

**Two Sober Reports**  
**The Situation In Asia**

By JOSEPH ALSOP  
 By MARQUIS CHILDS  
**WASHINGTON**  
 THE truce in Korea has a social and reasonable move, given one basic condition. Once the shooting was stopped, American policy and strategy would be based on a vigorous and aggressive effort to win the adherence of Asian peoples to Asian government imperialism. Speaking very mildly, the traveler abroad finds mighty little evidence for this hopeful view. That we have recaptured the initiative in the world struggle against Communist imperialism, speaking very mildly, the traveler abroad finds mighty little evidence for this hopeful view. That we have recaptured the initiative in Asia, where this reporter has just made a journey of nearly four months, all the signs suggest the exact contrary. And this is vitally important since the Korean obvious current strategy is to talk sweet in the West, while continuing to press the attack on the free world's vulnerable flank in the Far East.



**Much Talk About Talks**  
**Big 4 Going Nowhere Fast**

By JAMES MARLOW  
**WASHINGTON**  
 THE THREE ALLIES—United States, Britain, France—have exchanged notes with Russia since last summer, trying to set up a meeting of their foreign ministers. Agreement at last. They'd meet in Berlin, Jan. 25. But when in Berlin? East Berlin, controlled by Russia? Or in West Berlin, controlled by the Western Allies? Representatives of the four powers in Berlin met to settle the details. All this week they talked. The Russians held out for half the talks to be in East Berlin. This country wanted more than half in West Berlin. Last night the four representatives gave up, dumped their disagreement back in the laps of higher officials. But even if the preliminaries are settled, the United States and Russia are in complete disagreement on their major European program: Germany. The United States wants East and West Germany united, no doubt in the belief that the East Germans, after eight years under the Russians, would rejoice in lining up with the West Germans as United States allies. What would this mean to the United States' Secretary of State Dulles made clear in a speech Monday night: what hopes this country has for Germany. He outlined America's new military strategy, based on West European defense against Russian attack, backed up by this country's potential for "massive" retaliation. He said Europe cannot be defended unless Germany is allowed to rearm. He said it can't do so under the present armistice agreement, although it could join a united European army if France agreed to go along. But the last thing Russia wants is a rearmament Germany. It spent the past year, by many devices, trying to avoid just that. Dulles said he would settle with the Russians at Berlin for a disarmed Germany. And Russia could hardly tell him. President Eisenhower and Russia's Premier Malenkov made speeches during 1953 on relations between the two countries. In December Eisenhower suggested, "They sit down and talk about pooling some of their atomic materials for peace. If that succeeds, he indicated, maybe they could go on to talk about getting rid of the atom bomb." Dulles responded with the complaint that banning the bomb should come first, and reserved the right to talk about that if the deal was struck. He said to discuss peaceful use of the atom. This week Dulles and the Russians and their boys Saturday night against Wake Forest. The Demon Deacons were out to Carolina alive. Even without Henric, they still have great potential than the Chapel Hill combat. Likens was hurt and had to retire, later faded out. Lifson was hurt, Vayda was hurt and because of injuries and first line players fouling out, Wake Forest was able to whittle away a 10 point lead. But if McGuire and Freeman have done nothing else, they have kindled the fires of desire in their boys and they are learning that games are won and lost on the court. —J. R. BOWMAN

**Off To An Early Start**

THE Charlotte and Mecklenburg County planning boards took a wise step when they decided to start work now on legislation for the 1955 General Assembly to provide a zoning regulation for the swiftly-growing suburban areas around the fringe of the city. Without regulation, the many thousands of Mecklenburgers who have built homes outside the city limits will have no permanent protection against encroachment by commerce and industry. Without regulation, it will be impossible to plan in advance, public services and facilities for future industrial areas. And without regulation, many problems that could have been avoided will be inherited by the city government in future expansions of the town limits. An effort was made in the 1953 General Assembly to pass a perimeter zoning bill for Mecklenburg County, but it was blocked by Sen. Fred H. McIntyre,

and it also drew the opposition of Rep. Arthur Goodman. Faced with this opposition, Reps. O'Herron, Hicks and Gillette, who favored the legislation, decided to introduce the bill in the House. Now the two planning boards have invited George Franklin of the N. C. League of Municipalities and Albert Coates and Phillip Greene of the Institute of Government to meet with the board on Jan. 26 for the purpose of preparing a bill that will fit the needs of the metropolitan community. If such a measure can be drawn up at this time, there will be an opportunity for voters to study it and voice their opinions to candidates for the legislature in the spring primary. We are confident that the residents of the fringe area, who remained quiet during the 1953 impasse, will insist that some bill be passed in 1955 that will protect their investment in homes.

