

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Plan to Remove Food Subsidies; Atom Bomb Figures in Allies' Postwar Diplomatic Movements

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



No longer capable of doing heavy labor, and sick, diseased and dispirited, German prisoners of war released by Russians trek through Berlin on their return to homes in the west.

CHINA: Battle On

Full-scale civil war loomed in China as negotiations between communists and nationalists bogged and the Reds took to the offense in an effort to prevent Chiang Kai-shek's forces from infiltrating into their northern strongholds.

As a result of the outbreak of hostilities, the U. S. decided to withdraw American troops from the scenes of combat, the Yanks having been used to aid nationalists in taking over former Jap-held territory. Removal of U. S. units did not signify any reversal of policy in supporting Chiang, however, with reports that the administration would continue to offer him material aid.

Thus did the threat of civil war, following close upon V-J Day, dampen long-suffering China's hopes for a period of peace and tranquility in which to unify the nation politically and lay the foundation for economic development and modernization.

FINLAND: Try Leaders

Charged with refusal to mediate differences with Russia and prosecuting war on the side of the Axis instead, eight prominent Finnish leaders were arrested by the new government and scheduled for early trial in the people's court.

In the unprecedented movement of a country to punish former leaders for their official acts, Vaino Tanner, dominant Finnish politico of 1941, was accused of failing to take advantage of a U. S.-British offer to mediate with Russia that year.

Tanner again was named for failure to accept a U. S. proposition to conciliate Finnish-Russian differences in 1943 along with former President Risto Ryti, Foreign Minister Henrik Ramsay, Prime Minister Edwin Linkomies, Gen. Rudolf Walden, and Finance Minister Tyko Reinikka.

POLITICS: No Trend

Continued Democratic domination of the big cities and Republican inroads in small municipalities marked the recent election results and offered little clue to a political trend prior to the all-important congressional elections in 1946.

Most significant feature of the balloting was the CIO's failure again to capture the mayoralty in Detroit, Mich., motor car center of the U. S. and United Automobile Workers stronghold. Calling upon the unorganized residents of the city to rally for an impartial rather than a labor dominated administration, Mayor Jeffries won re-election over CIO Candidate Frankenstein by a comfortable margin.

Maintaining their dominance over the big municipalities, the Democrats handily won the mayoralties of New York, Boston, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, while Republicans won back Buffalo, N. Y., and New Haven, Conn., after more than a dozen years.

Sets Air Speed Record

Exciting possibilities for speedy post-war air travel were opened with the record-breaking performance of Britain's jet-powered Gloster Meteor piloted by Capt. H. J. Wilson.

Smashing the former official mark of 481.84 miles per hour set by Capt. Fritz Wendel of the German air force in 1939, Wilson averaged 606 miles per hour in four runs over a 1.86-mile course at Herne Bay, England.

At Wilson's rate of speed, excited statisticians figured that a plane could travel nonstop around the world in 41 hours: from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York City in 3 hours and 59 minutes; from Chicago, Ill., to Panama in 3 hours and 49 minutes, and from Chicago to Mexico City in 2 hours and 46 minutes.

NAZI SPY: Tipped Off FBI

Asserting that his only intention in accompanying saboteurs to the U. S. in 1942 was to get out of Germany, a Nazi spy disclosed the whole enemy plot for damaging U. S. plants and facilities and terrorizing civilians to the FBI, leading to the early roundup of the entire clique landed by submarine.

Let off with 30 years imprisonment for his disclosure and testimony at the trial resulting in the execution of six of the saboteurs and a life sentence for another, the spy, George Dasch, named the other conspirators and furnished information which enabled the G-men to cover their movements and track them down in New York and Chicago, Ill.

In detailing the saboteurs' mission, Dasch told the FBI that the TVA was marked for destruction along with important industrial plants, the Hell Gate bridge in New York City, Ohio river locks, and important railroad trackage. In addition, the saboteurs planned to terrorize civilians by planting time bombs in depot lockers and crowded stores.

FIBER SOURCE:

Never grown in the western hemisphere before Pearl Harbor except experimentally, abaca—from which Manila rope is made—is now being produced in quantity on five plantations of 27,500 acres in four Central American republics and Panama, the state department disclosed.

Western hemisphere production of abaca, which was obtained largely from the Philippines before the war, may aggregate 25 million pounds this year and from 45 to 50 million pounds in 1946.

Washington Digest
See Internal Crisis Affecting Russ Policies

Report Army Looms as New Power as Factions Clash Over Broad Participation In Postwar World Affairs.



By **BAUKHAGE**
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What's happening inside Russia? Where there's smoke, there's fire. Vehement denials of the death of Marshal Stalin were followed finally by admission that the man who had more power than any czar could boast of was weary. That he was well, but that he was shedding some of his responsibilities.

It is interesting to note the reaction in this country. The wishful thinking of those who first announced the death rumor over the air and in print was not reflected in official Washington.

The very day before the first story appeared a high government official expressed the opinion in my hearing that the hope for understanding between the United States and Russia depended largely on Stalin. This was after the long series of disagreements beginning with the breakup of the Foreign Ministers' meeting in London, the refusal of Russia to take active part in the United Nations Food organization meeting in Quebec, the objections to various moves made by the members of the United Nations Executive Council. Everywhere "Russia objects" seemed to be the one answer which Russia's representatives had to offer to the suggestions made by the American and other governments.

