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The Free Press Journal

VOL. 14 NO. 193 BOMBAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1945. PRICE TWO ANNAS

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JAVA EXTREMISTS CARRY REVOLT INTO SUMATRA

REBEL SHIPS KEEP DUTCH NAVAL CORDON ON TENTER-HOOKS

British Abettors Get First Slash In "Peaceful" Palembang

BATAVIA, Dec. 2.

DUTCH fears that the fighting in Java may spread to Sumatra were voiced today by the homeland radio station, Hilversum.

Reporting that leaders of the extremist Indonesian youth organisation controlling parts of West Java, are trying to cross the Sunda Strait separating the two islands, the radio said that the Dutch fleet is keeping watch along the Javanese coast to prevent any Indonesian vessels from leaving Java.

The Sunda Strait is narrower than the 30-mile Palk Strait separating India from Ceylon, but the Hilversum Radio said that "at all costs" Indonesian extremists would be prevented from carrying hostilities from Java to Sumatra.

ALLIED CONFIRMATION

This radio report received some measure of substantiation from today's Allied *Communique* which for the first time reported symptoms of unrest in hitherto peaceful Sumatra, Indonesian civil police were stated to have tried to obstruct the Japanese from moving Amboneste troops to Fort De Kock in West Central Sumatra from neighbouring areas, while in the Palembang area in South Sumatra, A British medical orderly was wounded when attacked by Indonesians armed with swords.

In Java, the situation at the new storm centre Bandoeng, 100 miles southeast of Batavia, is growing hourly more threatening.

Japanese tanks and artillery under Allied orders have been called in to aid Gurkhas to defend the 50,000 Dutch and Eurasian refugees who are concentrated in this "Simla of Java", and Mosquitoes and Thunderbolts were today sent into action.

The British planes did a "brilliant" piece of precious bombing reminiscent of the famous pin-point attacks on Gestapo headquarters in former German-occupied Europe.

Two rocket-carrying Mosquitoes and two bomb-carrying Thunderbolts were used to demolish two adjacent houses which had been turned into strongpoints by Indonesians.

Japanese battery of three Krupp guns and three mountain guns has been in action in Bandoeng, shelling Indonesian headquarters on Allied orders. Indonesians have evacuated the northern part of the town from where 1,000 refugees have been evacuated, and evacuation of the southern area, where 3,000 Eurasians are in danger, is proceeding.

GERMAN ARRESTED

The line of communications between Ambarawa—where the internes camp is still threatened—and Semarang is now clear. Semarang itself, which seemed a week ago to be developing into a second "Sourabaya," is quiet.

Allied tanks and troops were today fanning out from Sourabaya," attacking suspected Indonesian headquarters. A German trying to escape from a village was arrested, and an enormous dump of 10,000 anti-aircraft guns and a number of bombs was also discovered. A Hindu priest and a Church of England clergyman conducted the funeral rites for a number of Allied dead.

Question For Commons

The Secretary of State for War is to be asked in the House of Commons on Tuesday, December 4, by the Labour member for the Deritend division of Birmingham, Mr. Longden, how many Indian soldiers are refusing to fight Indonesian troops, and if the War Secretary will take steps to ensure that the conscientious scruples of these soldiers be recognised and protected.—GLOBE.

MYSTERY OF MISSING BANGKOK INDIAN

Taken For Interrogation

NEW DELHI, Dec.2.

A report received by the I.N.A. Defence Committee from Bangkok states that Ishwar Singh Narullah, President of the Independence League, Harbanslal Sachdeo, Secretary and Madar Singh, Pandit Raghunath Jaswanth Singh and Amar Singh Sachdeo, members, were arrested in Bangkok in September 1945 and kept in the local jail without any charge evidently for enquiry purposes. They were allowed food and interview with relatives till November 10 after which they were removed to an unknown destination. It is reported that in spite of the best efforts of Indians in Bangkok no information is available from the military authorities.—U.P.

British Delegation For India

SORENSEN AND COVE TIPPED AS "PROBABLES"

(FREE PRESS CABLE)

LONDON, Dec. 2.

As the day for the announcement of the India policy draws nearer, there is in evidence unusual interest in Indian affairs not only among Labourites and Liberals, but also among Tories, especially amongst the radical Tory element headed by Mr. Quinting Hogg. It is an open secret now that when Henderson and Lord Pethick Lawrence make their statements in the Houses of Commons and Lords respectively they will also announce the Government's decision to send a representative All-Party Parliamentary Delegation to India as quickly as possible.