**Liquor Sells, Whatever The Tax**

THESE are trying times for the smoking and drinking industry. The tobacco men, for several weeks now, have been busy saying it isn't necessarily so that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer. The soft drink people have a full page ad, in the current *Enquirer & Publisher*, which says there isn't any relation at all between incidence of tooth decay and consumption of soft drinks. And the manufacturers of not-so-soft drinks are about ready to turn in their "Like-ike" buttons, now that the President has declared that the federal excise tax on liquor should continue at a rate of \$10.50 per gallon. A vice president of Licenses, Beverage Industries Inc., hardly concealing his dismay at the President's action, declared last week that extension of the present rate would be an unfair burden on 65 million consumers, that the tax has created "the greatest criminal problem in America today" (moonshining). Because the tax is so high, he says, there is a large loss in public revenue. People shun high-priced legal whiskey and buy illegal hooch instead. To keep the record straight, and correct a popular misconception, it should

be noted that the 1951 increase in liquor tax did not unduly discourage liquor purchasers. Liquor sales in 1952 were less than those in 1951, but economists seem to agree now that 1951's large volume of sales was due to "scare buying" brought on by the Korean War. And, according to *Business Week*, it looks as though total liquor sales of all types in 1953 will run from seven to nine per cent over 1952 sales, that whiskey will be up 12 or 13 per cent. As any revenue can tell you, it is impossible to estimate accurately how the tax increase affected moonshine sales. Carl Goersch of the *State* magazine, by a series of interesting calculations and deductions, once figured out that moonshining was right up close to furniture and tobacco as one of North Carolina's major industries. Whatever the merits of the industry's complaint, it now appears there will be no reduction this year in the tax on legal whiskey. We still think it is disproportionately high, and that it encourages the illegal manufacture and sale of moonshine. But when the statistics can't prove it, there is no point in arguing the question.

**On The World Scene, A Paradox**

IT WAS grimly paradoxical that, on the same day that President Eisenhower sent Congress his message about the huge glut of surplus commodities, the Population Reference Bureau made public its latest report warning that the fast growth of the world's population threatens to outstrip food production. This is not the first time that such a warning has been made, nor will it be the last. Back in 1793, Robert Malthus published his first edition of his famed *Essay on Population* which argued that population, when unchecked, increases by geometrical proportion (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.), whereas means of subsistence increase in an arithmetical ratio (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.). Were it not for wars, famine and disease, Malthus argued, the world's population would long ago have exceeded its food supply. In a later edition, he dropped the emphasis on the geometrical mathematics of the proposition, and stressed the need for "moral restraint" in curbing the increase of population. Though it would seem that Malthus' theory has been largely borne out in certain sections of the Far East, produc-

tion of means of subsistence in the world as a whole has fortunately kept pace with the population growth. A new factor has been introduced by the rapid spread of modern medical, health and sanitation techniques and means to aid undeveloped areas of the globe, says the bureau. "If death rates are controlled and fertility continues at the present level, there will be only 30 years or less for world population to double," the bureau estimated. And even at today's level, it says, more than half of the estimated 2,495,000,000 people on the globe are underfed, underclothed and inadequately housed. In his message to Congress, President Eisenhower stressed the importance of finding new markets abroad for America's farm overproduction. "That would help U. S. farmers—and U. S. taxpayers. But there is a bigger job to be done on the world scene before the paradox of plenty in the midst of famine is resolved, and an adequate food supply assured for all the humans on the globe.

