

Straits Echo

Pinang Gazette AND Times of Malaya

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BMA'S NEW RELIEF SCHEME

14th Army's New Role

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.—The British 14th Army, which bore the main weight of the Burma campaign, will become the Malaya Command as from tomorrow.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Miles Dempsey, G.O.C. Malaya, left Singapore yesterday morning for Kuala Lumpur to take over his new headquarters.

The new Malaya Command will have its own insignia, a Malay kris in gold on a dark green background.—All-India Radio.

Army University To Be Opened In S'pore

SINGAPORE, Oct. 29.—An Army University is to be opened in Singapore as soon as an adequate staff arrives. It will be known as Probation College and run on lines similar to those in the United Kingdom.

A Forces Polytechnic College will also be opened at Kuala Lumpur and Rangon.

Under this scheme, selected men awaiting release may carry on full-time residential study and sit for the Forces preliminary examination.—Singapore Radio

**INDIA ON FAR EAST
ADVISORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The State Department announced that the Government of India will attend the Far East Advisory Commission opening tomorrow. The delegate will be Sir Girja Bajpai, Indian Agent-General here.—Reuter.

Priest's Horror Story At Trial Of Yamashita

(By Joseph Laitin, Reuter's Correspondent)

MANILA, Oct. 30
THE sobbing widow of a Philippines Army colonel today described the killing of her husband and three children by Japanese marines when the trial of General Yamashita, "Tiger of Malaya," as a war criminal entered its second day before a U. S. Military Commission.

The widow, Mrs. Justa Guida, glared angrily at Yamashita and gesticulated as she told how Japanese robbed her of all her money and jewels before dragging off her husband during the American re-occupation of Manila.

Another witness against Yamashita, whose responsibility for crimes committed by his soldiers was declared yesterday when a five-man military commission overruled the defence objection, was Mrs. Angela Lopez Valdez. Her husband, Colonel Aledo Valdez, her son, and brother-in-law were all taken from their home by the Japanese with their hands bound, she said.

As one Japanese was taking her daughter off, Mrs. Valdez rushed to join her, shouting: "Kill us both." The Japanese trembled nervously, ceased to threaten her daughter and went away.

Gen. Basilio Valdez said that his brother was loyal to his oath as an officer and never cooperated with the puppet government or Japanese.

The massacre of 16 Catholic priests and more than 3 refugees

Regional Executive Committee Set Up In Penang

WITH arrangements having been completed for the formation of a new welfare body in Penang, all cases of relief for the poor and destitute will be dealt with by the Regional Executive Committee which will have its office at the Police Headquarters in Penang Road, commencing from Monday, Nov. 5.

The Penang Service and Relief Committee, which has been functioning since the re-occupation, will be dissolved shortly.

FREE RICE; DON'T DELAY

The "Echo-Gazette" is authoritatively informed that the free issue of October rice ration may be drawn from local retailers any time after Oct. 31, as this free issue is the rightful ration of rice card holders.

Everybody should draw their October ration as soon as possible.

LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE OFFICES

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.—Labour employment exchange offices are being opened in all parts of Malaya to provide local unemployed with work.—All-India Radio.

The pan-Malayan Welfare Council has now been set up in Singapore under the Presidency of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer, Malaya. Every accredited welfare body is entitled to nominate a member to sit on this Council whose task is to formulate and inaugurate new schemes for the extension and improvement of welfare work.

Inquiry Office

The Council has power to set up Regional Executive Committees in other parts of Malaya as circumstances permit; Regional Executive Committees being responsible for the detailed co-ordination of the work of societies represented in their region.

Such an Executive Committee is being formed in Penang with an office which, by the courtesy of the Chief Police Officer, will be situated at the wing of the Police Headquarters facing Phee Choon Road. This office will be opened on Monday, Nov. 5, and all enquiries regarding emergency relief, destitute cases, accommodation, etc., should be made there.

A group of Government clerks reinforced by trained social workers will interview all applicants in their own language or dialect.

