

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Effect Disputed as Pact Signed; Bradley Urges European Fortress; Senate Okays More Aid for Chinese

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

PACT SIGNED: Hopes & Fears

For better or worse . . . for a hope of peace or a step toward war . . . the North Atlantic pact was now a reality. Whether it would insure peace or aggravate tensions into war, no one could say with finality.

STRIPPED of its mumbo-jumbo phraseology, the intent of the pact is simple: It declares that an act of aggression against any of the signatory nations shall be construed as an attack against all. It does not make mandatory military help by any signatory to any pact member who may be attacked.

Therein, as many observers have pointed out, lies the pact's strength and its weakness. The strength inherent in the proviso lies in its leaving to signatory nations exercise of their own judgment regarding the degree of emergency in the event of attack, and does not precipitately hurl all pact signatories into war willy-nilly.

THERE WAS STAUNCH denial that the pact was aimed at any particular nation, but only a moron would concede the truth in that. The pact definitely was aimed at blocking Russian aggression against the smaller signatories, and there was little effort to hide the hope that the pact would do just that.

On the other hand, there were those who felt the step was one which would ultimately lead to war as Russia would brook no actions short of war to stop the tide of Soviet imperialism.

Pact signatories were the United States, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

DEFENSE: Arms for Europe

The United States was urged to follow up swiftly its peace-insurance action in signing the North Atlantic pact. General Omar N. Bradley, U.S. chief of staff, called for a military aid program which would strengthen western Europe as a fortress and stop an aggressor before he could overrun the continent.

Bradley rejected the idea widely held among some military men that it would be impossible to stop Russia from conquering all Europe if it chose. The best thing the United States could do, according to that theory, would be to strike back with air power and lead a counterattack which would eventually liberate the continent.

BRADLEY flatly contended that such strategy would breed despair among potential allies in Europe and render them impotent.

His remarks carried added significance because he stated he had been requested by the state department to comment publicly on the military security significance of the North Atlantic pact and its implementation.

He took a hefty swing at the Soviets, although omitting them by name, when he declared: "If to be resolute is to be hostile, then we shall have to endure the slanders of those who call us hostile. For their slanders are the expressions of angry resentment from jackals denied their plunder."

HE DECLARED the Atlantic pact had removed the world crisis from a "cold war" stage, and warned that America could all "too readily become the victim of our own slogans . . . if we do not soon renounce our catch-word addiction in all too many minds that 'cold war' is the overtone to real war, we may find ourselves with a mentality that accepts real war as inevitable."

But did his urging to strengthen the "ramparts" of Europe in favor of air power and liberation later, mean strengthen the pact countries' defenses with men as well as guns and munitions.

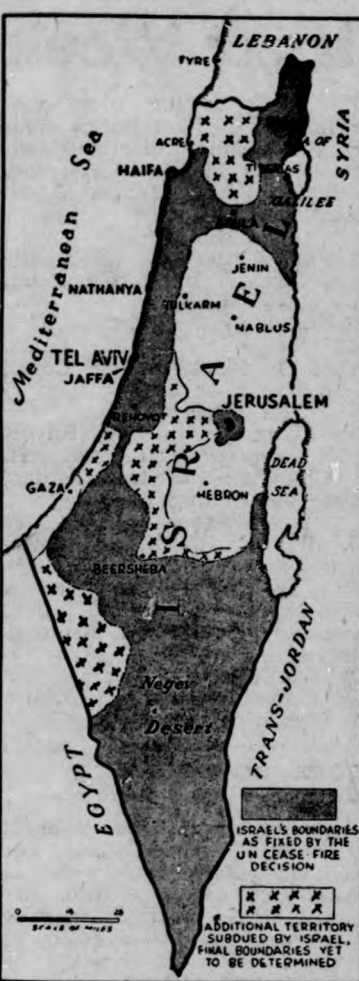
That was a possibility the people of the U.S. would have to consider.

RUSSIANS ON RAMPAGE

Soviet Troops Attack Army Post in Iran

Even as the North Atlantic pact was being signed in an actual, though disavowed, effort to stem the spread of Russian imperialism, a military informant in Tehran reported Russian forces had attacked an Iranian army post. The report stated a Russian regiment, supported by tanks and armored cars had made a new foray into Azerbaijan province.