When the real history of the international conferences, beginning with the Moscow conference which Secretary of State Hull attended, through Yalta and Potsdam, is written, I think it can be shown that Stalin, frequently against the advice of his councilors, was the one who broke the deadlocks and proposed or accepted compromises which were made necessary by his own colleagues' stubbornness.

It will be recalled that when the invitations to the meeting at San Francisco went out it was announced that Russia would not send her foreign minister as head of the delegation, but would leave that post to Ambassador Gromyko in Washington. This made a bad impression, for it looked as if Stalin were damning the affair with faint support. However, after the American newspapers sounded off on the subject, Stalin had a change of heart—or perhaps the death of Roosevelt, which occurred in the interim, affected his course. Molotov was duly assigned to the job.

Molotov proved no simple primrose and more than once, it is reported, Stalin's intervention had to be sought to grease the wheels.

There was another occasion—just which one is not revealed—when the work was completely stymied and finally the President made a direct appeal to Stalin to accept the suggestions of the majority on a point that appeared to have hopelessly deadlocked the meeting. This time, against the counsel of his advisors, who were holding out, Stalin put his O.K. on the request.

Isolationists Bloc Grows

There is reason to believe that this "no vote" attitude of a number of the Soviet leaders who opposed what many have considered too deep entanglement in international affairs, which has been in evidence for a long time, finally wrecked the Foreign Ministers' conference.

As early as the time of the San Francisco meeting there were hints of a growing "isolationist" opposition inside Russia. Word reached certain members of the conference by a roundabout way, but from a thoroughly reliable source, concerning the status of former Foreign Minister Litvinov, Russia's crack diplomat, who negotiated the resumption of relations with the United States after the long hiatus following World War I. At one time it was reported that Litvinov had been purged. This was not so. But what had happened was that the "Russia objects" element had managed to shelve him because of his more liberal views.

This apparently was the beginning of what many called a "palace revolution," and which some people believe is now flaring up into full flame.

The story of the events which led up to the Litvinov affair has never been confirmed, but it is reasonable

to assume that it is true. In brief, there was a split in the all-powerful "Polit-Bureau" of the Soviets. The Political Bureau is a small body chosen from the central committee of the Communist party, which is the government's policy-forming entity. This body is composed of powerful Soviet leaders and it exerts a great deal of influence.

According to the reports touching on Litvinov's position, the Polit-Bureau was sharply divided into "isolationists" and those who looked upon the rest of the world with a less jaundiced view. At that time Stalin was said to be walking a tight-rope between the two and choosing carefully toward which side he would lean. Litvinov, who believed that Russia could not live by herself and who had always encouraged a sympathetic attitude toward the outside world, had been completely shelved for his ideas.

Little more was heard of these rumblings until after the end of the war, when the Red army became the symbol of Russian salvation. Then it appeared that the isolationist Russia, the big-army Russia, the Russia which wouldn't take anything off anybody, had a new and powerful backer—the officers (and perhaps some of the rank and file as well) of the Red army.

In any case, we know that the high officers of the army received all sorts of perquisites, rewards and privileges, which only the highest of the high receive.

Red Army Strong Factor

The assumption on the part of some observers is that with the ascendancy of the Red army element, not only the isolationists, but the Communist party as a whole, lost influence. There has always been jealousy between the two, though, of course, their membership overlaps in many cases. You will recall that at the beginning of the war civilian commissars were attached to army units and they censored all orders issued by the officers. This proved to be not only highly unpopular with the military, but also impractical. The civilian commissars were then withdrawn and only those with military training were appointed. Their authority, in effect at least, became merged with that of the military.

Now the high army officers are recognized as occupying virtually the same plane as the high party officials.

Just where Stalin stands as a result of this change in the fabric of Russian national policy it is impossible to say. It has been rumored that he has relinquished his function as commander-in-chief. It has also been rumored that he is ready to drop out of the picture completely and choose a successor. In that connection it was hinted that General Zhukov, Russia's Eisenhower, was afflicted with a "diplomatic illness" when he suddenly gave up a widely advertised trip to the United States, which it was said he had looked forward to with considerable zest.

This might have been a signal that Russia was drawing further within herself.

Some believe that it indicated that Zhukov was the chosen successor of Stalin and that, until a new regime was firmly established, the Soviets would maintain a negative policy in foreign relations.

In any case, it is clear that the "Russia objects" policy was inaugurated for some reason and naturally, since in the past Stalin had always been the one who was able to play ball with the Allies, at least to the point where progress seemed to be made toward working agreements, Washington is by no means anxious to see him fade from the picture.

Meanwhile, the one hopeful view which is being taken of the Russian situation is that it may be that there is some kind of a change taking place within Russia and that the present policy of stalling means nothing worse than a necessary marking time on the part of the Soviet leaders until the outcome is settled.

And then there is always another reason which pops up as an explanation of almost anything these days—the atomic bomb.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The Salvation army gave service to 225,000,000 servicemen during the war in their clubs, hostels and mobile units. But I'll bet they didn't surpass those doughnuts they served us in World War I.

Two hundred and seventy million dollars worth of highway projects, frozen during the war, are now starting.

The air transport command recently took 24 queen bees from America to France. This is a record for transporting royalty.

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