

Red China Offers To Let Relatives Visit Prisoners

Nationalist Chinese Suffer Another Jolt

U. S. Might Help Evacuate Islands

TAIPEI, Formosa (AP)—Nationalist China shaken by the loss of Yikiangshan got another jolt today.

Press reports that President Eisenhower was considering asking congressional approval for the use of U. S. air and sea power in a possible evacuation of some Nationalist offshore islands came as a real shock.

Top Nationalist authorities might have been told in advance the President was turning the matter over in his mind. In any event, they refused comment.

But junior officials familiar with the top thinking indicated these views:

1. The Nationalist government might disagree with Eisenhower on the wisdom of a withdrawal, but President Chiang Kai-shek and other leaders relied the White House is activated by the best of motives.

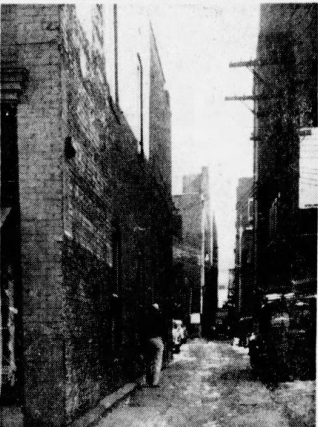
2. If there is a withdrawal, much as the Nationalists oppose it, it will be the result of a friendly understanding and not through American pressure.

The idea of pulling out from the threatened Tachens, 200 miles north of Formosa—and now within artillery range of the Reds on Yikiangshan—is extremely distasteful to the Nationalists.

A Defense Ministry spokesman declared today, "So far we do not plan to evacuate any of our island outposts. All of them will be defended at all costs."

But even if the Nationalists agree to give up the Tachens, they might insist on holding at least some of the more important of their offshore outposts as a prestige factor.

Unofficial quarters here are afraid a pullout from the Tachens without a fight might touch off a chain reaction in the United States. It might lead, they fear, to U. S. efforts to put Formosa under a United Nations trusteeship, possibly the admission of Red China to the United Nations and eventual U. S. recognition of the Peiping regime.



OFF W. TRADE ST. OFF E. TRADE ST.
 Changing Of Alleys Such As These—Which Parallel Tryon St. And Connect Trade And 4th Sts.—To One-Way Lanes Is Recommended By Traffic Engineer Hoose.

1-Way Alley Idea Heads For Council

Midtown traffic hazards created by backing-up trucks and left-hand turning traffic may soon be eliminated.

Prospects for such improvements are contained in the recommendations Traffic Engineer Herman J. Hoose that the two alleys on either side of Tryon St. be made one-way.

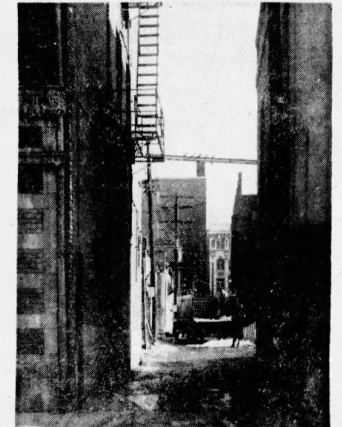
City Manager Henry A. Yancy, who had expected to submit the recommendations at last Wednesday's council session, said the proposals will be laid before the council next Wednesday.

Often traffic is tied up when trucks attempting to enter the narrow alleys find the space blocked by an on-coming truck or car and are forced to back up into either Trade or Tryon Sts.

Then, too, Mr. Hoose said that left-hand turning movements into the alleys from Trade St. are a hazard to street traffic.

Mr. Hoose suggests that traffic movement through these alleys be restricted to north direction only.

Some parking restrictions will also be necessary since the alley on the west side of Tryon St. is only 10 feet wide and the east side alley is between 12 and 13 feet wide.



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Agreement Announced By U. N., Chou

U. S. Government May Not Approve

By FRANCIS W. CARPENTER
 UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.—Red China announced today that the relatives of U. S. prisoners held in Chinese jails are welcome to visit the prisoners.