Israel's Miracle



This map compares for the first time the boundaries of the U.N. decision with the area actually won by Israel arms. The miracle of reclamation is Israel's present achievement and future hope.

ARMISTICE: Jews in Dissent

Amid verbal strife and dissension, the government of Israel consummated an armistice with Trans-Jordan. Despite vociferous opposition, the government won a test vote of confidence in parliament.

WHATEVER ELSE the armistice may have effected, a foreign office spokesman said it had added 150 square miles to Israel. This area was to be pared off the northwestern area of the bulge by an Arab withdrawal from the Hadera-Afula road and off the western edge by a withdrawal from the Tel Aviv-Haifa railroad.

But the armistice was not effected without bitterness. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's opponents charged the armistice was tantamount to recognizing the incorporation of the Jenin-Tulkarm-Nablus bulge north of Jerusalem into the Hashemite Jordan kingdom of monarch Abdullah.

The vote followed a stormy five-hour debate. Opponents charged the armistice opened Israel to Anglo-American influence. Ben-Gurion retorted that possibly Trans-Jordan was a puppet government (of Britain) but there were also puppet parties in Israel serving outside interests.

CHINA: More Aid

There would be more aid from the United States—but, locking the door too late—there was a condition. The senate wrote into the aid bill a ban on shipments to Communist-controlled areas.

IT LONG HAD BEEN public information that much of the supplies and munitions sent by this country to aid the Chinese Nationalists in their fight against communism had fallen into Communist hands. The procedure was beginning to make America and its Far East policy appear a bit silly.

Now, congress had moved to stop a procedure which must have afforded no little amusement to Russia and her Communist hordes in China.

THE U.S. SENATE accepted an amendment to the aid measure to make available 54 million dollars in "frozen" China aid funds—"provided it is spent only in areas controlled by the Nationalist government."

ARMED UNITY: A Contradiction?

Unity of the nation's armed services was promised, but where was the unity in defense-preparation thinking?

For, despite the displayed potency of the air arm—combined with the atom bomb—to immobilize naval might, defense experts were going blithely ahead designing and building new "super-warcraft."

LATEST EXAMPLE was the cruiser Roanoke—"the world's most powerful light cruiser"—and described by enthusiastic builders as being "practically unsinkable." The 680-foot Roanoke cost 30 million dollars, and was under construction five years. Carrying a crew of 51 officers and 992 men, the cruiser displaces 17,000 tons and has a designed speed of 33 knots, which is approximately 37 miles per hour.

The hull, it was said, renders the ship practically unsinkable. She has a main battery of 12 semi-automatic six-inch guns, a secondary battery of 20 rapid-fire three-inch guns, and six twin 20-mm. mounts.

Speaking at the commissioning of the Roanoke, Louis Johnson, U. S. defense secretary, said the vessel was joining the "greatest fleet we have ever maintained in time of supposed peace."

HE DECLARED the ship would be "kept in training for its primary mission," and carefully omitting the word "war," Johnson described the mission as "one we all hope and believe it will not have to discharge."

Referring to armed service unity, the defense secretary said: "Our safety lies in the combined contribution of them all, each service in the sphere it is best equipped to control. This relationship has been carefully worked out and it will be closely adjusted to combat trim in the very near future."

With that aim, the people of the United States would be found in full accord.

NEW FEEDS: Mighty Potent

Could an animal burst its seams by eating?

That is an academic question, of course; but some of the new livestock feeds are reported to be so powerful that animals literally "burst their seams" if fed too much.

DR. H. J. PREBLUDA, nutritionist, stated that scientists simply would have to breed new animals with greater capacities.

The new high-energy feeds are rich in vitamins, especially a new vitamin B-12, found in what is called the animal "protein factor." Such feeds are low in materials like fiber that do not generate energy.

Dr. Prebluda said that when these feeds are given to poultry it is like pouring rich coal into a furnace. Rich coal needs a draft, but the birds are not capable of burning rich feeds under draft. They burst their limits of capacity to handle food—they have a physical breakdown.