I am informed that the Delegation would come to India on a fact-finding mission and see the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, first and then meet the Executive Councillors, collectively and individually. Thereafter, the party would tour the key cities of the country and meet important political figures with a view to ascertaining from them "the best method of quickly achieving the self-Government for India." I learn that the party would make a special study of the Pakistan issue and in that connection meet Mr. Jinnah and discuss the question with the Mahasabha and the Congress.

INTEREST IN I.N.A. TRIALS

The Delegation would be intensely interested to know responsible Indian views on (1) the Indian National Army trials, (2) the Indonesian and Indo-Chinese questions and (3) the methods of convening a Constituent Assembly as speedily as possible after the elections.

It may be mentioned that the India League was the first to approach the Labour Government with a request to sponsor a Labour Delegation composed of the M.Ps. Messrs. Sorensen and Dobbie, and one prominent Trade Unionist, with Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon as the Delegation's Secretary. It was suggested that this Delegation would be of an independent character and carry out independent investigations into Indian affairs, unfinanced by the Labour party and visiting the country with the sole purpose of bringing back positive proof of Indians demand for complete independence. Although, Mr. Menon's suggestions were found unacceptable for obvious reasons, it is fairly correct to assume that Mr. Sorensen may be included among members of the forthcoming Parliamentary delegation if only because Mr. Sorensen has just been elected to the Chairmanship of the India sub-committee of the Committee of External Affairs of the Labour Party. The other member may be Mr. William Cove.

LAST MISSION TO SLAVE INDIA

The majority of the Labourite back-benchers accept Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's view regarding the Delegation's visit and hope that the Government will make a wise selection of those men who will readily inspire confidence in the Indian people for they realise that this Delegation may be the last one to set foot on the Indian soil as members of the ruling race.

FIRST SOVIET VESSEL ON WAY TO INDIA

MOSCOW, Dec. 2.

The first Soviet vessel to sail from the Black Sea to India since the beginning of the war has left Odessa. The vessel is the merchantman "Michurin" and is travelling to Calcutta via the Suez Canal.

With No Regrets

LONDON, Dec. 2.

Sir Oswald Mosley, who was leader of the British Union of Fascists before the war, told a Press Association reporter today: "If anyone wants to shoot me for the opinions I hold let them get on with it." As for my political opinions, I have always said that they are in no way changed." Asked about his plans for the future Sir Oswald told the reporter that he intended to interest himself in a publishing concern.—Reuter.

Amery May Cheat Hangman's Noose

Advanced T. B. To Get Him King's Reprieve?

(FREE PRESS CABLE)

LONDON, Dec. 2.

The 'Sunday Despatch' today reports that John Amery, the confessed traitor who has been condemned to die by hanging, was already doomed from tuberculosis which has made such progress that prison doctors confirm the opinion that, in any case, his life could only be measured in terms of a few months. His execution has been provisionally fixed for December 19. "It is not the custom in this country to execute a dying man and I understand that the limit placed by any doctor on Amery's life is nine months. It is the duty of the Home Secretary to review every sentence and it is in his province, to advise the King to grant reprieve even without petition or any outside pressure and I believe that John Amery has strong hopes of a reprieve being granted," says the Despatch special correspondent.

'QUAKE HAVOC IN PASNI

45 Bodies Recovered

KARACHI, Dec. 2.

Forty-five bodies have been recovered at Pasni, according to latest official reports received last evening regarding the damage caused by the earthquake in Pasni, a port on the Makran coast and Barkhan Tehsil. 35 persons are seriously injured.

The whole place appears flat.

Ormara, another port on the same coast is believed to be in the same condition.

The navy is taking out blankets, fuel, food, etc., some supplied by Sindhi merchants.

The situation in Barkhan Tahsil is much more serious than at first believed and reported. Eight persons are reported to have been killed in Barkhan itself.

More details are expected by Monday.

With a view to acquaint himself regarding the damages done to Pasni and Ormara, Lt.-Col. W. R. Hay, A.G.G. to the Baluchistan Government paid a flying visit to Karachi.

He informed the 'Associated Press of India' during his brief stayl that he was glad to learn that the military, navy, and civil authorities had rushed aid in the shape of medicines and food to these devastated places.

