

DELAY EXPECTED DECISION NEAR STEEL STRIKE

PITTSBURGH—(AP)—The steel crisis came to a head today with union policy makers meeting to decide whether to strike or work.

The union's 36-man Executive Committee meets first and then the 170-member Wage-Policy Board.

(1) Acceptance or rejection, complete or conditional, of President Truman's demand that the wage fight between the 700,000-man union and the steel industry be turned over to the Wage Stabilization Board for study or settlement.

(2) Postponement of the strike at least until Jan. 3 when a special international convention will be held at Atlantic City to plot the union's future course.

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GOOD NEWS

VIENNA—(AP)—The U. S. embassy here said tonight the Hungarian Communist Government is still "considering" the American offer to pay a fine for the freedom of four jailed U. S. fliers.

Such a stand conflicted with the announcement of Hungary's legation in Washington last night that the offer of \$20,000 in fines would be accepted for the prompt release of the four men.

(In Washington, the legation said at noon (EST) that no further word had been received from Budapest. The press attache, Madame Zsuzsanna Seucs, said the only information received by the minister, Dr. Ernő Well, was last night's message saying the American offer to pay the lines had been accepted but that the fliers could not be released before today because of a Hungarian Christmas holiday.)

Tonight's developments raised doubts on the status of negotiations for release of the fliers, convicted of violating Hungary's border laws after they had taken their course on a Munich-Belgrade flight. It seemed possible the Hungarians had raised new conditions.

The ambassador here, Walter J. Donnelly, talked with George Abbott, U. S. charge d'affaires in the American legation at Budapest.

The Hungarians merely told that their offer was being considered," Donnelly said.

But American officials in Budapest still hoped the fliers soon would be on their way to freedom. Abbott also expressed hope that the Hungarians—when the decision was made—would turn the fliers over to the U. S. legation in Budapest rather than dump them on the Austrian border without previous notice.

A group of American officials who arrived here last night to meet the fliers. It waited for Soviet permission to cross the Russian occupied zone of Austria to the border town of Nickelsdorf, where Hungary in April released Robert A. Vogel, American businessman imprisoned seventeen months by Hungary as a "spy."

Donnelly and his deputy, Walter A. Dowling, are the only American officials in Austria who have the right to move about the Soviet zone without prior Soviet authorization, but visits to his wife and the border if the Russians delayed a day.

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U.S. Fliers' Release

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Miami Suburb Is Shaken By New Explosion

MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—Another mysterious explosion occurred in the Miami area early today just four hours after a blast shook a wide area in suburban Hialeah.

The explosions followed warnings by dynamites yesterday that they planned to strike again.

In both instances police were unable to determine the exact location of the explosions and no damage was reported.

Two Coral Gables patrol cars reported hearing the latest blast about 9:30 A. M. (EST) and contacted headquarters immediately. Officers later talked to residents who reported the blast.

The explosion in Hialeah came last night at 11:30 P. M. (EST). Squad cars checked all houses of worship, which have been targets in many of the eleven blasts set off here since last June, in the Hialeah-Miami Springs area but found all undamaged.

Safety Engineer William G. Kimbrough of Coral Gables reported two calls warned him Wednesday that the dynamites are planning further acts.

Families Of Fliers Await Return Of Men

ERDING, Germany (AP)—Families of the American fliers jailed in Hungary waited with a mixture of joy and anxiety today for the delivery of their belated Christmas presents.

They learned with joy last night that the U. S. Government would pay the \$20,000 demanded for the fliers' release. The anxious minutes and hours ticked away without word, but with hope.

The wife and three children of Capt. Dave H. Henderson of Shawnee, Okla., at the U. S. Air Force Base here, are saving their Christmas gifts unopened until the captives get home.

A plane stood ready here to fly the four men back to Germany as soon as they are liberated in Western Germany territory.

"We are still awaiting word," the base commander, Col. P. A. Holland, said in mid-morning. He added that the fliers would be released through Vienna, Austria, in Western-occupied territory. But the plane will be held to stand by.

The wives are expected to be flown to meet them in Wiesbaden. The wives of Capt. Henderson and Sgt. Duff expressed gratitude in ending for private moves to collect the \$20,000.



Mrs. Florence Henderson, wife of Capt. David Henderson, celebrates Christmas in her apartment in Frankfurt, Germany. Her husband, a native of Shawnee, Okla., is one of four fliers being ransomed by the U. S. from Hungary.

Not Listed As Prisoners Reds Hint 50,000 PW's Dead

MUNSAN, Korea (Friday)—The Reds dropped a veiled hint Thursday that 50,000 unlisted Allied prisoners were all dead of disease or exposure.

At the same time Allied armistice negotiators indicated that if the Communists would give a full and honest accounting for all prisoners, the Allies might consider the all-for-all exchange that the Reds demand.

The conferences ended, however, with agreement on only one thing: To meet again today at 11 P. M. (EST) on Thursday, EST even though the 30-day deadline on the provisional cease-fire line expired at midnight Thursday.

There was no indication here of any plans to extend the agreement responsible for the "twilight war" of the past 30 days. The full five-year armistice committee which signed the agreement on Nov. 27 did not even meet. An official U.N. spokesman said neither side asked for an extension.

At the meeting on prisoners, the head of the Allied Subcommittee, Gen. R. E. Libby, told the Reds: "If and when you account for all the prisoners of war you should have and all you have had—after you have given us a complete prisoner-of-war list—then your proposal for an all-for-all exchange is an honest and factual proposal worthy of discussion."

Two Red Jets Shot Down In Air Fighting Renewal

SEOUL, Korea (AP)—American Sabre jets shot down two Red jets and badly damaged another in a renewed battle over northwest Korea today, the Fifth Air Force reported.