HE ADDED that only a short time ago it took three and one-half pounds of feed to produce one pound of broiler meat. Now this same meat can be produced from two and one-half pounds of feed. Birds that reach top weight in 14 weeks on old type feeds reach top weight in only nine weeks on the new super-feed.

However, Dr. Prebluda concludes, they could grow even faster if they could handle the rich foods faster.

Maid of Cotton



Historic Tower bridge forms a striking background for this photo of Miss Sue Howell, America's "Maid of Cotton" as she poses on the banks of the Thames during a sightseeing tour of London.

Surprise!

At Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., three strangers drove up to a hangar at Brown airport. Two of them stopped to talk with a mechanic, Earl Snyder.

The third man went inside, hopped into a plane, taxied out and disappeared into the sky, headed north.

His companions calmly got into their car and left. The plane had little fuel.



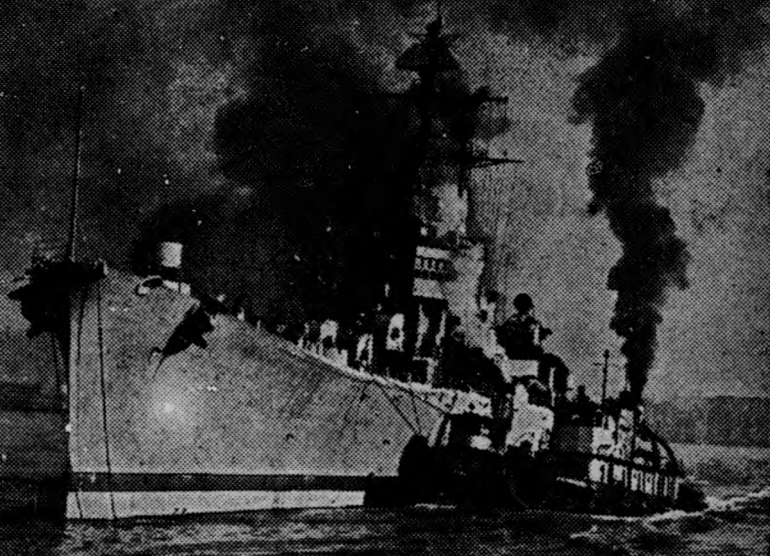
MANHUNT CAUSES EXCITEMENT IN PARIS . . . While a foursome of fellow cops looks on from right background, two determined-looking gendarmes hold their guns at the ready as they attempt to flush out a trio of burglars. The fleeing felons led the police a merry chase over Paris' celebrated rooftops. The burglars were masquerading as policemen when they were surprised by genuine cops. One of the burglars eventually was caught, the other managed to make his getaway.



ROBBER WAIVES EXTRADITION . . . Luman C. Ransdall (right) 23-year-old train robber who was wounded while resisting arrest, is shown with an unidentified prisoner after he waived examining trial in Washington. He was ordered returned to West Virginia to face prosecution on the charge. Ramsdall and a confederate robbed a B & O train near Martinsburg, W. Va. This photograph was taken after his arraignment before a U.S. commissioner in the Capital.



FOR LADY ANGLERS ONLY . . . The best stocked trout stream in North Carolina is Neel's creek, near Mt. Mitchell; but it is strictly for lady anglers only. Pat Miller (above) is one of hundreds of girls, some experts, some novices, who head for the stream over the weekends. She is pictured enjoying the thrill of landing a stubborn trout.



NEWEST U. S. CRUISER TOWED TO COMMISSIONING . . . The U.S.S. Roanoke is shown being jockeyed by the Delaware by tugs, from Camden, N.J., to the Philadelphia shipyard for her commissioning. The Roanoke, another in Uncle Sam's string of great fighting craft, was built at the New York navy yard. It is a sister ship to the U. S. S. Worcester.



TOP RED IN BERLIN . . . General Vassily I. Chulikov, 48, one of Russia's outstanding heroes in the battle of Stalingrad, has been appointed to succeed Marshal Vassily D. Sokolovsky as Russian military governor in Berlin's trination control system.



ALL-AMERICAN FRESHMAN . . . "Miss All-American Freshman" is the title bestowed on smiling Marilyn Overby, freshman at the University of Florida, in a contest to find the most beautiful coed in the United States. Miss Overby is 18, will get a Hollywood trip.



