

- THUNDERBOLT -

TIMES

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POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT IN STEEL INDUSTRY

Negotiations were resumed yesterday between officials of the U. S. Steel Corporation, the largest in the steel industry, and the CIO Steel Workers Union. Officials of the Union stated that the threatened strike of 700,000 steel workers would be called off if the Corporation made a satisfactory wage offer in answer to the demand for a two-dollar-a-day increase. The Federal Government granted an increase of four dollars a ton in the price of steel, but there was still no indication yesterday whether an acceptable wage offer would be forthcoming in time to forestall the strike. The chairman of the Presidential fact-finding board which had been investigating the dispute said it was logical to expect the Corporation to make an offer.

Trouble threatened also in the telephone, meat-packing, automobile and communications industries. The Swift and Armour Companies were granted price increases in order to make it possible for them to meet labor's demands for a 30% wage increase. Whether or not this would serve to hold off the strike of 200,000 meat-packing workers, was not certain. Over the nation was the threat of strike 8,000 Western Electric workers, members of the CIO Electrical Union. If the strike should go through as scheduled, coast-to-coast telephone service would be effectively disrupted. Western Union employees — — numbering 7,000 — — were still out in the New York City area, cutting the volume of telegraph messages going in and out of the city to 15%. Talks started with Ford yesterday, the first since December when the Company offered a 15 cents-an-hour increase in response to Union demands of a blanket 30% increase. To top off this troubled scene, the fact-finding board investigating the General Motors dispute, sent a report to the President yesterday, but it was believed that neither the Corporation nor the Union would abide by its findings.

CEASE FIRE ORDER IN CHINA

Nationalist leader, Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, and the Communist chief announced simultaneously in Chungking yesterday that orders to cease fire had been issued to all the opposing forces in the Chinese civil strife. The only exception to this, is that Nationalist forces in Manchuria will continue to advance and take over territories from the Russian forces. Further orders were issued that supply and communications lines were not be destroyed or interfered with. The announcement came at a time when it seemed agreement would not be reached. On Wednesday night, the negotiations between the two sides, with Gen. Marshall acting as mediator, adjourned in a deadlock. Early yesterday, however, another meeting was unexpectedly called, with the resulting agreement. A commission will be appointed to enforce the peace terms. Making the announcement before a meeting of the People's Conservative Council, Chiang said a four-point program of equality for all political parties, general elections, freeing of political prisoners and establishment of the basic freedoms would immediately be put into effect. The news of the end of the civil war was welcomed throughout the world, representing, as it did, the end of the last full-fledged war for the time-being. Also from Chungking, in reply to French protests, it was announced that Chinese troops were in French Indo-China solely to accomplish a given purpose, and with the accomplishment of that purpose would withdraw.

EISENHOWER ACTS AS SOLDIERS CONDEMN REDEPLOYMENT SLOWDOWN

Today all was quiet in Manila following yesterday's order from Gen. "Ike" Eisenhower to occupation leaders to immediately release all enlisted personnel, even though they do not have a discharge point score. If these men are not engaged in essential occupational duties. Until the moment Manila GIs heard of this message, the situation was characterized by sit-down strikes, mass meetings and cable offices crowded by soldiers exercising their democratic prerogative by contacting their Congressmen in an attempt to get relief.

Demonstrations against what was termed a "War Department blunder" were going on in Honolulu, Guam, Manila and in Japan. Except for one or two isolated cases, soldiers were receiving at last tacit approval of their officer leaders. In Yokohama one high-ranking officer told an orderly mass meeting of soldiers that they would "get redeployed to the Yokohama Prison" if they didn't disperse.

The message from Gen. Eisenhower had not officially reached Pacific occupational headquarters as of last night. It had been carried up to that time only by radio stations. Gen. Steyr, chief of those forces, said no action would be taken until the order had come down through military channels. He declined comment on the message.

ETO Soldiers Angry

As soldiers throughout the European Theatre expressed their anger and indignation in Paris, Reims, Frankfurt, and to no small degree in Linz, results became apparent yesterday when all units in the ETO were ordered to send representatives to a conference in American military Headquarters in Frankfurt.

Though theatre staff officers were scheduled to meet with soldier representatives, the commander-in-chief, Lieut. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, was not expected to return from Berlin, where he was attending the monthly meeting of the Allied Control Council in time for the gathering.

Censorship Imposed

In Honolulu, the local edition of "The Stars and Stripes" was subjected to censorship when Lt. Gen. Robert Richardson, commander of the Hawaii Department, ordered that it carry no more reports of criticism of War Department officials, or of high Army officers. That paper, with an estimated 90,000 readers, last Tuesday carried an article pointing out the

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discrepancies in various War Department utterances regarding demobilization.