The MIGs were shot down in a 20-minute battle between 23 Sabres and 30 light-manned MIGs.

Earlier 100 MIGs had been shot down in a fight of Sabres and F-86s.

The air war broke out anew in clear skies as Allied fighters fought in knee-to-knee combat over temperatures near heart-break today to regain an advance position cut off by the Reds.

The Communists have been fighting intermittently since Christmas night to capture and hold the outpost.

A company of Reds attacked again shortly after last midnight, just 24 hours before the end of a 30-day truce trial period.

The fight continued through the bitter cold early morning darkness. By 7 a. m. the Reds cut off the position.

United Nations troops counter-attacked at 11:10 a. m., the U. S. Eighth Air Force, and at noon.

Yewand said the air attacks prevented the Reds massing during the truce fire talks for a new offensive.

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Detective Reports Included Wanger Diary To Be Trial Evidence

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—Walter Wanger's diary and reports of private detectives he hired to shadow his wife, Joan Bennett, and her agent, Jennings Lang, will be introduced at Wanger's trial for shooting Lang.

Wanger's attorney, Jerry Geisler, so asserted yesterday. He won the diary and reports in a continuing lawsuit until Jan. 7 for Wanger to plead to a grand jury indictment charging assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. He told the court he will insist that the detectives' reports and the diary be made available, "on one side or the other."

Adolph Alexander, deputy district attorney, assured Geisler the State will present all its evidence. Superior Judge Thurlow T. Tafel held the attorneys he would make no order regarding the document, adding: "I'll leave that to a gentlemen's agreement between you two."

"I'll be happy to take your word for it," Geisler said to the prosecutor. Geisler indicated later that Wanger will plead innocent and that the detectives' reports will play an important part in his defense.

At Geisler's request, the court issued a bench warrant, carrying a \$2,500 bond, when Lang failed to appear at Wanger's arraignment yesterday in response to a subpoena. Lang, wounded in the groin when Wanger found him talking to Miss Bennett, a Beverly Hills parking lot Dec. 13, is recovering at his home.

DRAMATICS DELAYED IN WANGER HEARING

Film Producer Walter Wanger (center) and his attorney, Gerry Geisler (left) were a delay until Jan. 7 when they appeared in Superior Court in Santa Monica, Calif., with District Attorney A. A. Alexander (right). Wanger is charged with an attempt to kill his wife's agent. (Acme Telephoto).

Dr. Marcia Crahan, county jail physician, accompanied a sheriff's deputy to Lang's home to serve the bench warrant. Both agreed, however, that Lang was in no condition to appear in court, and Judge Tafel said the warrant would be withdrawn today.

Lang remains under the court's jurisdiction, however, and is subject to call during the trial. Beverly Hills police said Wanger told them during the shooting that Lang was "breaking up" with his wife. Miss Bennett insisted that her relations with her agent were "strictly business." Wanger moved out of the family home after the shooting, but visits his wife and their two children Christmas Day.

Subcommittees working on the problems of exchanging war prisoners and supervising a truce still are in a deadlock. The U.N. journal their last session before the scheduled expiration here. The agreement was aimed to be run out at midnight (10 a.m. EST) Thursday.

Each committee scheduled an other meeting for a 10 P. M. (EST) (9 P. M. EST Thursday) in Panmunjom. Washington sources expressed belief Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway would approve a 15-day extension for the period in which the 145-mile line drawn across Korea Nov. 27.

TRUCE TEAMS TO CLEAR POW LETTER EXCHANGE

TOKYO (AP)—The Allies and the Communists took steps today to clear the way for prisoners of war to exchange letters with loved ones at home.

U. N. spokesmen said relatives and friends writing Allied prisoners held in North Korean camps should address letters to APO 100, care Postmaster, San Francisco.

Col. C. B. Warden, adjutant general of the Far East Command, said letters sent to this address "will be held until permission is given to effect the delivery." "That must come from the Communists."

When the Reds give an OK, presumably mail to Allied prisoners will be handled in the same fashion as mail from them—passed from one side to the other over the truce negotiations table at Panmunjom, Korea.

The Reds delivered 803 letters yesterday. They arrived in Tokyo today and were turned over to U. S. Army postal authorities. More letters are on the way from the prison camps in North Korea, a Communist spokesman said at Panmunjom.

OUR WEATHER

Fair through Saturday. Continued cold today and tomorrow. High tonight 24 degrees. Lowest this morning 30 degrees.

Lowest this morning 30 degrees. Sunrise, 7:30 A. M.; sunset, 5:15 P. M.

More Weather Data on Page 5-A

FOG AND GLASSES

Did you ever stop to think that when you blow on your spectacles, before cleaning them, you are creating some pretty weather of your own? The "fog" which forms on the glasses is identical with the fog formed in the atmosphere. Warm air, expelled from your lungs, is chilled below its dew point when it strikes the cold glasses and the moisture is condensed on them. The colder the glasses, the more readily the "fog" forms. In cold weather, your breath "steams" for the same reason; then, it's the outside air that does the chilling.

Gus Hall Gets 3-Year Term

NEW YORK (AP)—Gus Hall, one of the eleven convicted Communist leaders, was sentenced today to three years in prison for criminal contempt of court.

The sentence is to be served in addition to a five-year term ordered when he was convicted with the other party leaders of conspiring to teach and advocate violent overthrow of the United States Government.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Table listing classified want ads, comics, crossword puzzle, editorials, radio program, serial story, sports, theaters, and wishing well.

EVENING PRAYER

Almighty God, once more at the close of day we turn to Thee. Thou wilt forgive the sins of all who are truly sorry for their sins and desire to be delivered from the power of them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.