

PEKING GOVERNMENT OFFERS NEW TERMS

Mixed Reception By U.N. Political Committee

NEW YORK, Jan. 23: If the principle of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea were agreed upon and put into practice, then the Peking Government would assume responsibility for advising Chinese "volunteers" to return to China.

This is the main point of new terms by Communist China for a settlement of the Korean and other Far East issues submitted yesterday to the Political Committee of the United Nations. Sir Benegal Rau (chief Indian delegate) said that the new terms, representing a clarification of the Peking Government's attitude, had been received by him through the Indian Ambassador in Peking.

Though the United States delegate (Mr. Warren Austin) was not impressed by the latest communication, Sir Gladwyn Jebb (Britain) said that, while reserving his final view, he thought that the statement was "obviously of great interest and importance."

On the motion of Sir Benegal, the committee decided to adjourn for 48 hours to enable delegates to confer with their respective Governments.

"Necessary" Steps

Two steps were considered necessary by Peking for a conclusion of the war in Korea and a peaceful settlement of the conflict, said Sir Benegal. These were: A cease-fire for a limited time, the period to be agreed upon at the first meeting of the seven-nation conference proposed earlier by the Chinese Foreign Minister (Mr. Chou En-lai), and a discussion, when conditions for a conclusion of the war in Korea and for peace in East Asia were being determined, of the following political problems: First, steps and measures for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea; secondly, settlement of all internal Korean questions by the Korean people themselves; thirdly, withdrawal of United States forces from Formosa and the Straits of Formosa, in accordance with the Cairo and Potsdam Declarations; fourthly, other Far Eastern problems; and fifthly, the legitimate status of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations to be ensured.

Sir Benegal Rau said that the delegates of the 12 Arab nations conferred with him yesterday morning to consider the situation in the light of this new reply from Peking, but they needed more time for consultations and to obtain new instructions from their governments.

British View

Sir Gladwyn Jebb said that the statement read by Sir Benegal seemed to convey a different impression from that conveyed by the original reply by Peking. In particular, it seemed to come closer to saying "Yes" to the question "Do you accept our principles?"

"The principles are still there," said Sir Gladwyn. "They still represent the basis on which the majority believe that the Korean question should be settled." Perhaps some of the delegates were suspicious that Peking was not really prepared to accept the United Nations terms without attaching unacceptable conditions, but the delegates should have a short time to consult their Governments on the new situation.

The Greek and Turkish delegates said that the latest Chinese statement added nothing new. Mr. Warren Austin said that he was not opposed to an adjournment but he asked the committee to proceed with the business on hand. The committee, by 27 votes to 23 with six abstentions voted to adjourn for 48 hours.

Australia and New Zealand were among the countries which abstained from voting on the adjournment motion. Other Commonwealth countries voted for an adjournment as did the Soviet bloc.

London Reactions

LONDON, Jan. 23: The first British Press reaction to China's new terms is that no opportunity to settle the present crisis should be dismissed and that the proposals should be given the closest examination.

"The Times" says: "At first glance, the new proposals shed altogether the earlier form of

an almost ultimatum and offer at least hope of real negotiations. While an open split between the policies of Britain and the United States would be disastrous for world peace, so, too, would open war with China. While there is still time the British part must be to weigh the perils and resources "in the East and the West together and insist upon a proper reckoning."

The "Daily Telegraph" maintains that, while China's new proposals must be considered, they do not appear to go much farther towards meeting United Nations conditions. They do, however, "permit postponement of what threatened to be a dangerous rift among the free nations at Lake Success."

The "Yorkshire Post" says: "Whatever their merit, the new terms are evidence that Mao Tse-tung's first demands did not represent the final standpoint. In that there is encouragement to test further Chinese willingness to reach a settlement."

BIG SEARCH ENDS

Child Safe By Muddy Pool

BRISBANE, Jan. 23: After one of the biggest searches ever made in Queensland, involving more than 1,000 persons, the 21-year-old boy, Reuben Berrie, who had been missing since last Friday from his home in the rugged Mt. Shamrock district, about 14 miles from Gayndah, was found at 10.45 a.m. today.

The child was then sleeping peacefully under a tree a few yards from a muddy pool. Hand and foot marks around the pool showed that he had lain down beside it several times for a drink. The little boy was rushed to the Biggenden Hospital suffering from hunger and fatigue. His condition tonight was satisfactory.