The office will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

It is also desired that some welfare bodies may volunteer to open and manage sub-centres in distant parts of the city and rural areas.

Help Swell Fund

The money for emergency relief is provided entirely by the B.M.A., which is also bearing the whole cost of the organisation.

It is hoped, however, that the public will generously subscribe to the Relief Fund. All donations should be sent to the Treasurer Regional Executive Committee, Police H.Q.

This is an opportunity for all spirited citizens to assist the poor. Acknowledgments of subscriptions will be made in the local press.

Regarding application for relief, applicants will be required to bring with them their Census Card and Ration Card. If relief is given the Census Card will be initialled with the date on which it is given. An identification card will be given to applicants. When money is given a receipt will be signed assuring correct accountability of all monies advanced.

School Fees: Parents To Petition BMA

A PETITION by "not well-to-do" parents and guardians in Penang for the waiving of payment of school fees until normal conditions return is being drawn up and will be presented shortly to the British Military Administration through Air Commodore P. D. Cracroft, Military Governor, Penang, the "Straits Echo and Pinang Gazette" understands.

Asserting that many of them are unemployed and have no income whatever while others receive only small salaries, the petitioners, it is learned, point out

that the imposition of school fees will leave only two choices open to them—namely to take their children away from school and leave them to their own devices; alternatively, beg or borrow to provide for their children's maintenance and education.

Many local residents are signing the petition, it is understood, but as it is intended to widen the representation as far as possible, those other parents who would like to add their names to the list, will be welcome to do so, it is stated.

NAAF's "Civilian First" Food Policy

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.—Navy, Army and Air Force authorities in Singapore are assisting the BMA in bringing down the price of foodstuffs.

From tomorrow, officers and men of all the Services are forbidden to buy cooked food of any kind from restaurants.

The Services are also forbidden to buy poultry and fish for their mess from local markets as these supplies are exclusively devoted to civilian purposes.—All-India Radio.

Food Bait Lured 400 To Death

San Francisco, Oct. 30.
A correspondent in Manila has described the trial of Gen. Yamashita in Manila. He says Yamashita showed no outward sign of emotion. He was taken from his prison to a newly built cell above the court.

The Manila Red Cross horror incident was told before the court earlier in the week and constitutes a special case in itself.

The correspondent said the Japanese put a group of 400 men, women and children in a Red Cross room in which they had placed food and candy on a table in the centre of the room, directly under a chandelier which actually contained a mass of grenades.

When the victims rushed for the food, they released a barrage of grenades on them. This constitutes a new record for horror and brutality.

Yamashita's guilt hinges on the question of his responsibility for the atrocities committed by his troops under his command, for under the Geneva Convention it has been laid down that commanders are responsible for the actions of their forces.

The correspondent says that the trial may be summed up in this fashion. The prosecution states that Gen. Yamashita is responsible for the countless atrocities committed by his troops while Gen. Yamashita says he never knew anything about them and therefore he is not responsible.—San Francisco Radio.

50,000 Tons Rice For Malaya

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31.—Assault crafts which had been ready for landing operations in Malaya if the Japanese had not surrendered in time are being used for shipping rice to meet the monthly requirements of 50,000 tons. About 11,000 tons of rice were brought to Malaya from Siam this month but it is expected that the full 50,000 tons will be carried next month.—All-India Radio.

Hirohito's Wealth

TOKYO, Oct. 30.—The Japanese Imperial household has more than 1,500,000,000 yen in cash and negotiable instruments, land, timber and buildings alone, the Supreme Allied Headquarters disclosed today.

Facts about this were submitted by the Japanese Government in response to a directive from the Allied authorities and will be used by the Economic and Scientific Section of General Headquarters in forming plans for the control of Japanese economy.

The figure does not include the wealth of the households of 14 imperial princes.

Value of art objects or holdings of jewellery, gold and silver bullion is not included, and will be evaluated later in a separate report.—Reuter.

