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PACIFIC CRISIS BOILS TOWARD HEAD

Roosevelt's
Query May
Bring Quick
Showdown

Might Develop
Within Week

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull reiterated today that a general settlement in the Pacific still depended on Japanese acceptance of non-aggression policies outlined in the American note which was handed to Japanese envoys last week.

No reply yet has been received, he told his press conference.

Hull's repetition of policy followed by one day President Roosevelt's posing a question for Japan which may hasten a showdown in the Pacific or, perhaps, bring about a truce that could save Thailand from becoming a battleground.

PERIOD OF CONFUSION

The Secretary of State described the long months of Japanese-American conversations since last April as a period of "considerable confusion." He said, "I am not unwilling, he said, from actions and statements at variance with the principle under discussion."

Since the President's question calls for a fastidious explanation of Japan's immediate intentions, informed diplomatic quarters here believe that the crisis will come to a head within the week.

The question, described by Mr. Roosevelt himself as a "simple question which he expected Tokyo to answer promptly," was:

"What are Japan's purposes in increasing her armed forces in French Indo-China?"

That sprawling region flanks Thailand, the former Siam, on the east.

Admiral Kikutake, Nagumo and Goto, Kurokawa, the Japanese envoys dispatched the White House request for information to Tokyo immediately after it was presented to the State Undersecretary, State Bureau, Wells at a conference yesterday.

NO BREAK IN TENSION

President Roosevelt's public intervention brought no break in the existing tension and officials here were not so much concerned in the Pacific one of undiminished gravity.

Assistant Secretary of Navy Frank Knox, in a speech address last night at Norfolk, Va., asserted "the Pacific is like a tinderbox—waiting for a spark that will explode."

See U. S. STANDS ON PAGE 2

*Lull In Warfare
In Libya Comes--
Major Test Seen*

British Regroup Forces for Another Struggle With Strong Axis Units

CAIRO, Egypt.—(AP)—The British declared today that the battle for Libya has slackened, with Empire forces withdrawing and reorganizing for a new test against the next phase of the fight in which British units have shifted like the desert sands.

SEEK WEAK SPOTS

Patrol and aerial activity continued—feeling out weak spots for the next hard blow—but there was no major battle fought along any part of the desert battle fronts where troops and tanks have clashed day and night for two weeks.

Despite the German jab which brought Marshal Erwin

See U. S. ON WAR on page 2

Colds Empty Schools As Smoke Fills Air

Smoke in Air Is Blamed for Large Number of Cases of Common Colds

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

More than 22,000 students, 13.5 per cent of the enrollment of the public schools of Charlotte, were victims of the common cold and were compelled to miss out on many days from classes in November.

Partial reports from the 20 parts of the city, with tabulations lacking from three of the Negro schools, today showed that in the month 2,236 students missed school in November because of colds.

For the first time, reports of cases of contagion among school children are being prepared and turned into the City School Board offices for transmittal to the State School Commission. And today showed an epidemic of colds sweeping through the white schools.

Local school authorities have recently been advised that the prevalence of colds among the city's population has been due to large numbers of people in the schools.

Obervers were quick to point out that Japan, operating from Indo-China bases, could strike against either Thailand or the rich Indies with their resources of rubber, tin, oil and other war needs.

WATER FOOTING

Dispatches from Batavia, the Dutch East Indies capital, said British East Indies had placed its army and navy on a water footing and that Japan had taken their stations in the outer defense sectors—presumably in Borneo, Celebes and New Guinea, north of the Malayan Archipelago and nearer Japan.

Terminating the arrival of British warships at Singapore "the last strong warning to Japan," the Indies newspaper Java-Boede declared. "We hope Tokyo is not yet too

See COLD'S AWAY on page 2

VACANCY TROUBLE Find a friend to fill your place in the columns of the New York Times

See DUTCH MARS on page 2

18 Shopping Days till Christmas

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