The infant was found by Leslie Griggs, a prominent axeman, who was leading a search party of 12. Tragedy marred the relief felt on the finding of the boy as one of the searchers was killed and another injured in a road collision this morning. The dead man is William Grevel (40), a auctioneer, of Gayndah, who was driving into Biggenden after assisting in the search. His companion, Mervyn Stevenson (25), of Gayndah, suffered shock and abrasions.

AUSTRALIAN UNIT MISSING IN ENEMY LINES

TOKYO, Jan. 23: A well-armed Australian patrol has failed to return from a commando probe into enemy lines north of Inchon on the central Korean front.

The patrol left its battalion on Saturday night, followed a few miles behind by a large company-strength patrol. Its object was to act as a "feeler" for the large patrol, which was to move through Inchon and maintain a watch over the town's northern outskirts.

At 1 a.m. yesterday the large patrol was attacked, so it withdrew under heavy fire, suffering some casualties. No word has since been heard of the commando patrol, which was to have returned to the battalion soon after dawn yesterday.

Security regulations prevent the release of the size of the patrol but these are the first Australians reported missing during the battalion's four months in the line. The missing patrol includes an

W.A. BOYS TO TRAIN AS ARMY TRADESMEN



Three of the party of West Australian boys who will leave for Balcombe, Victoria, on February 1 to enter the Australian Regular Army apprentices' school there for a three-year tradesmen's training course signing their enlistment papers in Perth. They are watched by Lieut. O. C. G. Whitfield (left). The boys are (left to right) Stanley Haworth (14), of Fremantle, who will train to be a fitter and turner; Frank Gardner (15), of Fremantle, instrument fitter; and Neil Boyce (15), of South Perth, mechanic. After they have passed through the school the boys will enter Army workshops for further training before qualifying as tradesmen.

COMMUNISTS COME TO HALT IN KOREA

TOKYO, Jan. 23: United Nations troops today roamed north at will, meeting only with fragmentary opposition and the Communists appear to be halted along the entire Korean front.

Allied patrols probed seven to ten miles north, searching for signs of a reported Chinese build-up for a drive on Suwon and Ichon, but found nothing. It is now believed that the Communists are holding a line running across the peninsula 20 miles south of Seoul.

Tank-led Allied forces retook strategic Wonju and its airstrip today and pushed five miles north of the city. The city and its airstrip have traded hands a number of times. An armoured patrol pushed beyond the city five miles—the farthest northward thrust since the town was abandoned on January 7.

United States Seventh Division elements and other Allied troops fought against suddenly aggressive North Koreans yesterday in the south-east flank sector near Yongsong. Meanwhile, reinforced Allied patrol teams on the central and western Korean fronts jabbed back into Wonju airfield and three other key towns within 25 miles of Seoul without finding the fight they were seeking. Towns re-entered and then again abandoned at nightfall yesterday included Osan, Ichon and Kumsong. Small but bitter struggles were reported around Yongsong, where only North Koreans have been reported. Yesterday was the first time that the U.S. Seventh Division had been reported in action since late December.

Air Attacks

Forty-six Shooting Star jets today swept down on Pyongyang in two airfields in a lightning strike against the gun positions of one of the heaviest Communist flank

areas in Korea. In a smooth surprise operation, later described in an Air Force communique as the "biggest fighter-bomber strike of the war," they blasted the gunpits and strafed artillery installations. Soon afterwards Superfortresses went over the target area without receiving flak hits.

American Thunderjets today shot down four Communist MIG 15 jets, probably destroyed another and damaged several more over Sinuiju. The dogfight started when 24 Thunderjets machine-gunned and rocketed Sinuiju airfield.

Air reports for a number of days have told of North Korean troops slipping south and south-east along the Chechon-Yongwol axis of the United Nations defence line. Yongwol, which is 31 miles south-east of Wonju, is commanding the highway hub of the central front. The Wonju airstrip and nearby Hill 233 were retaken yesterday by Allied raiders. It was the fifth time in six days that United Nations forces had jabbed back into Wonju, which is the hub of seven roads radiating through central Korea.

Australians Rested

Forty-four men of the Third Battalion—the first substantial draft of Australians to be relieved from front-line duty—arrived at Kure (Japan) by air last night. Those who have long leave credit expect to be flown to Australia to take a rest at home. They learnt only on Sunday that they were going to Japan and spent that night in the snow alongside an airfield in Korea. The men said that their battalion was acutely short of proper clothing for the freezing conditions of the Korean winter and that many men suffered from the effects of extreme sleet and frost.