Bennett Inquiry

SYDNEY, Oct. 29.—It is authoritatively stated in Sydney that the question of granting an open inquiry on Gen. Gordon Bennett's escape from Malaya will be raised when the full Cabinet meets tomorrow.

The Canberra correspondent of the "Sydney Sun" said today that Lieut.-Gen. Arthur Percival, Allied Commander-in-Chief in Malaya at the time of the surrender, submitted a memorandum to Gen. Blamey and a report to the British Government which the Australian Government had not seen.—Reuter.

Fighting In China Now More Widespread

CHIANG'S TROOPS LAND FROM U.S. SHIPS AT CHINWANGTAO

CHUNGKING, Oct. 30.—Fighting in North China is becoming more widespread, according to news here today, where Central Government and Communist negotiators have temporarily shelved secondary issues in an eleventh-hour bid to stop hostilities.

Troops of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's army landed today from American transports at Chinwangtao, 135 miles north-east of the North China port of Tientsin, according to a despatch from Tientsin broadcast today by New York Radio.

This dramatic new development in the fighting now raging in many parts of North China followed a statement by the Chinese Communist spokesman, also reported by New York Radio, warning Chungking that Communist troops would fire on Central Government forces attempting to land from American ships in territory held by Communists.

Large numbers of Communist troops of the Yanan region are known to have concentrated in the area of Tientsin and Peiping since the Japanese capitulation.

The Chinese Communist view of current U.S. policy in China was reported today by Doon Campbell, Reuter's correspondent in Chungking. Asked what could be done to avert general civil war, an unnamed Communist official told Campbell: "Among other things it depends on the attitude of America—the help that America is prepared to promise the Central Government."

"We consider the Americans are already intervening in China's internal politics. The Communists want to co-operate with the Americans, but cannot guarantee that no shots will be fired if the Americans lead Central Government troops into the heart of Communist-controlled areas of North China."

Help From Russians Denied

Communist Headquarters in Chungking today flatly denied that their forces had received any material assistance from the Russians.

The official said: "Before the Japanese surrender the Russians helped both parties to fight the Japanese, but now our armies are definitely not being supplied."

This statement countered persistent unofficial reports that Soviet troops are turning over Japanese arms to Communists in North China and Manchuria.

Chaos North Of Yangtse

Conditions in at least provinces north of Yangtse river are reported to be growing increasingly chaotic, with railways and bridges demolished while Communist forces south of Yangtse River are reported to have suddenly stopped their northward withdrawal to fresh positions.

A Shanghai report today said that General Tang En-po, Commander of the Shanghai-Nanking area, left for Chungking by air today in response to an urgent summons from Generalissimo Chiang. It is expected that the question of Communist forces still south of Yangtse river will be the main subject of their main discussions.—Reuter.

MACAO INCIDENT

HONGKONG, Oct. 29.—The city of Macao was reported today to be in a state of siege following an "invasion" by a group of Chinese troops with machine-guns mounted on a truck.

The Chinese crossed the border and then dashed at full speed across the city to the chief hotel where they mounted machine-guns on the roof and in windows.

A later message says the Portuguese have calmed the Chinese visitors.

It was explained that the Chinese had merely come on a visit and that carrying of arms was due to a misunderstanding. Machine-guns and ammunition were therefore handed over, with resultant face-saving all round.—Reuter.

FAR EAST TALKS POSTPONED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—The meeting of the Far Eastern Allied Advisory Commission scheduled to open today has been adjourned for a week on the suggestion of China's delegate.

He said Russia, Britain, the United States and China needed additional time to consider the terms of reference. Russia was not represented at today's meeting.

Dr. Herbert Evatt, Australian representative, raised the point that Russia was not among the inviting powers, but the U. S. representative, Major-General Frank McCoy, who is temporary chairman, declared that the U. S. spoke on behalf of the Big Four.—Reuter.

U.S. RELEASES TANKERS

LONDON, Oct. 28.—The British War Transport Ministry expressed great interest in the United States War Shipping Administration's announcement that all tankers of more than 3,000 tons owned by United States citizens (under United States or foreign registry) will be derequisitioned on November 1, writes Reuter's City editor.

