Livest In The Newspaper Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★★ Final

Largest Afternoon Newspaper in The Carolinas

ESTABLISHED DEC. 8, 1888 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1949 | 30 Pages—Price Five Cents

Czechs Reported Holding 60 As Spies For U. S.

PEACE ENVOYS NAMED AS PEIPING FALLS

High Army Men Said Prisoners

Mystery Gunfire Heard In Prague

By A. I. GOLDBERG

PRAGUE—(AP) — Czechoslovak security police were reported today to be holding 60 persons at Bratislava on charges of spying for American intelligence services in Austria.

This was one of the largest hauls in a series of mass arrests made recently throughout Czechoslovakia.

Thus far the official statement promised last Monday on the arrest of Gen. Josef Kuttlwasar and a number of other Army officers and civilians has not been issued. That group was picked up early in January on charges of plotting to overthrow Czechoslovakia's Communist Govergment.

Kuttlwassr was one of the leaders of the Prague uprising in 1945 that finally drove the Germans out. He is in Pankrac prison, and it is known that his lawyer saw him there four days ago.

OFFICIALS SILENT

Officials maintained silence "for security reasons" on the identity of the eight or nine generals who were reported to have been arrested with Kuttlwassr, or in a separate roundup.

The Ministry of Information said it was unable to either confirm or deny the reports. It added that it hoped to issue a statement next week.

Without the promised official statement, the rumors about the number and identity of the arrested officers and civilians grew. They were fed by the mystery of the midnight shots—a dozen at least—which two weeks ago woke up diplomats in the fashionable Dejvice section of Prague.

A Czechoslovak army major blamed for revealing the plot was said to be living in the same area. He was rumored to have been in on the plot and then to have tipped the hands of the plotters. Today it was whispered about that the major had been assassinated by others in the plot who still are free.

Czechoslovak newspapers and radio stations made no mention of the matter.

Persons who have seen the yard at the Pankrac prison have reported that at least 16 generals and 300 officers were noted in the circle limping during the daily walking exercise period. Those reports could not be confirmed.

Charges against the persons held in Bratislava were the first in weeks to allege that contacts had been made with American circles.

A Czechoslovak press bureau account said a Slovak political refugee named Josef Vlcan organized the spy network from Austria and passed secret information to the Americans.

Dozens of microfilms, directives of a foreign information central bureau, a radio transmitter and secret reports were found, it was declared. Most of those under arrest had been tried for anti-state activities in 1946 and later released, the press bureau said.

2 Vanderbilt Students Killed In Auto Crash

COLUMBIA, Tenn. —(AP)— Two Vanderbilt University students were killed in an automobile accident today. Three others were hurt seriously.

State Highway Patrolman J. M. Rainey listed the dead as George Fiske, 18, of St. Louis, Mo., and Ray Avalon Anderson, 21, of Sycamore Landing, Tenn.

The patrolman said the accident occurred on a rain-slick highway three miles south of Spring Hill, Tenn. He said an automobile crashed into the rear of a truck.

U. S. Ships In Sicily

ROME —(AP)— The arrival of two aircraft carriers and 26 other units of the U. S. Mediterranean Fleet was announced today in dispatches from Augusta, Sicilian port. Vice-Admiral Forrest Sherman was aboard his flagship, the cruiser Albany. The carriers Philippine Sea and Midway, 16 destroyers, one submarine and smaller warships made up the fleet.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with occasional light rain tonight and tomorrow.

Temperature at 2 P. M. 50
High and low last 24 hours 50-24
Sunset today 5:41
Sunrise tomorrow 7:28

More Weather Data on page 7-A

ACHESON TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Dean Acheson (left) is sworn in as Secretary of State by Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson in President Truman's White House office. The President (center) witnesses the ceremony from his desk. Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughn, Presidential military aide, is in the background. (AP Wirephoto.)

Rebuilding Of GOP May Be Proposed

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A plan to rebuild the Republican Party from the grass roots up, through state and regional conferences, may be proposed to the GOP National Committee at Omaha, Neb., next week.

Senator Brewster of Maine told a reporter the idea of sectional meetings has been discussed by the Senate Republican Policy Committee.

The Senate group yesterday demanded that the National Committee consult with the lawmakers before calling any national policy-drafting conference such as suggested by GOP Chairman Hugh D. Scott Jr.