North Korean troops cut to pieces a battalion of South Korean engineers 40 miles inside the Allied lines yesterday in a flare-up of fighting on the right end of the United Nations positions.

An Eighth Army communique says that United Nations forces yesterday engaged about 2,000 North Koreans south-east of Tanyang, killing 200.

RHINOCEROS ARRIVES FOR SOUTH PERTH ZOO

Special arrangements were made yesterday to have a three-year-old rhinoceros transferred from the freighter Itaura to the South Perth Zoo during the ship's brief stay at Fremantle. A gift of the Sydney philanthropist, Mr. E. J. Hallstrom, it is the zoo's first rhinoceros.

Weighing nearly a ton, the rhinoceros is almost fully-grown and is valued at about £1,000. It was captured in Tanganyika three months ago and until it was lifted ashore yesterday it had spent nearly a month in its "special suite" on the Itaura's deck.

It was intended that the Itaura would have remained in port for a few days to discharge the rhinoceros and 264 tons of asbestos and sisal hemp from South Africa. However, when it was realised yesterday that no labour would be available for the ship before Saturday, it was decided to proceed to Adelaide with the cargo last night but before doing so, to have the animal landed at Fremantle. Permission was granted by the Fremantle branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation for the animal to be unloaded by the Itaura's crew and the Fremantle Harbour Trust cooperated by supplying a crane for the transfer of the rhinoceros in its crate from the ship to the zoo truck.

Because it was nearly dark when the rhinoceros arrived at the zoo, it was considered preferable to leave the animal in the crate for the night and transfer it to its temporary yard this morning. This will be its home until its new yard—a special enclosure with a concrete floor and

CLOSURE OF MILL

Company Move Endorsed

A departmental report submitted to the Minister for Mines (Mr. Simpson) supports the action of the Parima Mining and Exploration Co. in closing its mill last week. The com-

FIGHTERS FOR HONG KONG

HONG KONG, Jan. 23: The Hong Kong Government announced tonight that the first flight of Vampire jet fighters to re-equip the two Royal Air Force Spitfire squadrons stationed at Hong Kong would arrive from the United Kingdom via Singapore next week. The statement said that the Vampires would "add formidable punch to the existing fighter strength in Hong Kong."

pany, it states, acted correctly and not without considerable investigation being carried out by its experienced mining staff.

Mr. Simpson said yesterday that the report stated that the reason for the closure was a "dangerous depletion" in ore reserves, making it impossible to carry on operations at a profit. Exploratory work carried on by two geologists indicated that further development would open up substantial reserves.

No estimate could yet be given of the time it would take to develop sufficient ore to warrant the recommencement of milling operations and it would probably be at least five or six months before any definite statement could be made.

A total labour force of 74 men would be required to carry out the development programme and it was probable that a skeleton staff would be retained on the mill.

CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TO MacARTHUR

Status In Shaping Policy "Gone With Legend"

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23: General MacArthur's name is now little mentioned in official circles in Washington. This is in sharp contrast with the situation before the Allied offensive in North Korea was repelled by the Chinese.

The State and Defence Departments decline to discuss their relations with General MacArthur, but there are clear signs that Washington now shapes its Korean and Far Eastern policies with far less concern for General MacArthur's views.

Mr. Joseph Harsch, the Washington correspondent of the "Christian Science Monitor," said today that nothing written on official record, either public or secret, showed that General MacArthur's technical authority had been contracted, but it was a fact that the time when he dominated Western policy in the Far East was over.

Saying that General MacArthur did not even exercise final authority over military operations in his theatre, Mr. Harsch added that there was now direct liaison between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General Ridgway at Eighth Army headquarters in Korea.

"Dissatisfaction"

Mr. Harsch said that this did not mean that General MacArthur's power and authority had become only nominal, but it did mean that the "special position" which he has occupied for so long as power in his own right has gone with the legend of his military invincibility.

Saying that the change was in the making for a long time, Mr. Harsch said: "It began at an early stage of the occupation of Japan, when the Australian Government found itself in frequent disagreement with General MacArthur's policies. Dissatisfaction spread gradually to other Governments, which had delegated to him some of their authority. By last November, when General MacArthur launched his 'end the War by Christmas' offensive, almost all of the various Governments and agencies of Government from which he derived his authority were in potential revolt against him."

