands to a total of £748,500,000 it is learnt authoritatively.

The Prime Minister, at the head of a Greek Government mission, is flying to Paris to discuss these demands.—Reuter.

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ANGLO-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS

Resumption Expected Soon

ALEXANDRIA, June 30. Prospects of an early resumption of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty negotiations rose sharply today after a long meeting between the British Ambassador, Sir Ronald Ian Campbell, and the Premier of Egypt, Sidky Pasha, assisted by the Foreign Minister, Loutfi el Sayed Pasha.

Afterwards both Sir Ronald Campbell and Sidky Pasha expressed the hope that the talks would be resumed shortly. Political circles in Cairo are inclined to believe that Britain will not sign any new treaty with Egypt until after the Central Peace Conference, when she will have known Russia's exact position in world affairs.—Reuter.

Indonesian Premier Kidnapped

MARTIAL LAW DECLARED

BATAVIA, June 30. Dr. I. R. Soekarno, President of the Indonesian Republican Government, tonight confirmed that Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, the Indonesian Prime Minister, and other high Indonesians had been kidnapped by armed men from a hotel at Soerakarta on Thursday night.

Dr. Soekarno, who was broadcasting from Jogjakarta, accused fifth columnists of the kidnapping and warned listeners to "beware of radical leftists whose actions lend support to Dutch statements that we are unable to govern ourselves".

Dr. Soekarno gave the names of two others captured with Dr. Sjahrir as Major-General Soedibjo and Mr. Darmajan, Minister of Public Welfare.

Of his assumption of power yesterday Dr. Soekarno declared that he did not wish to become dictator. "When the emergency is over, I will return the power to the people," he said.

Dr. Sjahrir is believed by Republican quarters here to have been kidnapped by the followers of Tak Malacca, former Communist leader, and Dr. Soebardjo, former Indonesian Foreign Minister, who are themselves under house arrest for conspiring against the Government.

The Hague: Dr. Soekarno has placed Indonesia under martial law.—Reuter.

LORD WOOLTON New Conservative Party Chairman

LONDON, June 30: Lord Woolton, former Food Minister in the wartime Coalition Government, has accepted an invitation from Mr. Winston Churchill to become chairman of the Conservative Party organization, it was announced today.

Lord Woolton succeeds Mr. Ralph Ascheton who recently resigned through pressure of other business. As the new chairman, Lord Woolton—who before joining Mr. Churchill's Government was an independent—will have the task of leading the Conservative Party's campaign at the next General Election.—Reuter.



Lord Woolton

PERSIA TO HAVE NEW PARTY

Premier's Disclosure

TEHRAN, June 30: M. Ghavam-es-Sultaneh, Persian Prime Minister, in a broadcast last night, disclosed that he was forming a new party to be known as "the Democrat Party of Iran."

M. Ghavam-es-Sultaneh said, "To safeguard the interests of Persia and the people's future comfort and success, I have decided to form a new party. Party activities will start in a fortnight's time." He defined the party's foreign policy "to strengthen friendly relations with Russia, Britain and the United States."

The new party's eleven-point programme is as follows: First, to safeguard the independence and freedom of Persia; second, to safeguard the political and economic independence of Persia; third, a new agricultural policy; fourth, a correct and just basis for land ownership; fifth, reform of financial policy; sixth, reform of trades and industry; seventh, reform of the system of justice; eighth, reform of culture and health and establishment of compulsory education; ninth, awakening of patriotic feelings by correct propaganda; tenth, reform of the army, police, and gendarmerie; and eleventh, reform of transport and communications.

The Tudeh (extreme left wing) and Iran party (moderate left wing) have united, according to the Tudeh newspaper "Rahbar".—Reuter.

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ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS



ILLEGAL JEWISH IMMIGRANTS to Palestine arriving in Haifa under guard by British sailors. The ship, which was carrying 400 of them, mostly from Greece, Yugoslavia and Poland, was detected near the coast of Palestine.

"Atom Test Is On," Says Admiral Blandy

ALL VESSELS CRUISE TO PRE-DETERMINED SPOTS

ON BOARD U. S. S. "APPALACHIAN", BIKINI, JULY 1, 3 A.M. (9-30 P.M. (I.S.T.) ON JUNE 30).

EVERYTHING is ready for the first peace-time atom bomb, which will be dropped five and a half hours from now on Bikini atoll in the Pacific. The last of the working personnel had left Bikini by midnight.