The Ministry states no similar derequisitioning of British tankers has yet been contemplated. Pooling of United Nations tankers under the United Maritime Authority ends on October 31, but derequisitioning from control by individual governments is, of course, a matter for them alone.—Reuter.

JAPAN ABSOLUTELY BANKRUPT

(By Jack Smyth, Reuter's Special Correspondent)

Tokyo, Oct. 30. Hitoshi Ashita, Minister of Public Welfare, told me today that Japan was in a state of bankruptcy "such as no other country has ever known."

He said revenue for the coming year would be insufficient to cover even the cost of the army of occupation.

"Biggest problems now facing us are of clothing, feeding, housing the population and there is now little prospect of these being improved to any extent before the winter sets in," he said.

"The whole political situation is very confused because the ablest men are reluctant to accept any responsible position and that is why everyone in Japan would welcome publication of the final complete list of alleged war criminals. We are daily expecting news of this list from London, Moscow and Chungking."—Reuter.

BANK OF ENGLAND BILL

LONDON, Oct. 30.—The second reading of the British Government's Bill to nationalise the Bank of England was passed by the House of Commons last night by a majority of 195 votes. The vote was taken after a long debate.—Reuter.

BOMB DAMAGE IN GERMANY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—Allied air bombing of Germany killed or wounded 1,080,000 German civilians, destroyed or heavily damaged 3,600,000 of their homes, and made 7,500,000 of them homeless, it was disclosed here tonight with the release of the official "United States Strategic Bombing Survey."

The damage wrought by the R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F. together was done with 2,700,000 bombs at a cost of 79,265 American and 79,281 British airmen's lives.

When the Allied Western Front effort was at its peak, the report disclosed, 28,000 operation planes were in use.—Reuter.

ATTLEE, TRUMAN TO DISCUSS WORLD'S PROBLEM NO. 1

LONDON, Oct. 30.—The world's number one problem—the atom bomb—will be the main subject of the forthcoming talks between British Prime Minister Attlee and U.S. President Truman in Washington.

This was made clear today in an announcement from the White House and a statement by Mr. Attlee in the House of Commons.

The White House announcement said: "Prime Minister Attlee will visit President Truman in Washington early next month to discuss with him and Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada problems to which the discovery of atomic energy has given rise. The Prime Minister is expected to arrive in Washington so that discussions can begin about November 11."

Mr. Attlee's statement, which was on virtually identical lines, added that he had invited Sir John Anderson, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy, to accompany him in an advisory capacity.

Clearing The Air

A Reuter despatch from Washington tonight said it is understood Mr. Attlee would spend at least part of his visit at the White House, but it was not expected that the talks would develop into a conference on the scale of those conducted by Winston Churchill and the late President Roosevelt in Washington and Quebec. Reuter's diplomatic correspondent writes that the conviction that atom bomb policy cannot any longer be left in the air is believed to be the main motive behind the Big Two meeting. Whether correctly or not, the British public is coming to believe that the U.S. is increasingly opposed to sharing the atom secret and that the Soviet Government is increasingly convinced that failure to share the secret is poisoning the atmosphere for international co-operation.

CEASE FIRE AGREEMENT AT SOURABAYA

BATAVIA, Oct. 30.—The cease fire agreement signed in Sourabaya today between Indonesian leader Soekarno and Major-General D. C. Hawthorn, Allied Commander in Java, provides that the dock area shall be guarded jointly while Darmo, the residential area where former Allied internees are concentrated, shall be guarded by the British, according to the Netherlands News Agency.

BRISK CLASHES IN INDO-CHINA

(By Michael MacDonagh)
SAIGON, Oct. 30.—French troops have been landed at various points along rivers forming the estuary of Mekong River south of Saigon, and are carrying out a number of pincer movements aimed at clearing up the entire south-western region of Cochinchina.

Clashes between French and nationalists were brisk yesterday, but French casualties were only one killed and one wounded.