Mr. Harsch asserted that basic decisions of broad strategy had been made in Washington since the defeat of the Allied offensive in North Korea. He said that

the meeting between President Truman and General MacArthur at Wake Island in mid-October marked the high point of the General's influence with the Administration, but since the Allied defeat in North Korea, the President "no longer backs MacArthur against all comers."

Clarification Plea

Mr. Beverley Baxter, a Conservative member of the British House of Commons, yesterday urged the U.S. State Department to publish the papers about General MacArthur's part in "causing and conducting the Korean war."

The New York "World Telegram" published an article by Mr. Baxter suggesting that, for the sake of Anglo-American confidence, the full story about General MacArthur should be told. He said that after a month in the United States he felt that "the truth still lies at the bottom of the well."

Mr. Baxter made his plea for clarification after saying that British feeling was General MacArthur had either "blundered or was a martyr."

Quoting "reliable" but unnamed sources, Mr. Baxter said that he had heard in New York many things which would cause a world sensation if they were published. These were, first, that General MacArthur knew that Russia, China and North Korea were in complete agreement and that China was to enter the war at a moment which would give her the greatest benefits at the least risk. Secondly, General MacArthur was against United Nations intervention at the time chosen.

Thirdly, as the North Koreans were carrying everything before them in the early stages, China held back. Then General MacArthur's brilliant Inchon landing altered the whole face of the conflict. Fourthly, realising that China was faced with the defeated North Korean army, General MacArthur issued his famous reference to "home by Christmas" with the double object of inspiring his troops to a final all-out attack and of possibly convincing the Chinese that they had nothing to fear from Allied aggression.

POST OFFICE, MELBOURNE, VIC.

Known officially as the Elizabeth Street Post Office, this building is still often referred to as the G.P.O., even though the G.P.O. is situated at Spencer Street. The clock tower is 188 ft. high and its clock, made in 1890, has a peal of 12 bells, the chimes of which were first rung in 1891.



TIME FOR A CAPSTAN

THE EMPIRE'S FAVOURED CIGARETTE

T.S.T. SPECIAL HOSPITAL Brandy.—(Adv.)

901 D-7-50

SURVIVOR DESCRIBES GRIM EXPERIENCE IN AVALANCHE

KLAGENFURT (Austria), Jan. 23: An Austrian peasant, the sole survivor of a party trapped in the snow-lashed Alps last week, today gave this grim description of what it is like to be caught in an avalanche:

"I felt myself seized as if by huge hands, turned upside-down and whirled round in inky darkness. A dreadful roaring filled my ears and after a time I lost consciousness. When I came to my head was sticking out of a mass of snow and I saw that I had been swept along in the body of the avalanche for a distance of about 400 or 500 yards. By some miracle I had been thrown to the surface. Slowly and painfully I worked my way out of the snow's grip and called for my four comrades. But after the

thunderous avalanche a strange deep silence seemed to fill the whole world. The only answer I got was the faint echo of my own voice. I crawled down the slope to the hut where the wife of one of my friends was waiting. She was preparing a beautiful meal for us but we didn't need it now—the others were buried, perhaps for ever, in that broad white grave. Without a word or a tear the woman helped me down the mountainside to hospital. She was very tired, but she would not rest. She went back to help search for her man.—Reuters.

ARMoured ATTACK

The large patrol which was guarding the approaches to Ichon was attacked from the front and two sides by a force estimated at two companies. As armoured vehicles could be heard rumbling along the road behind the attacking enemy force the patrol's leader, Capt. B. S. O'Dowd, of Perth, gave the order to withdraw through the town. The bright moonlight and snowy background made them easy targets but casualties were amazingly light. Along the six-mile trek back to the village in which their vehicles were parked the Australians had to fight off constant enemy attacks.

In the past few days the town of Ichon has been the scene of several skirmishes in which Australians have been involved. A unit led by Lieut. John Church, of Perth, ran into a large force north of the town three nights ago. A section led by Cpl. Jim Everleigh saw enemy troops marching along a yard apart approaching along the road soon after midnight. They waited within five yards of the road until the first ranks had gone past and then opened up with Bren and Owen guns. Ten of the enemy were killed with the first burst. Then, as the larger enemy force scattered and re-formed, the section withdrew.