The United States, however, does not extend diplomatic recognition to Red China and there was no indication the State Department would provide passports good for travel there—even in the event any of the relatives should desire to do so.

Mrs. Edwin Heller, wife of a lieutenant colonel held in China, said at Philadelphia she had been advised the United States could extend her no protest. She added she did not believe her husband would want her to go, anyway.

The Red Chinese bid for relatives' visits was announced simultaneously in Peiping and at the United Nations today.

NOTE: (AP)

The U. N. issued the following note disclosing this action:

"As is being announced this morning from Peiping, Premier Chou En-lai, during his talks with Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, indicated that the government of the People's Republic of China would provide facilities for relatives to visit those United States personnel who had been convicted and whose cases were under investigation. He stated that he would do so, and that the Red Cross society of China would make all the arrangements necessary."

The personal reference in the announcement means the 11 aviators who were convicted of spy charges. Two civilians, who were seized as spies but who were under Army control; and four jet pilots who were being investigated by the Chinese.

It was said the question of giving visas to the relatives to visit the personnel would be up to the U. S. Government.

Hammarskjöld informed Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., U. S. delegate, of this action at his first talk with him on Jan. 13 immediately upon return from his globe-girdling trip.

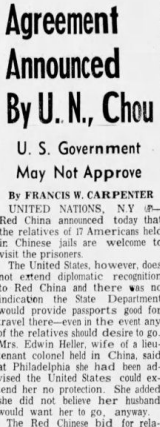
GIVEN ASSURANCES
 Hammarskjöld also told Secretary of State Dulles, when he conferred with him in Washington this week, that he had received assurances from the U. S. Government that the U. N. is keeping it up to the United States to inform the families of the men of these assurances. He said he had received assurances from the U. N. officials that they might work through the U. N. to make arrangements for a trip.

The secretary general from the beginning of his mission has had utmost in his mind the health and condition of the Americans and it is believed he made a special effort to inquire on that point and then he received the assurances of their well-being.

There was no indication from any U. N. official today whether any progress had been made toward releasing the prisoners or commuting their sentences. However, the feeling among U. N. officials concerned with these long-distance talks is that the prisoners eventually will be freed. As East-West relations improve, it is expected that a full study of the study shows a present, urgent need, we may have to do something right now.

"I am also in favor of some control over the highway construction as far as feasible. Their setup is understandably more flexible than ours," he said.

"I see no particularly good reason why any department



Chou En-Lai . . . He Issues An Invitation. (AP)

Cost Of Living Lowest Since '53

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's pork chops and poultry led report reported today that lower food prices in December brought the nation's living costs to their lowest level since May, 1953.

The report showed prices of living cost items at the end of the year 1954 were one-half of one percent below the level at the year's start. It was the first time since the start of the war that the drop was gradual and moderate. December's 114.3 index was about one percent below the year-high level of 115.4 in October, 1953.

Substantially lower prices for 1953.



Seven-Man Committee Visits Rebel Convicts

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BOSTON (AP)—A seven-man committee, including two editors, prisoners and the president of the Boston Bar Assn., conferred today with four rebel convict-hostages held by the Massachusetts State Prisoners in efforts to end a four-day rebellion.

One committee member said the group had met with the quarter in an effort to obtain release of five hostages and six other inmates in a cell block at the old prison since early Tuesday.

The committee plans another meeting at the prison today.

Its members are:

Sumner H. Babcock, president of the Boston Bar Assn.; the Rev. John A. Grant, associate editor of the Pilot, Boston's Roman Catholic archdiocesan paper; Erwin D. Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor; the Rev. Edward Hartigan, Roman Catholic chaplain at the prison; the Rev. Howard Keller, Protestant chaplain; Dr. Samuel Merlin, prison physician; and Patrick J. McDonough, chairman of the executive or governor's council.

Canham said the "situation is so delicate the committee members agreed not to talk until they can tell everything."

Earlier four grim prison officials sent the prison for a two-hour stay but declined to give any details of the trip.