DISTINGUISHED VISITOR . . . Mrs. Winston Churchill leaves the Baruch home where she and her famed husband were guests, for a drive around New York City. The wartime prime minister was too busy working on a speech to come along.



PRETENDER . . . Dr. Samuel Solnik, dentist in the Israeli army medical corps, claims his young son, Emanuel is a direct descendant of King David of Israel.



JOB EXCHANGER . . . Ada Fishburn, 24, British factory worker who swapped jobs with an American factory girl for a month, is shown packing away an armful of gifts and merchandise, especially canned goods which she cannot easily get in England, preparatory to the trip home.

Washington Merry-Go-Round. DREW PEARSON

Secret "Leaked"

NOW that James Forrestal is out as secretary of national defense, the story can be told of one of his last sessions with Truman and the man who was to take his place—Louis Johnson.

Though Forrestal had put up a tough fight against the appearance of being ousted from his job, he saw the handwriting on the wall and asked only that there be a gradual change-over from him to his successor. He wanted this to take place May 1, but at a luncheon with the President and Louis Johnson, he bowed to Truman's wish that it be April 1.

Furthermore, Forrestal volunteered to help Johnson in taking over the defense job and immediately placed important secret intelligence at his disposal.

At this luncheon meeting, it was agreed on the date when Johnson's appointment would be announced, and Johnson declared that until that time he was going to leave town.

"I don't want to be accused of leaking the news," he said. "And it's already begun to leak." He looked meaningfully at the other two. "There's been no leak from me," declared Truman.

"May one cross-examine the President of the United States?" asked Johnson.

The President smiled, and Johnson proceeded to do so.

"Didn't you tell General Eisenhower about this?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," admitted Truman, "But he won't tell a soul."

"And did you tell Senator Tydings?" asked Forrestal.

"Yes, I forgot about that," acknowledged the President, "but Tydings won't leak."

"Yeah?" said the new secretary of defense. "Well, it's leaking already. And that's why I'm leaving town."

Michigan Scandals

If the justice department ever quits sitting on its hands and takes a real look at the Michigan political contributions, it will uncover some of the juiciest scandals in the U. S. A. Furthermore, it will get to the bottom of the manner in which a lot of political money has been raised in this country.

The justice department has fudged-dudded round with a semi-investigation, but the U. S. district attorneys in Michigan have been half scared of the big Michigan auto interests, while higher-ups in the justice department have been busy chasing spies and running off in other directions.

Meanwhile, Sen. Francis Myers of Pennsylvania, chairman of the senate campaign investigating committee, has had some efficient probers busy in Michigan, and they have dug up evidence of widespread violation of the corrupt practices act. Among other things they have found:

A cashier's check, Feb. 24, 1948, by the Barclay Deyo corporation, a Detroit Ford dealer, for \$750 to the Wayne county Republican finance committee.

Also a contribution by the Park Motor Sales company, a Lincoln-Mercury dealer in Detroit, for \$750, on Feb. 11, 1948, to the Wayne county Republican committee.

Also \$953 to the same committee on March 12, 1948, by the Floyd Rice Sales and Service Co., another Ford dealer in Detroit.

Not only are these contributions by corporations a violation of the corrupt practices act, but senate investigators are interested in ascertaining what connection there was between certain large gifts to the Republican machine and the nonpayment of sales taxes by certain auto dealers. Michigan raised a terrific war of dough for the G. O. P. What did the Michigan auto people get in return for their money?

Capital News Capsules

Tito wants help—this may be denied, but Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia has appealed to the United States for American artillery, communications equipment and spare parts for his air force. Tito has told the American embassy in Belgrade he fears a Soviet pincer attack on Yugoslavia from Albania and Bulgaria where the Russians are concentrating military forces. . . . the U. S. embassy has passed along Tito's urgent request—with the postscript that it has ironclad evidence that an average of two Russian ships each day have unloaded military equipment at the Albanian port of Durazzo for the past three weeks.

Diminishing Communists — The American ambassador to Italy, James Dunn, has just sent a confidential cable to the state department reporting that, thanks to the friendship train, the Marshall plan, Italian Communist membership has dropped from more than two million to less than a million, 500,000.

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