Pasni was totally damaged and doctors have been rushed to render first aid.—AP.

Stalin To Launch A New Policy?

VISIT TO AMERICA CONSIDERED LIKELY

MOSCOW, Dec. 2.

Generalissimo Stalin is expected to return to Moscow in the near future after his holiday at Sochi on the shores of the Black Sea.

Fully rested from the effects of his strenuous work during the war, the Generalissimo will, it is believed, come back to the Kremlin to open a new chapter of his career as leader of the Soviet Union.

There are various reports circulating in Moscow as to how Generalissimo Stalin will guide the nation through the post-war period. Persistent, although wholly unconfirmed rumours say he may attend a "Big Three" meeting early next year. According to some of these reports, preliminary moves for such a conference are already in hand. But Anglo-American Embassies here refuse to comment.

The Soviet Foreign Office, of course maintains its customary silence. It is recalled, however, that President Truman on his way home from Potsdam revealed that Generalissimo Stalin had said he would consider going to America fo ra future meeting.

This is probably the basis of constantly recurring stories that the next gathering of the "Big Three" will be in the United States.

Hongkong "Gold Bloc"

HONGKONG, Dec. 2.

With a view to resuming trading in gold bars, 22 prominent Hongkong native banks have formed a "gold bloc," according to an announcement by the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange. The smallest single transaction will be five Tels (a Tel is equivalent to 1.5 ounces avoirdupois).

The bloc members are issuing bars with their own chops guaranteeing the metal of pure quality. Members issuing bars below the set standard will be penalised.

The latest quotation is 20-5/8 sterling per Tel.—Reuter.

Punjab Congressman Arrested

LAHORE, Dec. 2.

Master Mota Singh a prominent Congress leader, who was released in September last, after five years' detention, was arrested last night at the Moghalpura railway station under the Defence of India Rules. The arrest was made on a warrant issued by the District Magistrate of Campbellpur for an alleged prejudicial speech delivered by Master Mota Singh in connection with the Congress election campaign at Campbell.—AP.

REDS AWAIT ZERO HOUR IN PERSIA

AZERBAIJAN REBELS MAULED BY TRIBAL GANGSTERS

LONDON, December 2.

THE Chahsawan tribe, 100,000 strong and operating between Tabris and the Iraq border, has risen against the democratic forces which are leading the separatist movement in Azerbaijan and massacred the garrison holding Sarish, 100 miles east of Baghdad.

Reporting this. The Observer's well-known contributor 'Liberator,' in a message from Teheran says this latest explosion in the Persian revolt may lead to Soviet intervention to protect the democrats and maintain law and order in the Russian zone.

Of conditions in Teherna, 'Liberator' says there is much concern in Government circles at police reports about the considerable number of strangers in the capital. The police say there are about 2,000 recently-arrived travellers whom they suspect but dare not touch. In the bazars they say there are more than 10,000 such travellers. The slightest incident, therefore, may lead to trouble and then bloodshed.—GLOBE.

GOVERNOR SHOT

The British Embassy today strongly denied that any fresh British troops had arrived in Persia. According to the Persian Press rebels who entered the northern town of Maraghen shot the Governor dead and seriously wounded a Persian army Colonel.

Jap General To Hang

SYDNEY, Dec. 2.

The sentence of death by hanging was passed on Lieutenant Takehiko Uazaki who was found guilty of cannibalism in the first trial held for cannibalism in South-west Pacific at Wewak yesterday.—Reuter.

LATE NEWS

STORM OVER UNO

LONDON, Dec. 2.

A fierce controversy may break out in the United Nations Preparatory Commission during the coming week over the trusteeship issue.

When the Trusteeship Technical Committee— one of the eight technical committees set up by the United Nations Preparatory Commission—met on Saturday only two speeches were permitted on the Yugoslav proposal submitted on Friday, but both indicated troubled waters ahead, reports.—Reuter.

BATAVIA, Dec. 2.

The situation in Java is still explosive, in the view of the new Premier, Dr. Sutan Sahrir who said, "Young men are excited. If Bandoeng really flares up I fear it will affect other centres. I have spoken to local leaders, but they say that things are very difficult." He expressed doubt whether the "regular" Indonesian Army was capable of restoring order, particularly since its former commander had disappeared.

TOKIO, Dec. 2.

General Douglas MacArthur in the biggest single round-up of Japanese leaders thus far tonight ordered the arrest of 59 prominent war crimes suspects, including army and navy leaders, industrialists, politicians bankers, professors and journalists.