The officials were Warden John J. O'Brien; E. Lawrence Spurr, state commissioner of correction; Otis M. Whitney, state police head; and State Police Capt. John Mitchell. Escorted by an armed guard, they emerged from the prison at 5:15 a. m. and entered the warden's office, refusing comment.

The conference in the warden's office continued for some time, a postcard and although the officials for a few minutes and re-

Columbia Has Costly Fire

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Fire swept through a trucking company building and a window screen company at the Columbia airport today. The firms said the damage may amount to one million dollars.

An exploding oil heater was blamed for the fire by Airport Director W. M. Shand.

The firms, E. L. Long Motor Lines and Lockwood Co., were housed in two of three large warehouses. The buildings were used for storage when the port was operated by the Army Air Force during World War II.

Henry D. Green, owner of the buildings, valued the two destroyed at \$125,000.

The Motor Lines Co. said about \$100,000 worth of its trucks and trailers were destroyed. Also lost were five loaded trailers and two large closed-body trucks full of merchandise.

Extensive metal-working machinery, aluminum screening and other material was lost in the window screen company building.

Costa Rica Claims Rebel Points Taken

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—The Costa Rican general staff announced today the capture of the rebel stronghold of La Cruz and the nearby town of Puerto Soledad on the Pacific coast. It added that the rebels were now caught in a trap, with loyalist troops closing a belt 15 miles long in the area.

The announcement came on the heels of unofficial reports that the rebels were withdrawing toward the Nicaraguan frontier.

The action was at the edge of the newly proclaimed buffer zone between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Neutral ground and air observers of the inter-American Peace Commission were patrolling a belt 15 miles long in the area to keep the rebellion from touching off a war between the two neighboring countries.

Launching its major peace-keeping effort, the five-nation American States dispatched 23 officers to patrol the neutral buffer zone some 18 miles long and six miles wide which the commission established yesterday along the border north of the fighting area.

In accepting the neutral zone commission of the Organization of American States, Costa Rican President Anastasio Somoza agreed to keep their troops out of the area.

Secrecy Law Killed But Rules Stand

RALEIGH (AP)—The House today unanimously passed a bill to repeal the "secrecy" law enacted by the 1953 Legislature. The Senate Rules Committee, meanwhile, gave its approval—also unanimously—to an identical Senate bill.

The House action, however, came after it had reserved for all its committees the right to hold closed meetings. The new rules give any House committee the right to hold closed sessions.

The Senate also is expected to change its rules to allow its committees to hold executive sessions.

The subject, however, did not come up at its meetings today. A Rules subcommittee which is considering several changes in Senate rules was not ready to report.

Sen. Paul E. Jones of Pitt, Senate Rules chairman, said the subcommittee "is in the process of consolidating the various changes which have been proposed. It would be the first of next week before the full committee would report the subcommittee report."

The House action to repeal the 1953 law came upon the motion of Rep. W. Bramley Womble of Wake, chairman of House rules. The House quickly approved his motion to suspend its rules and to place on immediate passage a measure introduced on the first day of the 1955 session by Rep. B. I. Satterfield of Person. Then it passed unanimously.

The only discussion was by Rep. J. A. Speight of Bertie. He noted that he had replied to a newspaper poll on the secrecy issue by saying he would vote for repeal of the secrecy law. Speight told the House he also said in an interview after the poll, "I would vote for a rule under which we could work intelligently and under which the press would have access to the news."

The Senate Rules Committee action, like the House vote, was over in a few minutes. Sen. Adam J. Whitley of Johnston, sponsor of the repeal bill, moved for a favorable report. He was seconded by Sen. A. P. Godwin of Gates and Robert F. Morgan of Cleveland.

Some Budget Requests Top Hodges Ideas

RALEIGH (AP)—The Joint Appropriations Committee received requests yesterday for appropriations totaling nearly \$900,000 more than was recommended for the biennium by Gov. Hodges and the Advisory Budget Commission.