It instructed Brewster and Senators Capehart of Indiana, Wherry of Nebraska and Butler of Nebraska to urge the party group to name a committee at its Omaha meeting to study the national conference plan, but to delay any actual call until later.

"There seems to be quite a bit of sentiment for starting the work of rebuilding the party on a state level, followed by regional conferences," Brewster said.

He added that he will broach this idea at Omaha next Wednesday or Thursday.

The Maine Senator may be named next week as campaign chairman for Republican Senators up for election in 1950. He would divide responsibilities with former Senator John Townsend of Delaware, who has served as chairman of the campaign committee for several years.

Brewster said he hopes Republicans in Congress will be fully represented if any national conference is called to draft a policy statement for the 1950 campaign.

Senator Tobey of New Hampshire, who doesn't always see eye to eye with his GOP colleagues on matters of policy, told a reporter he thinks it would be a good thing for the party to have a national conference.

"It's about time the Republican Party faces the facts of life," he declared. "We can't go on yelling 'Socialism' at every proposal that is made for social welfare legislation.

"The people who have been benefitted by Government aren't ever going to vote again for a party they think might slam the door on such benefits. We've got to develop a heart as well as a head."

Tobey said he thinks the national committee ought to be rebuilt on a state level.

"I don't know how you are going to get the dry rot out of the committee unless you awaken the people in the states to name committee members with forward-looking views," he said.

'Harry' Lays An Egg

MAIDSTONE, England — (AP) — For 20 years a parrot named Harry enlivened the doings at the Bull Inn pub (tap room), squawking at all customers.

Yesterday — For the first time —Harry laid an egg.

Today the management announced that henceforth Harry will be known as Harriet.

Drove With Body In Car

Youth Freed In Girl's Death

WEST BRANCH, Mich. —(AP)— Arthur Thayer, 22, who was arrested yesterday while driving on a country road with the asphyxiated body of his teen-aged girl friend in his car beside him, was released today by Michigan State Police.

Thayer told State Police Sgt. Lynn Smith he found the girl dead when he awoke after falling asleep in the car.

Sgt. Smith said the youth told him he had gone for a drive with the girl, 14-year-old Peggy Rose Ella Barber, Thursday night, suddenly became nauseated and stopped the car, falling asleep from weakness.

"When I woke up it was daylight and I couldn't rouse Peggy," Sgt. Smith said Thayer reconstructed.

Dr. W. G. Gamble Jr., of Bay City, Mich. who performed an autopsy last night, said the girl's death was caused by asphyxiation.

Thayer, who had been held all night without charge, was released this morning.

State Police, who had received a tip from a gasoline station attendant, stopped the youth yesterday as he drove along a road, bewildered, with the girl's body beside him.

Ex-Army Prisoners Testify

Cruelty Laid To U. S. Officers

FORT MEADE, Md. —(AP)— Former inmates of the Wurzburg, Germany, disciplinary camp have told a general court martial here that they were neglected and cruelly treated by American Army officers.

The inmates testified yesterday at the court martial of Capt. Joel G. Holmes Jr. of Philadelphia, one-time medical officer at Wurzburg. He is the first of four officers being tried on neglect of duty charges. The other three were his superiors when the alleged mistreatment occurred in January, 1947.

Pvt. Charles Suggs testified from his wheelchair that both of his feet had to be amputated after he was released from solitary confinement where he was not allowed to wear shoes or socks.

Suggs, who is being taught to walk with artificial feet at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, said he was "placed in solitary because of missing a formation."

The Negro private said his feet were so swollen from exposure that when he was released from his unheated cell he had to slit his shoes with a razor to get them on. He was not examined by a doctor until two days later, he related, and then was flown back to the United States where his feet were amputated.

Another witness, former Pvt. Charles E. Collins of Tampa, Fla., testified that he was not allowed to wash for the 12 days he was in solitary confinement. He said the men were constantly pleading for blankets to keep from freezing and that many of the cells had broken windows.

A former Wurzburg guard, Charles D. Conley of Arkansas, reported that he frequently saw lice in the buckets which prisoners in solitary were required to use as latrines.

The men were allowed to go to the regular latrine in the same building when their buckets were full but they had to march to it naked, Conley told the court of eight officers.