GANDHIJI AGAIN CALLS ON BENGAL GOVERNOR

Providential Escape

CALCUTTA, Dec. 2.

It is learnt that a collision between Mahatma Gandhi's car and a military vehicle was averted yesterday by the presence of mind of the driver of the latter.

This was on Barrackpore Trunk Road leading to Sodepur Ashram from Calcutta.

Mahatma Gandhi was proceeding to the Ashram from Maurigram Railway Station. The military vehicle pulled up in time and a collision was avoided.

Barrackpore Trunk Road has some of the heaviest traffic in Calcutta area, consisting largely of military vehicles.—A.P.

SERVICEMEN PROTEST

DEMAND ENQUIRY ON CALCUTTA FIRING

CALCUTTA, Dec. 2.

In a letter published in today's issue of the "Statesman," a group of Allied servicemen—British, American and Chinese—express the desire that a full impartial public inquiry into the recent police firing in Calcutta should be held, and if found culpable, responsible persons punished.

To retain in arrest students who did not take part in the violence that followed is not only a transgression of true democracy, but a deep blow to good relationship and understanding with the Indian people, the signatories observe.

They add: "We believe further that to prevent such disorganised disturbances from occurring in the future, the whole machinery permitting public demonstrations as a means of representation of the thoughts and ideas of the Indian people should be overhauled so that a repetition of November 21-23 does not occur."

Harijan Voters Lose Primary Rights

Protest Against Govt.'s Panel Election Notice

BOMBAY, Sunday.

An urgent meeting of the Working Committee of the All-India Depressed Classes League, Bombay Provincial Committee, was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. B. Chandorkar, Vice-Chairman of the League Committee at Parel, when Messrs. N. S. Kajrolkar, T. H. Sonovane, S. G. Songaonkar, K. M. Chaughule, S. N. Shirtorkar, D. L. Lokhande and A. V. Ahirekar, were present.

It was resolved by the Committee to wait in deputation on His Excellency the Governor of Bombay to bring to his notice the injustice done to the Harijan voters by the recent Government notification fixing the Parel election on the 3rd of January 1946 before the publication of the final electoral roll and thus depriving thousands of legitimate Harijan voters, who have recently submitted their applications to the Collector of Bombay for enlisting their names in the modified voters' list, of their right to vote in the primary elections.

Mr. N. S. Kajrolkar, Nationalist Harijan Leader of Bombay, in a statement says:

The Government of Bombay have issued a Press Note stating that Primary Elections by Scheduled Caste voters of four candidates for each seat reserved for them in the Bombay Legislative Assembly must be completed by January 3, 1946. The Press Note asks such members of the Scheduled Castes, whose names may not be found in the electoral roll published on the basis of the financial year 1940-41, to apply for being enrolled under Rule 25 of the "Bombay Electoral Roll" Rules. This part of the Press Note is bound to cause a serious hardship to thousands of qualified Harijans. It is not a practicable course for all these applicants to submit their applications again. The proper course is suitably to amend Rule 27, so that the voters included in the Electoral Roll as published for the first time i.e., on December 3, 1945, should be entitled to exercise their votes at the Primary Elections. For the Scheduled Castes the primary elections are of great importance."

HONGKONG TO HAVE BIG RADIO STATION

LONDON, Dec. 2.

A wireless station weighing over 2,500 tons with a range of 5,000 miles—comparable with larger radio stations in Great Britain—is on its way to Hongkong, where it will be assembled by the Admiralty.

Telegrams To Japan

BOMBAY, Dec. 2.

With immediate effect Government and Press telegrams are admitted to and from Japan at rates shown in the current guide, says a telegraph notification.

CONGRESS CIRCLES EXPECT GREAT RESULTS

INA Men Greet The Mahatma: Darshan Seekers Vex Him

CALCUTTA, Dec. 2.

MAHATMA GANDHI RESUMED HIS TALKS WITH MR. R. G. CASEY, GOVERNOR OF BENGAL, ON SUNDAY EVENING. THOUGH NO AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AS TO THE NATURE OF THEIR TALKS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT GREAT THINGS WITH REGARD TO BENGAL'S PRESENT PROBLEMS WOULD COME OUT OF THE TALKS.