The requests came from the heads of eight state departments and agencies and called for \$25,232 more in general fund appropriations and \$235,556 in highway fund spending.

Heads of 11 departments and agencies told the committee they would get along on the funds recommended for them.

As the joint committee began its work, Rep. J. K. Doughton of Allegheny, House chairman, said.

Mecklenburgers Express Views

Assembly Is Stunned By Road Message

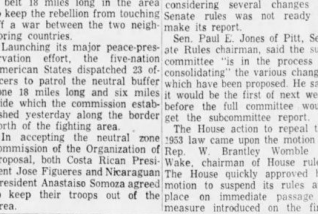
By JULIAN SCHEER
 Charlotte News Staff Writer

RALEIGH—Legislators had hardly thawed out from a nine-inch snowfall on Wednesday when Gov. Luther Hodges chilled them yesterday.

The reaction to his message asking that there be no authorization for a highway bond issue was like watching a time bomb; the legislators knew it was coming sooner or later, knew what his reasons would be, but were, nevertheless, a little surprised when it was presented to them.

There was never any question of the governor's stand, but the manner in which they learned of his position and the frankness of his message knocked the assembly slightly off-balance.

INDIGNATION, APPROVAL
 Reaction ran from heated indignation to calm approval. Only two facts remain clear to most



REP. O'HERRON Likes Pay-As-You-Go

legislators, the primary road system needs help in a hurry—no matter where you stand with the commission or Mr. Hodges—and the subject has as many angles as a poolroom champion.

Contained in the message were such subjects as prison-highways separation, highways under the budget, prison labor, federal aid, reorganization of commission set-up and others—and all offered in an air not altogether healthy.

The legislators were unaware of what was going to take place yesterday. They settled in their seats and were read a message. "I was a rather strange sensation," Mecklenburgers, like most other legislators, are still trying to find out what it all means today.

Sen. F. J. Byler arrived at the capitol.

"One thing is certain, no matter how you take the message,

WHAT'S INSIDE

DID BARE RUTH CALL that famous home run of his? John Lardner explodes the myth on today's editorial page.

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BOY FINDS MESSAGE PUT IN WATER IN '86

CHICAGO (AP)—A 9-year-old Muskegon, Mich., boy got a celebrity's welcome when he came to Chicago to collect a one dollar reward for finding a postcard in a bottle floating in Lake Michigan.

The youth, David Pyle, found the bottle with the postcard last week. It had been tossed into Lake Michigan in 1886 by the Chicago drainage and water supply system, which at the time was making a study of the lake's currents.

Finders of the corked bottles who returned the postcards were promised a one dollar reward. David sent in the postcard and although the city's offer of a reward expired Jan. 1, 1887, officials decided to pay the reward to the youth. They also arranged for a round of entertainment for David and his parents, Don and Jean Pyle.

The one dollar reward was more than doubled. Anthony Ollis, president of the Sanitary District of Chicago, who was the prime mover in entertaining David, gave him a 1987 silver dollar encased in plastic. He also gave him an 1898 paper dollar bill, which is valued at \$3.75 on the collectors' market.

3 Reported Dead In Chicago Fire

CHICAGO (AP)—A West Side fire flashed through a two-story tenement and trapped occupants on upper floors Friday. A deputy coroner's report says five persons were lost, then cut the figure to three.

Three other occupants of the building were injured, three by waves of a stairway was cut by flames in about 20 other persons who lived in the building fled safely to the snow-covered street.

Police said the dead were James Zigorius, 70; his wife, Helen, 60; and James Mitchell, 70.

OUR WEATHER
 Cloudy and not so cold today. Rain and not so cold tonight. Cloudy and cool with rain tomorrow.
 Low temperature this morning, 34 degrees.
 Low temperature expected tonight, 28 degrees.
 High temperature yesterday, 46 degrees.
 High temperature expected today, 48 degrees.
 High temperature expected tomorrow, 48 degrees.
 Sunrise, 7:29 a.m.; sunset, 5:40 p.m.
 More Weather Data on Page 7-A