Awaiting trial after Capt. Holmes are Col. Harold McClure of San Antonio, Tex., the commanding officer at Wurzburg; Lt. Col. George E. Pinard of Wessington Springs, S. D., prison officer, and Capt. Samuel H. Wolford, Clear Spring, Md., stockade officer.

Palestine Peace Talks Deadlocked

Negotiators Again Meet With Bunche

By L. S. CHAKALES

RHODES—(AP) — Egyptian and Israeli armistice negotiators conferred again today with acting Palestine Mediator Ralph J. Bunche in talks which may spell success or failure for the peace talks.

Authoritative sources said the Jews are insisting on holding the main road network and most of the Negev desert of southern Palestine. They also demanded Beersheba, Arab town allotted to the Arabs under partition, it was said.

The armistice talks became deadlocked over boundaries of the Negev—scene of recent Jewish victories over the Egyptians. Bunche met the two delegations until 2:30 A. M. and then called them into another meeting before noon. No conclusions were announced.

Bunche's action indicated a decisive break in the conference may be expected soon.

Bunche indicated to newsmen that both sides, who have been in almost continual conference the past two days, had about run out of arguments and that some final decision either of agreement or complete breakup of the talks may be expected shortly.

The conference began here Jan. 12.

Israel has also had talks with Trans-Jordan and Lebanon.

Meanwhile the commanding officer of the Egyptian brigade trapped in the Faluja pocket sent his thanks to Bunche for the UN's evacuation of the seriously wounded. The Jews agreed to the move in the negotiations here.

Two British pilots shot down on the Egyptian-Israeli front Jan. 7 boarded the Italian steamer Campeoglio at Haifa for Cyprus yesterday. They were escorted aboard the ship by senior Israeli air force officers, whose prisoners they had been since the incident in which five RAF planes were shot down.

Jewish military experts worked until 4 A. M. yesterday in an effort to reach a solution to the Beersheba deadlock, it was reported.

The Jews are reluctant to give up their hold on the city which controls the road north to Jerusalem, west to Gaza and south to the Egyptian border.

This is the main inner highway running north and south in the Negev. The only comparable highway is the coastal road through Gaza. Both the Jews and Egyptians would like control over both highways for strategic reasons.

One solution which may be offered is for the Jews to retain the inner communications line through Beersheba, while the Arabs hold the coastal road through Gaza.

Truman's Speech Hit By Soviets

MOSCOW —(AP)— A Tass dispatch giving the first Soviet commentary on President Truman's inaugural speech described it today as an "enraged attack" on Communism.

All papers published prominently the dispatch of the official news agency which said the President spoke contrary to the real situation when he described Communism as "preaching war."

The dispatch enumerated the four main points of the President's policy. Coming to the fourth point, which suggested a new program of aid of poorly developed countries, Tass said this was a plan to secure the "maximum possibilities for penetration by American capital into backward nations."

VICE PRESIDENT AT HELM IN CHINA

Li Tsung-Jen (left), vice-president of China, became acting president Friday after Chiang Kai-Shek's departure from Nanking. Chiang left the Chinese capital amid reports that he was quitting the presidency for good. Right: Chiang Kai-Shek (center) walks down the steps of Sun Yat Sen's tomb just before reviewing Chinese soldiers Jan. 16. Nationalist military leaders accompany him. (AP Wirephotos.)

Soviet Editor Sees Triumph

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW —(AP)— Pravda's editor, in the presence of Premier Stalin, declared last night that this is the century of Communism, not of Wall Street.

At the same time P. N. Pospelov, the editor who addressed Soviet leaders on the 25th anniversary of the death of Lenin, declared Soviet Russia has an "unshakeable will for international cooperation." He reminded his audience of Stalin's assertion that peace is possible between the differing systems, but bitterly attacked "Anglo-American warmongers."

Pospelov cited China as an example of the failure of plans of "American reactionaries" and said the Communists there were "winning decisive victories."

He said Lenin once wrote that the "issue of the struggle depends in the end on the fact that Russia, India, China and others constitute the overwhelming majority of the population.

"And precisely this majority of the population is being drawn with extraordinary speed in the course of the last years into a struggle for their liberation," said the editor.

Concluding that there are 24,000,000 Communist Party members around the world, Pospelov declared: "The Twentieth Century will be a century of the complete triumph of Lenin, the triumph of the great ideology of equality and friendship among the peoples."

