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THOUSANDS DEAD IN SIND 'QUAKE

ALL INDIA STRIKE THREATENED

RAILWAYMEN READY TO HOLD BALLOT

PROTEST AGAINST POLICY OF RETRENCHMENT

BOMBAY, 1.—Railway workers all over India are preparing to hold a ballot to decide on a strike as a protest against the Railway Board's decision to retrench 250,000 railwaymen, it is learnt here.

The South Indian Railway Labour Union and the Bengal and Assam Railway Workers' Union have already decided on a strike. The BB and CI Railwaymen's Union will take decision on December 7 at its meeting at Ahmedabad.

It is stated that the A-I Railwaymen's Federation has made 16 different suggestions to the Railway Board to avoid retrenchment.

Among these are: reduction of hours of work, one month's leave with pay to all employees every year, work given to contractors to be taken over by the railway, manufacture of locomotives and rolling stock to be undertaken in the railway workshops instead of importing them from abroad and housing schemes be adopted to provide accommodation for all railway workers.

The Railway Board is expected to give its final reply on December 5. The workers' unions are organising protest demonstrations throughout the country against the proposed plan for retrenchment.

It is learnt that after December 5 workers will participate in a strike ballot, which is the last step before a general strike is decided on.

The other demands of the workers are: (1) The present dearness allowance be stopped and it be consolidated with wages; and (2) They be given three months' victory bonus. —APL

MORE UNO PROCEDURAL TROUBLE

LONDON, 1.—A fight among United Nations delegates was fought today over a recommendation giving the Security Council authority to make only a single copy record of private meetings and discussions to it to members of the 11-man body.

A committee defence action on the recommendation, made by the Executive Committee, after the League of Nations delegation had declared that this would give the Council authority to hold secret discussions which would not be open even to future members.

Action on the recommendation was deferred until Monday next, as it seemed likely that the measure would be defeated when it came to a vote. However, some of the delegates pointed out that even if the Security Council were to adopt such a rule since under the terms of procedure laid down it has the right to make its own rules and regulations.

HAI GENERAL EXECUTED

CASERTA (ITALY), 2.—A firing squad on Saturday executed Gen. Anton Dostler, former Commander of the German 75th Corps, who was sentenced to death on October 12 by the US Military Commission on charges of ordering the execution of 15 American soldiers. —Reuter.

GANDHI'S SECOND MEETING WITH CAVEY

CALCUTTA, 2.—Mr. Gandhi had another interview this evening with the Governor of Bengal, Mr. R. G. Casey. The meeting lasted 10 minutes. It is understood that the subjects discussed included the recent disturbances in the city. (See page 8.)

PORT WITH POPULATION OF 10,000 WIPED OUT

ANOTHER TOWN LAID FLAT: EXTENSIVE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

KARACHI, 2.—Reports trickling into Karachi show that the devastation following in the wake of the recent earthquake has been terrific. Ormara, a small port 150 miles west of Karachi in Baluchistan with a population of 10,000 has been completely wiped out.

Dead bodies have been washed ashore in thousands, says the 'United Press of India'. Property worth lakhs has disappeared under water. Launches which left Karachi yesterday in a wireless message, says that the loss of life and property has been extensive.

An 'Associated Press of India' report from Quetta says that 45 bodies have been recovered at Pami, a port 230 miles west of Karachi on the Makran coast in Baluchistan. Thirty-five persons have been seriously injured and the whole place appears that it is in the same condition. The Navy is taking out blankets, fuel and food to the survivors.

The situation in Barkhan tehsil is no less serious. Eight persons are reported to have been killed in Barkhan itself.

7 KILLED IN RAF PLANE CRASH

CAIRO, 2.—Seven persons were killed and nine injured in the crash of a Royal Air Force Dakota landing at the Abbas airport, says an Egyptian Relations official today.

The plane, which was coming from Tobruk, crashed and was burnt. —APL

STORM KILL 45 MEN IN NE AMERICA

NEW YORK, 2.—A two-day storm which resulted in the death of at least 45 persons in the north-eastern section of the United States moved slowly out to sea yesterday. It left snow and ice, disrupted communications and caused considerable damage due to falling tides and winds of gale force.

Hundreds of families have been rendered temporarily homeless in six States. —The New England area. —APL

MOLOTOV TO BECOME RUSSIAN PREMIER

LONDON, 2.—One of the first acts when Generalissimo Stalin returns to Moscow after his holiday is likely to be handing back the premiership to his Foreign Commissar, M. Molotov, the 'United Press of India' Political Correspondent learnt from sources in close touch with Russian affairs.

As Premier, M. Molotov will be the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars. It is believed that Generalissimo Stalin on his return to work will make an extensive tour of Russia in order to enable the people to see their great leader in person. —UPI

HESS TO STAND TRIAL

NUREMBERG, 2.—Lord Justice Geoffrey Lawrence announced on Saturday that the War Crimes Tribunal had found Rudolf Hess capable of standing trial following his dramatic disclosure on Friday that he had been suffering from loss of memory. No further examination of the sanity of the former German Minister was necessary.

Justice Lawrence ruled as the Tribunal convened on Saturday morning.

In Saturday's brief session, the Tribunal ruled that the defendants could not conduct their own examination of witnesses as long as they were represented by counsel.

The question was raised when Goering's attorney said his client would like to question Gen. Brent Lubowen, formerly of the General Intelligence Division, who gave testimony on Friday and Saturday.

The chief American prosecutor, Justice Robert H. Jackson, argued that to permit the prisoners to examine witnesses would convert the trial into a performance. —APL

DECISION SOON ON LOAN TALKS

WASHINGTON, 2.—The Anglo-American loan negotiations are expected to reach a decisive stage as a result of the imminent arrival here of the Permanent Secretary of the British Treasury, Sir Edward Bridges, from London.

