

The Plot Thickens Dutch Bare Indonesian Murder Plan

By Reiman Morin

THE plot thickens in Indonesia. Certain facts are coming to light now, and allegations have been made, which, if proved, may be a totally different complexion on the Dutch "police action" than now obtain.

For the first time, so far as I know, public reference was made yesterday to an alleged Indonesian plan for "large scale military operations" against the Dutch, to begin in January. The statement was made by J. H. Van Noyen, the young and brilliant Dutch representative to the United Nations.

Actually, according to diplomatic sources in Washington, the existence of this plan has been known for nearly three months. A large file of papers, documents, instructions and army orders, purporting to set forth the details of the plan, are in the hands of the Dutch. They are written in Malay, and photographed, and their authenticity, therefore, has not yet been proved.

HOWEVER, they presumably blue-printed a program of sabotage, infiltration of Dutch territory on Java, and assassination of some officials of the other Indonesian governments.

The actual divisions assigned to carry out the program were named, according to this information. It has been stated that 15,000 Republican troops had already crossed into Dutch territory before the "police action" started.

A reasonable Dutch authority also has said that no fewer than 300 Indonesians, serving in the administrations of the other Indonesian states, were assassinated by the Republic since last August. Why has this information, if it is authentic, been brought to light only at this date? No answer on that.

Was it made available to the Committee of Good Offices? My informant says it was.

IFAS initiated the details of the alleged plot, what was then done? And why has the committee now accused The Netherlands of having violated the treaty? It comes down to a question of fact, which would seem to be easy to determine.

Presumably, the Dutch are prepared to prove with these documents that the plot did exist, and that, in fact, it had already been set in motion. They would be on thin ice if the statement were not subject to proof.

And here is another queer fact which seems to puzzle even those authorities who know Java and the Indonesians: The president and prime minister of the Republic, Hatta and Soekarno, and the commander-in-chief of the Republican army were captured in the capital, Jakarta, when Dutch troops entered it.

Did they make no effort to escape? During the Japanese occupation, Dutch officers and small bodies of guerrillas disappeared into the mountains and were able to continue operations for years. The terrain, as in any mountainous area, is ideal for "going underground."

Something like 15 hours elapsed between the start of the Dutch "police action" and the capture of the capital. Yet, the troops found these three men there when they came into it.

The theory has been expressed that Hatta and Soekarno wanted to be captured.

If the leaders of the Republican army have become, in fact, military dictators, such a theory might have some foundation. Perhaps they took this means of "escaping" from their own army commanders. The Dutch have long contended that the Republican army was in control of the government, and that the Indonesian officers were manipulating the ostensible heads.

And finally, there is yet to be disclosed the operations of the Indonesian Communist Party. What is their role in these mysteries? As I say, the plot thickens.

Headline Hopping

PTC Rings Out the Old, Rings Up the New Fares

By Ollie Crawford

FARE increase is asked by PTC under clause in its franchise. PTC directors refer to this as the Santa Clause.

The New Year's slogan is: Ring out the old; Ring up the new.

All PTC wants for Christmas is your two back teeth. It's the season of Jolly St. Nick, so they take another nick out of your bankroll. We hang up our socks for Christmas and what does PTC give us? A sock! This comes under the heading of double-crossing Kris.

When PTC puts something away for a rainy day, they use Johnstown as a model.

Delaware River line riders call it the biggest bridge hold-up since Horatio. The bridge fare now is either 14 1/8, 14 1/4, 13 1/2 or 16 cents. Commuters over there are calling the traction company the fraction company. Their advice is: If it hits 16 1/2, sell! They'd gladly swap higher mathematics for a lower fare.

If a man with long white hair shows up in the cashier's booth, it's Einstein.

PTC has a strong case. The transit company complains that rising costs are taking it for a ride. Steel rails are now higher than the wheels. Trolley wire is up 80 percent and that's a lot of overhead. "When lies are up 100 percent," asks PTC President Ebert, "how can you win?"

The company says its workers are ready to ask for a wage increase, so it's striking while the iron is hot. It's a sort of cost-of-giving increase.

Mayor Samuel warns that the city will fight. This time the resistance movement will be on the opposite side from the underground.

Washington Background Ah, Sweet Socialism--- Free Wigs to Bald Britons

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

ATTORNEY GENERAL TOM C. CLARK had to take time off from the important tidesland suit the Justice Department filed the other before the Supreme Court against Louisiana and Texas, to talk before the sound cameras.