French and Chinese authorities have reached an agreement for the shipment of 2,000 tons of rice from South to North Indo-China. In exchange, coal which is urgently needed in Saigon will be sent from Tonkin.

The first large-scale Japanese identification parade was held today in Saigon when 100 members of the Kempeitai were scrutinised by 12 British and Dutch former prisoners of war. Parades were held in private, but were officially stated to be very successful. Japanese who have been recognised will be tried as war criminals.—Reuter.

The rest of the city, adds the agency, will be guarded by Indonesian nationalists and no Dutch troops are to be brought in.

Prisoners are to be released on both sides and a liaison bureau between British and Indonesians is to be established.

Only regular bodies such as police and the Nationalist Army shall bear arms.

This morning the British frigate Waveney left Sourabaya harbour to prevent any further inflammation of the situation by intercepting Dutch vessels believed to be on their way to Sourabaya. (It was stated at SEAC Headquarters today that a task force had left for the Netherlands East Indies island of Bali as a result of unconfirmed rumours that Indonesian agitators are active.)—Reuter.

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT RESIGNS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct. 30.—President Vargas resigned early this morning and handed over presidential authority to the President of the Supreme Court, Jose Linhares, Linhares will assume the presidency temporarily and is expected, as soon as he is installed in office, to reaffirm his intention to hold elections on December 2. The situation is completely quiet under the control of the Army. Linhares was proclaimed President of the Republic today by the armed forces at a ceremony held in the grand hall of the War Ministry.—Reuter.

RELIEF TO CHINA TO END IN 1947

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30.—Cessation of relief supplies to China after March 31, 1947, and to all other countries after December 31, 1946, was the restriction placed today by the U.S. House of representatives Appropriations Committee on President Truman's recommendation that the U.S. should give additional \$183,000,000 to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Approving the recommendation, the committee considered the date for cessation of UNRRA activities should be established well in advance.—Reuter.

DOCKERS STRIKE STILL ON

LONDON, Oct. 29.—Dockers at most of Britain's ports are today unshaken in their determination to stay on strike in spite of last night's warnings from Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education, that the strike may cause bread to be rationed this winter.

Frank Campbell, Chairman of the Strike Committee at Birkenhead, told a meeting of 300 dockers today: "Government, whether it likes it or not, will have to intervene. It will be forced to intervene, otherwise it will perish."—Reuter.

U.S. HELPS TO GET COAL TO SHANGHAI

CHUNGKING, Oct. 29.—The United States will sell China eight tank-landing ships to carry coal from Haichow, relieving Shanghai's critical coal shortage. Six of 10 Liberty ships chartered to transport coal to Shanghai are now on their way to Chinwangtao. It is estimated they will be able to transport 160,000 tons monthly.

Officials are en route to Tokyo to see General MacArthur in an effort to obtain timber from Kyushu for Chinese mines.—Reuter.

VOICE OF PENANG

ENGLISH HOUR
ON THE
Penang Broadcasting Station
Wavelengths: 235 and 49.3 metres.
TODAY

P.M.
8.45—9.00 Masterpieces of Modern Music, presented by John Coulson.
9.00—9.15 Time Signal, news, announcements and programme summary.
9.15—10.00 Beethoven's Fifth Symphony presented by Victor Doggett.

Nazi War Crimes Trial On Nov. 20

NUREMBERG, Oct. 29.—Chief War Crimes Prosecutor for the United States, Justice Robert Jackson stated at a conference here today that he expected the trial of 24 chief Nazi war criminals to begin on November 20.

"The trial will be a well-conducted and orderly affair, and I will do my utmost to prevent the proceedings being dragged out as at Belsen," Mr. Jackson said.—Reuter.

Benes Wants Sudeten Germans Out

LONDON, Oct. 29.—President Benes of Czechoslovakia, broadcasting over Prague Radio on the 27th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence, emphasised that Sudeten Germans must leave the country for "life with them is impossible. They helped to destroy our country and terrorised our country during the German occupation."—Reuter.