Citing Indonesia, Malaya and Indo-China, he declared, "The growth of national liberation movements in colonies and semi-colonies are expressions of the general crisis of capitalism. Capitalism is decaying . . . No force exists which can prevent its downfall."

Acheson Quotes Bible In Taking Over New Post

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Acheson took a quick look at his new job today and adopted Bible advice to do all bragging at the finish of a job—not at the start.

Acheson posed for newsreel photographs after being sworn in at the White House yesterday morning. He made this statement which was issued later by the State Department:

"I know only too well the responsibilities which come with the trust which the President has placed in me. I am sworn to discharge those responsibilities faithfully.

"Secretary Stimson was fond of quoting a text which I think applies to my situation. It comes from the Second Book of Kings. It reads: 'Let not him that bucketh on his armor boast himself as he that putteth it off.'"

Italian Students Protest Giving Ships To Soviet

ROME —(AP)— Several thousand students shouting "venduto" (sold out) marched on the Foreign Office today in protest against the projected delivery of Italian warships to Russia as reparations.

About 50 rushed into the large courtyard of the Foreign Office before police closed the door.

A large crowd also was reported to have demonstrated before the Soviet embassy.

New Snow Increases Threat To Cattle

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

New snow piled into the West today complicating the job of stockmen and Government officials trying to save drift-bound cattle and sheep.

Parts of Nevada, already covered with a snow measuring up to seventeen inches, received most of the new blanket.

Meanwhile, the Fourth Air Force was ready at Hamilton Field, Calif., to inaugurate an airlift for livestock in Nevada, and other western states, but awaited results of a conference in Washington.

At Ely, Nev., already under eight inches of snow, and one of the points hit by the new fall, George N. Swallow, secretary of the United Stockmen's Association estimated 70,000 sheep are in a critical condition because of lack of feed and exposure. Estimates placed the number of livestock endangered at 200,000.

The stock are in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Utah in addition to Nevada.

Senators of the six states yesterday met in Washington to ask for emergency legislation.

One suggestion of the conference was that feed be dropped by Air Force planes. Planes from Lowry Field, near Denver, Colo., have dropped more than 1,000 bales of hay and alfalfa in that area in the past two weeks.

The east got a touch of Winter with Maine's first heavy snowstorm of the year "At least a foot" was the prediction. Snow plows, hardly used this season, went into action to keep roads clear.

The weather picture in other parts of the country wasn't so severe.

Light snow was falling at Hays Center, Nebr., but the blizzard predicted for the state and for part of Kansas had fizzled.

Light freezing rain covered parts of eastern Kansas, western Missouri, and a slice of Oklahoma, but temperatures were near normal.

Army engineers blasted an ice-jam in the Missouri River yesterday to ease threats of a flood. They detonated 4,200 pounds of explosive in the stream eleven miles north of Leavenworth, Kas.

The blast was an experiment to relieve a jam 44 miles long.

Temperatures plunged to far below zero again today in snow-covered sections of the Midwest. The mercury dipped to 29 below at Willmar, Minn., during the night but rose to 20 below later today. It was minus 18 at Fargo, N. D., -17 at Miles City, Mont., and 15 at Sioux Falls, S. D.

Four Air Force Men Dead In Crash Of B-29 Bomber

GREAT FALLS, Mont. —(AP)— Four of twelve crewmen were killed last night when a B-29 crashed into a snow-blanketed field minutes after taking off from the Great Falls Air Base.

Three were dead in the wreckage when rescuers arrived nearly four hours later. The fourth died in the base hospital. Of the eight injured one is in critical condition.

The 15th Air Force plane was on a flight to its home base at Spokane, Wash., from the Smoky Hill base at Salina, Kan.

A crewman who was thrown clear trudged five miles through heavy snow back to the base to notify officials of the crash. Four wheel drive trucks were used to plow through four foot snowdrifts to evacuate the injured.

There was no fire after the crash. Planes were sent aloft to drop flares to locate the wreckage. The dazed crewman was unable to guide the rescuers back to the scene.

The nose section was snapped from the fuselage and hurled 100 yards away. The four engines and debris were scattered for 500 yards.

Col. Paul H. Prentiss, commanding officer, said the plane took off at 7:15 P. M. after refueling. It landed at Great Falls after stopping at Lowry Base, in Denver on the Salina-Spokane flight.