It is learnt reliably that the present deadlock centres particularly on differences on the question of British concessions which will determine the grant of the loan, relaxations on the sterling bloc and parallel freeing of British arrangements with their creditors on which the Americans are insisting as a condition of an agreement.

The British Ambassador, Lord Halifax, and economist Lord Keynes stood by on Saturday in an immediate consultation with the US Treasury Secretary, and it is expected that this will lead immediately to a request for a new top level meeting with the Americans.

A vital conference at which all cards will be finally laid on the table and Sir Edward Bridges will endeavour to solve the outstanding difficulties.

Such a dramatic Anglo-American meeting will decide, once and for all, whether the 11-week-old talks will reach early success or breakdown.

If differences between Britain and America prove insurmountable, it is believed that the final breakdown will be inevitable. The decision to rush Sir Edward Bridges to Washington represents the British Government's last attempt to end the deadlock. —Reuter.

MASTER MOTA SINGH ARRESTED

LAHORE, 2.—Master Mota Singh, a well-known Congress leader, who was released in September 1 last, after five weeks' detention, was arrested last night at the Moghulpura railway station under the DIT.

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. —APL

MOSQUITOS AND THUNDERBOLTS ATTACK TARGETS IN BANDOENG AREA

BAKATA, 2.—Rocket-firing Mosquitos and strafing Thunderbolts at midday (local time) today attacked targets in the Bandoeng area. Bandoeng was termed 'the focus of interest' yesterday in a British press statement.

The statement said that there had been no improvement in the situation there and looting and shooting were still going on. The Indonesians had carried out the partial evacuation of the northern part of the town in accordance with the terms of British commanders, but some looting had been reported.

The statement added that in Southern Bandoeng the Indonesians were taking reprisals against Europeans and Eurasians.

About 1,000 RAPWI personnel were yesterday moved out of the northern part of the town and into the Bandoeng area, north of the railway station.

In the latter transfer, escorting Gurkha troops fought a large crowd of Indonesians near the station. The Indonesians were armed with mortars and machine-guns, but they suffered heavy casualties. —Indonesians in the area.

Dispersed with mortar fire. British troops supported by Indian-manned Japanese tanks repelled the Bandoeng-Sockabec road.

The British reported that Indonesians women and children were building barricades, setting around the British order that male civilians at barricades would be shot.

The Dutch News Agency Amsterdam said that British aircraft struck again with rockets and bombs at Indonesian gun positions near Amburawa, 20 miles south of Sumatra. The Indonesians shot back with anti-aircraft fire. —Reuter.

Meanwhile, it is disclosed that the 'Colonial' Allied Commander of the Netherlands East Indies, on a recent tour of Sumatra held conferences with the Dutch and Indonesians which went well. —Reuter and APA.

Hilversum radio said today that leaders of the extremist Indonesian youth organisation controlling parts of West Java are trying to cross the Sunda Strait to establish a foothold for their organisation in Sumatra.

The Dutch fleet is keeping a watch along the Javanese coast to prevent any Indonesian vessel from leaving Java.

It is felt the radio added that Indonesian extremists must be prevented at all cost from carrying hostilities from Java to Sumatra.

Meanwhile, it is disclosed that the 'Colonial' Allied Commander of the Netherlands East Indies, on a recent tour of Sumatra held conferences with the Dutch and Indonesians which went well. —Reuter and APA.

BEVERIDGE PLAN IN IMPROVED FORM

BRITAIN PREPARING FOR LEGISLATION

U.S. & SOVIET FAVOUR ONE COMMITTEE

LONDON, 2.—The British Government are now at work on legislation which will introduce the Beveridge plan in an improved form, reports Reuter's Diplomatic Correspondent.

Mr. Philip Noel Baker, the British delegate to the United Nations Preparatory Commission and Minister of State, emphasised this today at a meeting of the Technical Committee of the General Assembly.

Mr. Noel Baker was replying to a speech by Prof. Manulsky, the Ukrainian delegate, who urged that there should be only one main committee of the General Assembly concerned with the economic and social question. He had maintained that separation of these two functions might lead to important social proposals being sidetracked. —Reuter.

As an example, that the Beveridge plan had been forgotten in the Ukraine.

Mr. Noel Baker replied "It has not been forgotten here." He went on to state that as soon as the legislation on which Government was working was complete, the Beveridge plan would be the working basis of Britain's economic life.

The question of whether to set up one or two economic and social committees was, throughout the debate, argued on grounds of practical convenience. The final vote showed victory for the United Kingdom proposal to set up two committees in view of the wideness of the field to be covered. There was an exact two-thirds majority of 28 votes to 14 in favour of two committees.

Observers in Church House, Westminster, where the Committee was meeting, said that the delegates appeared to be considering the question on its merits. Voting did not proceed on ideological lines.

Thus the delegates of Poland and Czechoslovakia, who have usually followed the lead of the Soviet Union, voted against the proposal for one committee, which the Soviet delegate supported. On the other hand, the proposal for one committee, opposed by the United Kingdom, was supported by the United States and New Zealand. —Reuter.

WASHINGTON, 2.—A spokesman for the State Department denied Moscow reports that the United States is asking Iran and Iceland for air base rights.

Free Press Journal SPECIAL ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT

The 'Free Press Journal' Special Economic Supplement, which was scheduled to issue on December 2, was published on January 18, 1946, to coincide with the first Budget Session of the Indian Legislative Assembly. It was constructed after the special contributions and was published at a cost of Rs. 1500. It was published for consideration by the Government of India.