The evacuation of 40,000 men and about 150 ships has been going on since midday yesterday, when this ship, carrying correspondents, lifted her anchor and set out for a point about 20 miles south-west of the target area.

Following her, other ships of the atom fleet crept deliberately through the tropical haze of the lagoon on their way to their pre-determined spots on the immense chart of operation cross-roads.

After some anxious hours about weather prospects, Vice-Admiral Blandy, Commander-in-Chief of the fleet operation, announced today: "The test is on. The weather forecast had confirmed his earlier decision to go ahead."

"The prospects are of even better weather over Bikini than was expected," the Admiral said. Minute by minute he has been receiving weather reports, which will continue until the bomb-carrying plane leaves dreary sun-scorched Kwajalein Atoll, 200 miles away, shortly after dawn. At midnight, the delicate timing instruments aboard the 80 odd "guinea pig" ships left in the lagoon had started ticking.

This, with the grunts and cries of the animals aboard and the lapping of waves, is the only sound Bikini Atoll will hear until after 8-30 a.m. (local time) (3 a.m. I. S. T.) on Monday when "Dave's Dream" the Super-Porter which will drop the bomb—comes crashing over.

The next sound to shatter the Pacific peace will mark the supreme moment of the entire elaborate operation—the explosion of "Gilda"—as the atom bomb has been ironically named after the passionate heroine of a new Rita Hayworth film.

SIGNAL TO ENTER
When the blinding flash of the bomb has passed, 40,000 scientists, technicians and observers will remove their sight-protecting glasses and wait impatiently until radio-controlled gunboats sent into the atom area signal that it is safe to enter.

The human voices will return to Bikini Atoll—if there is any Bikini Atoll left—to discover what has been the fate of the target ships, the gaudily painted "bull's eye" ship NEWADA, old battleships, cruisers, destroyers, submarines and the rest. They will also see what has happened to the 200 pigs, 200 goats and 3,000 white rats, which, with the instruments tied round their necks, will be the only living things there when the bomb falls.

The unspectacular work behind the atom bomb test—the scientists' autopsy on assorted corpses of steel ships, tanks, goats, pigs and rats—is described by Vice-Admiral Blandy, officer in charge of operation cross-roads in the London Sunday Chronicle.

"As soon as possible after the test," he says, "the animals used will be examined in the light of what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki when bombs had weird effects on the blood corpuscles and bone marrow of the victims."

Vice-Admiral Blandy writes: "The carcasses of animals killed will be quick-frozen and shipped by air to laboratories for further study. This will aid our doctors in setting up methods for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of what the Japanese called atomic bomb disease."

"Ichthyologists from fish and wild life service will also be along to do similar research on marine life in the Bikini area after the bombing."

RADIO-ACTIVE EFFECT
"After the surviving drone planes are landed," adds Vice-Admiral Blandy, "we shall make an analysis of the radio-active rays they have absorbed. X-ray films and instruments, strategically located on target ships and in island towers and dugouts, will also tell us how much radio-activity was present and how long it lasted. Our scientists are particularly interested in any

(Continued on page 5).

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Elections To End This Month

SIR B. N. RAU AS ADVISER

NEW DELHI, June 30. The major parties having now accepted the recommendations contained in the statement of the Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy dated May 16, 1946, arrangements are being made in the provinces for holding elections to the Constituent Assembly, says a statement from the Viceroy's House.

It is hoped that these elections will be concluded by the end of July, and that the Constituent Assembly will be ready to meet at any time thereafter.

Subject to confirmation by the Constituent Assembly, His Excellency the Viceroy has appointed Sir B. N. Rau as constitutional adviser in charge of the work connected with the holding of the meetings of the Constituent Assembly. A small nucleus staff will be provided to assist him.

Sir B. N. Rau has suggested that he should not receive any remuneration while employed on this work.

Viceroy's correspondence with the President of the Muslim League and the Congress on Pages 8 and 9

and His Excellency has accepted the offer with appreciation.

Preliminary arrangements are also being made to insure that secretariat for the sections can be set up in a very short time, the statement adds.

Madras: The declaration in the nomination form for election to the Constituent Assembly issued by the Government of Madras is not in the latest revised form as issued in Bengal. Pointing this out in an interview, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari stated that, until the necessary correction is made, the filing of nominations should be postponed.—A.P.I.