The Spokane Air Force base today identified the four crew members killed and eight injured in the crash.

The injured included:

Sgt. James A. Outen of Route 4, Monroe, N. C., gunner, major injuries.

Winston-Salem Teen Agers 'Play'

Autos Used In Deadly 'Games'

WINSTON-SALEM — (AP) — Games of daring, played with automobiles, are being widely practiced among Forsyth County teen-agers, it was revealed in Municipal Court this morning.

The situation, which Chief of Police John M. Gold said had been under investigation for several weeks, was brought to a climax with the arrest of two youthful drivers.

Judge Leroy Sams held a lengthy session with the boys and their parents and then fined the youths each $25 and the costs for reckless driving.

One of the games, as described in court, is a version of "Russian Roulette," in which the leading driver signals over the road to keep one behind from passing. On curves and at intersections the driver behind may pass—if he has the nerve.

Another game is "On Your Mark," in which the drivers face each other from the crests of two hills. A handkerchief is placed on the center line at a midway point. The driver who stays on the center line until he has passed the handkerchief is termed the winner.

The horseshoe-shaped drive around Reynolds High School is used for another game, the court was told. Drivers start at each of the two entrances, and the first around wins. If they pass at the wide portion of the drive in front of the auditorium, well and good, but if not, it's too bad.

Chief Gold said officers who have been checking garages for damaged cars find in the majority of cases that the damage was done when a teen-ager had the car.

Several officers, he said, have been placed at favorite gathering places of the teen-agers and have accumulated much information on the dangerous practices.

One Winston-Salem youth was killed a few weeks ago in what Chief Gold said was the Russian Roulette "game."

The entire police department, he added, has pledged itself to break up the practice. "But we must have the co-operation of the parents," he said. "We can't do it alone."

Five Chosen To Negotiate With Reds

Communists Hint No Compromise

By JAMES D. WHITE

NANKING—(AP) — Peiping agreed to surrender to the Communists tonight as the tottering Chinese Government named five delegates to attempt a nationwide settlement with the victorious Reds.

The Communists gave no indication they would deal nationally on any terms but total surrender, however.

Gen. Fu Tso-Yi's North China government headquarters announced a Peiping cease-fire had been agreed upon and a liaison office would take charge during a transition period before the Communists moved into the famous old northern capital.

Peiping was the Government's last important holding in the North except for besieged and impotent Tsinan.

Meanwhile, the political helps to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek were trying to put the Communists in the position of full responsibility for any continuance of the civil war.

REDS BLAME U. S.

The Communist radio hinted strongly that negotiators would not be welcome, saying "Chiang Kai-Shek's 'retirement' and Li Tsung-Jen's taking over the bogus presidency is all at the prompting of the American Government, which supported Li Tsung-Jen for vice president with this very purpose in mind."

The broadcast concluded: "All indications are that the Nationalists' reactionary Nanking Government has no desire for genuine, democratic peace."

The Communists did leave the peace door slightly ajar, however, for their hardboiled broadcast referred "liberated area newspapers" rather than the Communist leadership. Thus, the official line could be changed without loss of face if the Communists should decide it was to their advantage.)

The Government announced its delegates were ready to start negotiations "at a suitable place to be agreed upon by both sides." But how to establish contact was a problem still occupying acting President Li Tsung-Jen.

Heading the delegation will be Shao Li-Tse, a veteran advocate of peace between the Nationalists and the Reds.

Li's intention to send a peace delegation was announced earlier in the day at a tea party of Government officials.

Appointed with Shao Chang Chih-Chung, Government commander in northwest China, and three relatively minor officials, Huang Shao-Hsiung, Peng Chao-Hsien, and Chang Tien-Hsiang.

Li quietly assumed Presidential powers at a simple ceremony which lasted only a few minutes. It was an anti-climax to Chiang Kai-

See CHINESE on page 7-A

President 'Oversleeps' Until 6:30 In Morning

WASHINGTON —(AP)— President Truman "overslept" today after his week long inaugural whirl.

The White House said he arose at 6:30 A. M., an hour later than usual.

His six hours sleep compared with two and a half Thursday and four and a half Wednesday night in the inaugural rush.

Press Secretary Charles G. Ross told newsmen the President appeared "quite chipper" this morning despite his appearance at three more receptions last night.