Clark, a Texan himself, who risked considerable unpopularity in his own State by filing the tidesland suit, will be heard by millions of people when a new film, entitled "Illegal Entry," is released.

The film deals with the dangers of violation of the immigration law. Clark has done the introduction and part of the commentary.

Britain's Labor Party could be facetiously called the "Wig Party."

Britain's bald will get wigs—gratis—through the Labor Government's National Health Service.

The Ministry of Health will supply Britain's 75,000 hairless taxpayers with wigs—with "no frills or fancy bits." Each wig costs \$40 and it is estimated that the annual cost for this service under socialized medicine will be \$3,000,000 a year.

Washington, already knee-deep in arguments over the question how extensive President Truman's inaugural parade should be, has a new controversy on its hands.

Commissioner John Russell Young suggested that the District's fleet should depict the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

The disenfranchised residents, who pay taxes but do not vote, are demanding a seat with a suffrage motif.

Later reports show that Young is losing the battle and the suffrage conference will have it way.

Annuitants for Congress will become available on Jan. 3. Almost one-fourth of the members of the current Congress, 18 Senators and 113 Representatives, will be off the rolls when the 81st Congress convenes on Jan. 3, but the unsuccessful campaigns will be cushioned by retirement benefits.

The Reorganization Act of 1946 provided a retirement system. For example, a member of the House or Senate with six years of service will receive \$1875 in the form of an annuity.

One with 30 years' service gets a maximum of \$9375.

Popcorn is again on the upgrade as a popular circus, beach and movie-munching confection.

The Agriculture Department reports that 12 States have produced 300,000,000 pounds of the stuff this year, as against only 122,000,000 pounds in 1947.

Estimated production this year is the second highest on record and compares with the record crop of over 428 million pounds produced in 1945. During ration days popcorn became a popular food.

The United States has sold the famed sailing bark Schlager to the Brazilian government. The ship, one of the finest built for Hitler's navy, was destined for schooling sailors.

Its trim 1775 tons took part in the abortive German efforts to cripple the Allied fleets. The Schlager was awarded to the United States as part of the spoils of war. It was sold to Brazil because our Navy no longer gives naval training in tall-rigged sailing vessels.

—Edited by John C. O'Brien.

The Labor Front Only 1 in 25 Labor Pacts Runs Into Renewal Trouble

By Victor Riesel

YOU can't cover the simmering hysteria on this best through the years without developing a nose for trouble. For trouble makes the news.

The excitement lies in the sudden surge of picket lines against plant gates; the brazen insults; the sweeping charges of unheard-of villainies; the booing and fat rights at conventions; the many verities by some giants for labor empires, political power and prestige.

BUT this is the season which mellow. This is the season when you stop, look and realize that the working people and their leaders and their employers do live pretty well together on this front.

I took the trouble to learn how many labor contracts there are and discovered over 100,000 labor and management pacts under which some 12,000,000 people work peacefully, never hit the picket lines and trust their employers.

Of these 100,000 labor contracts, just under 4000 ran into trouble last year. The other 96,000 are settled without any work stoppages or name calling on either side.

THOSE abroad who poke fun at our kind of "capitalist democracy" should note that this peaceful settlement of 24 out of every 25 contracts up for renegotiation in the past two years is a record no other nation can match. There are industries which haven't had strikes for periods running from 13 to 50 years.

For the most part there isn't much vindictiveness, even when the tug of war comes. The war has started, as at Ford's. Even while it was being assailed by the auto union, which has begun its usual, skillful softening-up process in preparation for an early summer wage drive, the Ford Co., for example, handed its employees two extra paid holidays on the eve of Christmas and New Year's.

THAT'S reasonable, too, on the labor side. Let me tell you about what the powerful 600,000-member machinists union did this week. The outfit, with the largest number of members in the aircraft industry, told its followers through their union newspaper that "we don't want to forget the more than 10,000 employers who are doing business under a Machinists Union contract."

"Despite our arguments at the bargaining table and our differences over National and State legislation," the union message said, "there is an important area of agreement on basic issues on which businessmen and free trade unions are in agreement."

FOR example, the right to own his own business is of primary importance to every businessman. He calls it the "free enterprise system." As members of a free trade union, we also are opposed to government ownership of business. We want to have a say in our wage rates and working conditions through collective bargaining. That's why we joined a union. We know that when government takes over any business, free collective bargaining goes out the window.

"Next to his right to own his own business, an employer is most interested in turning a profit. In the long run every business must operate at a profit or close its doors, just as any craftsman must earn enough to support his family or go to the poor house."