**Equipping Boys For Citizenship**

THE statistical evidence of YMCA accomplishment in our community is impressive and those who are at the helm in Y leadership are to be congratulated on having one of the most active associations in the South. But the real foundation of this great service agency is in its concept of well-rounded manhood. Its program takes the best of the ancient Spartan emphasis on the body. It inculcates the physical virtues of endurance, hardihood, and fortitude. Likewise, the Y program makes the concept of ancient Greece with its emphasis upon seeing life lived and see-

ing it whole. Finally, its moral emphasis is Christian, laying upon its youthful members the challenge of idealism and spiritual development and the chance to respond to the best impulses of man. Through the years this program has trained boys in generosity of spirit, sportsmanship, and manliness in an atmosphere where they can meet their peers competitively. Truly Charlotte can be grateful for the effective work of trained leaders in the business of helping equip boys for the demands of responsible citizenship.

**Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round**

**WASHINGTON**  
 MOTHER NATURE has had a lot to do with knocking congressional heads together regarding the biggest farm battle between the East and West—cotton quotas. Last summer, California and the completely cotton areas of Arizona and New Mexico were at loggerheads with old planters in the states of Mississippi, Georgia, and the Southeast. The latter were to have their cotton acreage cut 25 per cent, while the Far West was in for a 52 per cent cotton reduction. This meant a loss of 160 million dollars to the great Central Valley of California, an almost sure to bring economic setbacks. For the West started to become a really big cotton-producing area only recently, and the cotton-acreage quotas are based on the years 1949 and 1952. This is the first time that the cotton states get the preference. Last summer, senators tried to work out a compromise adjustment of these quotas without success. Congress adjourned. Still no agreement. But with the opening of Congress last week, revised cotton quotas were the No. 1 item of discussion, and there's now a good prospect of agreement. Reason: The planting season starts in a few weeks, and even fixed soon, farmers can't curtail. Nature won't wait. Note—The new cotton bill will increase quotas about three million acres in the No. 1 item of politics and nothing else. The increase will ease the political situation all right, especially in Connecticut. The Westland farmers are raging mad. But with a cropover of 5,064,000 bales in 1953, and an additional 2,714,000 bales of the 1953 crop probably unmarketed, this increase may cause trouble later. Experts believe we will have cotton running out of our ears at the end of 1954.

**Politics Aggravates Cotton Problem**

British Comet  
 A significant, sometimes acrid argument has been taking place between the British and U. S. aeronautics authorities over British Comet jet airliners, which unfortunately now seems settled by the recent crash near Italy. Civil Aeronautics Administration Fred Lee had consistently refused to certify the Comet, which caused a storm of resentment in England. Pan American Airways has purchased three Comets from The Havilland for future delivery, but Lee had taken the position that the Comet had not proved itself sufficiently for American certification. Specifically, he had doubts about the ship's tendency to stall at low speeds and instability in the air. Two of the subsequent seven crashes, at Karachi and Rome, have resulted from stalling following this week's crash, the British grounded all Comets. So, despite questions in the House of Commons, it looks as if Fred Lee had been right. "I guess we didn't vote for a change after all." It's no secret that McCarty was once a flaming New Dealer and bitterly anti-Herbert Hoover. When McCarty went to work for a Republican lawyer in Wisconsin, the Wausau County Post commented on Feb. 12, 1931, "McCarty's political views are a couple of copies of the New Masses, a recent edition of the Daily Worker, and a vest pocket sized book titled 'The Communist Party in Wisconsin.' This was a joking reference to the fact that McCarty was a left-winger and his new Republican boss might not know about it."

**From The Christian Science Monitor**

**COLE SLAW WAR**

SOVIET RUSSIA, we are told, is producing two-headed cabbages. A fitting accomplishment for a regime that sometimes accused of being two-faced. Among all the inventive triumphs of the Soviet Union—including radar, but-terflies, the juke box, the A-bomb, seedless grapefruit, democracy, HAMLET, and the wheel—this double-headed in the field of greens may seem small potatoes. But it raises questions. If a cauliflower is, as Mark Twain said, a cabbage with a college education, what are we to make of a system that produces cabbage heads with a split personality? Or what, indeed, if a system that puts such iron empha-

sis on having a single head of state but encourages this strange bifurcation in the lower forms of vegetable life? At any rate, here's cole slaw for the col' war and a new leaf from an old friend. We wish the Russians joy of the cabbage. Red cabbage, of course.

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