Congressional leaders were all set in Washington to open a withering blast against the Army in general and the War Department in particular when the 80th Congress convene Monday. Rep. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama, said he intended having the War Department inform Congress whether or not it intended to abide by the word of former Chief of Staff, Gen. George C. Marshall, who said last November that on March 20th of this year two-year veterans would become eligible for discharge. Earlier this week, when asked about this in Guam, Sec. of War Patterson asked as to the significance of March 20th.

WORLD WATCHES FIRST SESSION OF UNO WITH FINGERS CROSSED

On the 26th anniversary of the founding of the League of Nations, and following a state banquet in St. James Palace on Wednesday night, the United Nations Organization last night held its first session, in London. The opening was marked by a speech from Prime Minister Attlee, in which it was expected that he would review the main problem and difficulties immediately confronting the body.

Byrnes Expects no Hitches

Most leading officials, including U. S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, expect the delegation to go through smoothly with the organizing of the Assembly. Byrnes said he expected to remain in London until the organization is well underway. He will be particularly concerned with the setting up of an Atomic Energy Commission, as provided for at the recent Conference of Foreign Ministers at Moscow.

The only business to be conducted yesterday was to elect a president of the Assembly. Today the Security Council will be elected.

It was obviously the last chance for the world. Should this organization fail to keep peace either by suggestion or the use of force, there was little doubt that the world as we know it would be plunged into its final cataclysmic act of suicide. We have already seen the effects of the unleashing of the mildest forms of atomic power over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are sure that it is, without question, the Frankenstein that would destroy its maker, should our greed and selfishness get to the point where it overpowered our sanity and power to reason. Suffice it to say that humanity watched this valiant and sincere organization get to work — with fingers crossed.

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE

A crisis exists in Japanese politics tonight, an outgrowth of MacArthur's recent directive to purge all politicians who had anything to do with the declaration of war on the U. S. The I. N. S. was told that a report on the collapse of the Shidehara Government would forthcoming at any moment Another crisis loomed in Greece, with the announced joining of forces of the two opposition parties, the Liberal and the Royalist. It was thought this would lead to the collapse of the present regime The U. S. Ambassador in Warsaw yesterday told the Polish Government that it would receive no more American aid unless it changed its ways. It was believed that this was in protest against the recent Polish decision to nationalize industry The war crimes trial of Gen. Homma continued in Manila with further evidence that he had knowledge of and a part in the notorious "Bataan Death March." United States Military Govt. in Germany announced that in Berlin it is taking temporary measures for the housing and feeding of more than 500 Jews who had straggled in from the Russian part of the Berlin rather than be transferred to the Russian zone in Germany The Far Eastern Commission arrived in Japan yesterday and its leader, Maj. Gen. McCoy, immediately went into conference with Gen. MacArthur. The Commission will make an extensive tour of Japan before returning to Washington on Jan. 31 The British Food Minister, Sir Ben Smith, had talks in Washington with President Truman and Sec. of Agric. Anderson, particularly regarding the critical supply of rice in the Far East. Sir Ben also spoke with the French Ambassador A former British Army officer, Norman Stewart, was sentenced to five years imprisonment on the charge of assisting the enemy (Germany) On his arrival in New Delhi, India, Mahatma Ghandi predicted yesterday that "we Indians are likely to achieve independence maybe within a few months."

It was stated in Rome yesterday that police quelled a Sicilian separatists uprising near Palermo, after 24-hour pitched battle Wednesday

— — AUSTRIA LOOKS TO THE FUTURE — —

The first open criticism of one of the occupation powers appeared in Wednesday's issue of the Socialist paper „Arbeiter Zeitung," which attacks the French authorities in Vienna for requisitioning 600 beds from Hanusch Hospital belonging to the Viennese municipal sick fund. The Vienna press has hitherto refrained from criticizing actions of the occupation authorities openly, though several papers have attacked the Red Army and Soviet authorities by inference without naming them.

Austrian citizens will be permitted to return to Austria by filing with the State Department, it was reported yesterday in Washington. The U. S. did not recognize the German annexation of Austria in 1938, and provided a haven for many Austrians who escaped religious and political persecution by the nazis. They have made many a contribution to American democracy and to the war against fascism. In their return they will be able to contribute to the reconstruction of Austria, and to assist in the completion of the Allied objectives.

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Central — 1310, 1815, 2015 — "My Reputation," with George Brent and Barbara Stanwyck (last day to today).

Cleveland — 1315, 1845 — "Shady Lady," with Charles Coburn and Ginny Simms (Fri. and Sat.).

Volks — "The Cheaters," with Joseph Schildkraut and Billie Burke (Fri. and Sat.). Hollywood — "Men in Her Diary," with John Hall and Louise Allbritton (Fri. and Sat.).

Chattanooga — "I'll Tell the World," with Lee Tracy and Brenda Joyce (Fri. and Sat.).

Music Hall — "On Stage Everybody," with Jack Oakie and Peggy Ryan (Fri. and Sat.).

Varga — "Lady on a Train," with Deanna Durbin and David Bruce (Fri. and Sat.).