WE MAY disagree sometimes on what constitutes a fair and healthy profit, the union noted, "but we know that in the last analysis the security of our jobs depends upon the prosperity of the company we work for. As Americans we are all in the same boat together. Either we both prosper or we both suffer."

On behalf of more than 651,000 members of the International Assn. of Machinists we wish our employers a happy and prosperous New Year.

Maybe we're too mellow, but the machinists sound to us like the brightest unionists we've run into. If the Voice of America wants some good radio script for a Christmas message to the world its script writers needn't look any further.

These viewpoints often contradict one another. They have no connection with the editorial policy of this newspaper and sometimes, in fact, may represent exactly an opposite opinion. The opinions and views expressed belong solely to the writers.

Sylvia F. Porter Socialistic Cure-Alls Stir Doubt

WHAT bothers me is not the idea of economic planning; to me, that's only common sense. It's "Who's going to do the planning?" And will the economic planning be by me or will it be for me?

What keeps me from being a disciple of Norman Thomas is not fear of Socialism or any other ism; to me, labels hold no terrors. It's "What basis have I for believing Socialism in practice, as opposed to Socialism in theory, will cure the ills of the American system?"

"And is it not more possible that out of Socialism's economic monopolies will grow the evils of foreign totalitarianism?"

NORMAN THOMAS, six times Socialist candidate for President of our country, was the target of a "Meet the Press" show on NBC television the other evening. I was one of the four reporters interviewing him—which is the reason the above questions again have nagged themselves to the top of my mind.

For since childhood, I have studied Socialist doctrine (in case any one cares, I've devoted a bit of time to Communism, Fascism and, oh yes, capitalism, too.)

AND with millions of others of my generation, I have watched many of the planks of the Socialist Party become part of the Democratic and Republican platform; many of their original proposals become law under President Roosevelt; many lands around the world embrace the system and try to mold it to their own needs and wants.

Thus, I have no distaste for Thomas' "ism" as such; I've certainly no antagonism toward economic planning. But with all respect and affection for Thomas, he has not yet given me satisfactory answers to those questions.

And until Socialism does, I'll keep fumbling and struggling along, trying to refine whatever system we have instead of trying to replace it with something else of uncertain virtue.

THOMAS says: "The planning that is absolutely necessary in our day and generation for the very life of mankind logically requires social ownership of what is like to call the commanding heights of our economic order, i.e., natural resources, the system of money, banking and credit, and the great monopolistic and semi-monopolistic corporations in which ownership has lost its functional usefulness of management. The managers should work for us and not for the profits of absentee owners."

THAT'S a mighty commanding as well as a mighty tongue-twisting paragraph. And I'll right along with Thomas' condemnation of monopolistic corporations; I'll go right along with his demand that managers should work for us and not for the profits of absentee owners.

BUT to date, none has shown me how to avoid substituting the evils of state monopoly in our country for private corporation monopoly. On the contrary, what I've seen here and abroad makes me feel that monopoly by any means is the least of our evils.

To date, no one has demonstrated to me how we get managers to work for us willingly. And if they won't work willingly and we force them, it seems to me we're fiddling with the edges of dictatorship.

THOMAS says: "Under proper controls, this system would be more, not less, democratic than the present confusion. . . . Those who felt that 'Oklahoma' wouldn't last were vindicated. It closed after a five-year run. . . . On his second look at 'Light Up the Sky,' Billy Rose decided that Moss Hart had insulted him, the slowest second-look in the history of the 'slow burn' in the movies, died. . . . Maurice Chevalier returned to Broadway and proved that he had lost none of his charm or talent. . . . Wendy Hiller, Jessica Tandy, Joyce Redman, Peggy Ashcroft, and Patricia Collings showed

ing so that a quarrel might endanger the Western Alliance. That is stupidity. Only an ideological drying-up can endanger the Western Alliance. What the Western Alliance must fear most is a loss of function. As a protective association for worried imperialists it has no future. As an organization which can flame into quarrel over the rights of man it has all mankind for its potential friends. Let the healing quarrel begin. The world and the century wait.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

By Jimmy Hall

EGGHEAD IS STRICTLY ALL WHEEL WHEN HE DRIVES—LISTEN—

YOU HEARD ME! SHUT UP! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DRIVE AND TALK AT THE SAME TIME?

BUT GET HIM WHEN HE'S ON A BUS—

HOW MANY SPEEDS GOT ON THIS HEAP? GET ANY WOODEN NICKELS? WHAT? WHO?

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT TO PHIL TO THE 5TH AVE., NEW YORK.

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