FRONTIER REPRESENTATIVES
PESHAWAR: Since it has been decided that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan will represent the Frontier Province in the Constituent Assembly, the Congress Parliamentary Party will meet on July 18, when the party will transact other business.

The Muslim League Assembly Party will meet at Abbottabad on July 3.—A.P.I.

Ministers' Departure

KARACHI, June 30: Lord Pethick-Lawrence and Sir Stafford Cripps, members of the Cabinet Mission to India, and party left for the United Kingdom at 6-30 a.m. today by a B.O.A.C. special flying boat.—A.P.I. (Earlier Report on Page 6)

Head of Italian State

ROME, June 30: Signor Enrico de Nicola has officially accepted the Presidency of the new Italian republic. He was elected President yesterday by the Italian Constituent Assembly, receiving 396 of the 466 votes cast.

Former Speaker of the Italian Parliament, Signor de Nicola who is 69 years old, is probably the most celebrated consulting lawyer in Italy. He is regarded as a man who has refused more high offices, including the premiership, than any other Italian. As a southerner his influence will be most valuable in rallying to the new republic the predominantly monarchist south.—Reuter.

Arrests In Spain

MADRID, June 30: Thirty-nine persons have been arrested in Vitoria, Northern Spain, according to a report reaching here from San Sebastian. The report said that the arrest followed active Basque nationalist propaganda when foreign delegates passed through on their way to a congress in Salamanca of Pax Romana international Roman Catholic students' organisations.—Reuter.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MR. GANDHI

Special Train Runs Into Boulders

ACCIDENT ON WAY TO POONA

Police Inquiry In Progress

From Our Staff Correspondent POONA, June 30.

Mr. Gandhi had a narrow escape when the special train carrying him from New Delhi to Poona ran into boulders near Neral, 49 miles from Bombay, early today.

The driver pulled the train to a halt. Those in the train received a severe jolt and Mr. Gandhi, who was fast asleep, woke up. None was hurt. The cow-catcher of the engine threw the boulders on the track. The impact with the boulders, however, caused a big dent in the cow-catcher. The train was delayed for a few hours and the engine was re-started only after it had been thoroughly examined. Consequently, Mr. Gandhi arrived in Poona at 9 a.m. more than six hours behind time.

Many Congressmen, including the Home Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, waited anxiously from the early hours of the morning at Poona railway station for Mr. Gandhi's overdue train. On alighting Mr. Gandhi personally thanked the driver and the guard of the train for averting a tragedy.

POLICE THEORY

Police investigations are in progress. It is believed that the boulders had been placed by a gang of train looters who have been active for some time. The possibility of the stones having fallen on the track by accident is ruled out altogether. For one thing the track where the accident occurred is on flat ground miles away from the ghat tunnels.

It is presumed that the gang may have wanted to stop a goods train that was due to arrive about the same time. This train was scheduled to run immediately after Mr. Gandhi's special train. But the special started an hour and a half late from Dadar and the goods train was released earlier and crossed Neral station without interruption.

Only four nights ago this gang stopped a goods train not far from Neral and broke open about a dozen wagons and looted valuable property. The gang used to stop trains by tampering with the signal.

If the mischief was done by the gang, it is asked, why then was the train not attacked? For this reason this theory does not find much favour in higher quarters, and it is thought that some other unknown persons may have been responsible.

MR. GANDHI ON HIS ESCAPE

Speaking to the prayer gathering this evening Mr. Gandhi said it was through the grace of God that he was with them today. An accident had occurred in the middle of the night, while he was fast asleep. Some persons had placed boulders on the track between Karjat and Neral and, but for the presence of mind of the engine-driver, the train would have derailed. "He had done no harm to anyone. Why anyone should attempt to kill him he did not know. But there it was. It was the seventh time that he had had a narrow escape. Perhaps he was meant to live to 125 years in order to serve them."

Mr. Gandhi was in Bombay for nearly 30 minutes on Sunday morning. The special train in which he was travelling from Delhi to Fanchauli drew up at the yard of the B. & C. I. Railway at Dadar, where the three bogies were diverted to the G. I. P. Railway line for an electric engine to pull them to Poona. The train which was to have arrived in Bombay before midnight was late as some delay was caused owing to three buffaloes being knocked down between Bhaynagar and Virar.

RETRESHMENT EN ROUTE!