Forty-six men of the Indian National Army who were released today from Nilganj, came to the Ashram to have Darshan of Gandhiji at the evening prayer. They greeted the gathering with shouts of "Jai Hind" and joined the prayer. The men stated that there were still 600 INA men in the Nilganj Camp, and that they were being released in batches.

For his second meeting with the Bengal Governor, Mahatma Gandhi arrived at Government House at 6-30 p.m. the same hour as he arrived on Saturday.

He was accompanied by Mr. Pyarelal and Mr. Sudhir Ghosh.

Mahatma Gandhi's dark-coloured car, with the Congress tricolour flying from its bonnet entered the northern gateway of Calcutta's 150 years' old Government House at 6-25 p.m.

It was known among a few this evening that the talks were being continued today, but except for a solitary pressman there was no spectator as Gandhiji drove in.

Earlier this evening it was stated in Congress circles at the Sodepore Ashram where Mahatma Gandhi is styaing, that great things with regard to Bengal's present problems were expected to come out of the meetings between Gandhiji and Mr. Casey.

The Gandhi-Casey meeting lasted 90 minutes today, and Mahatma Gandhi left Government House at 8 p.m.

MAY BE RESUMED

Mrs. Casey, wife of the Governor met Gandhiji today at Government House during the later's visit.

No idea is available authoritatively as to the subject of the talks between the Governor and Gandhiji, which have now extended over two days and lasted about three hours. It is not also known whether they have terminated or will be continued

In view of the length of the talks, however, it is considered in unofficial circles that they must have been comprehensive, embracing possibly the question of Bengal's political prisoners also.

Mr. Pyarelal, Gandhiji's Secretary, who accompanied him to Government House last night, would not say anything about the talk that Gandhiji had with the Bengal Governor yesterday. But, he said the Indian problem generally and the Bengal aspect in particular were discussed and the talk was very cordial and helpful to both. Both Gandhiji and Mr. Casey expressed the wish to meet again.

MEETS WESTCOTT

After his talk with Mr. Casey tonight, Mahatma Gandhi motored to Bishop's House, where he met Dr. Foss Westcott, who was Meropolitan of India and the Bishop of Calcutta till recently. Mahatma Gandhi then returned to the Sodepore Ashram.

Mahatma Gandhi came out of his residence at the Ashram to give "Darshan" to a large number of people who would not attend the congregational prayer.

Addressing them, Gandhiji said that if people went there and insisted on his 'darshan' after prayer, they would be asking him to do something which his strength could not stand.

APPEAL TO PEOPLE

Warning them that he would die if if they did so, Gandhiji said that he had come to Bengal to serve the people. If they insisted on his 'darshan' and on touching his feet it would cause him exertion that would not be helpful for the work for which he had come.

He wanted their love and he wanted them to respond to his call, but let them not ask for his 'darshan'. He was a human being and was not God. He could stand the strain upto a limit. But if they acted as they had done today his failing health would not be able to stand it. He was an old man and a weak man. He wanted to serve them and he requested them not to shout slogans or clap hands. They wanted work. At prayer time they just met to pray for strength and peace of mind, so that they might do their work. He hoped they would not repeat what they had done today and that they would allow him to do his work.

LONGER STAY

Mahatma Gandhi's tour programme in Bengal is still under consideration. The main purpose of his visit to Bengal this time, it is stated, is to contact her people and study the problems, specially economic, which led to the terrible famine of 1943, and, if possible, to find out some avenues for ameliorating their distress.

It is learnt that Gandhiji, therefore, proposes to remain in Calcutta longer than he previously expected to in order to meet different groups of people and ascertain their views in this regard.

It is further gathered that if his presence at a particular place is absolutely necessary to help him in studying the problem, he will visit that particular place only.

Mahatma Gandhi slept well last night on the verandah of his residence in the Ashram. The morning prayer was held at about 4-45 a.m. and was attended by 25 inmates of the Ashram.

Today's afternoon prayer was attended by about 25,000 men and women.

NEHRU'S TALKS WITH C.-in-C.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in reply to a question from an "Associated Press of India" representative this evening declined to say anything on his talks with the Commander-in-Chief yesterday except the remark that no special significance be attached to it. He characterised as inaccurate a press report stating that trial formed the topic of discussions between him and the C.-in-C.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Congress President, arrived in Allahabad today from Bindhyachal. He is staying for the night at Anand Bhawan with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and will leave by air for Calcutta tomorrow morning.

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