



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTE

by S. C. Laya

### A. NEWS ABROAD

1. Chiang Kai-shek has announced his determination to crush the Communist rebellion. He accused the Communists of sabotaging national unity, causing misery to the Chinese people and blocking all efforts toward peace settlement.

Chiang Kai-shek called on his party to get ready to end the Kuomintang's one-party 20-year rule and "relegate out party to the status of an ordinary party."

2. The U. S. Department of State reported that in violation of the Big Three Potsdam agreement, Russia is keeping the damaged German fleet units in her possession.

3. William Philip Simms, Scripps-Howard correspondent, warned that "this is no time for the U. S. to weaken itself at the peace tables by scraping the one thing foreign powers... respect, namely, its armed forces."

Simms stated that "as far back as the Teheran Conference, Stalin began to lay his plans to add Mongolia, Manchuria and Korea to his sphere of influence... If Korea becomes a vassal of the Soviet Union, Japan will be the next step."

4. U. S. Secretary of State George Marshall presented to the Big Four five basic principles for the democratization of Germany:

a. "Uniform guarantees in all constitutions to be drafted throughout Germany of basic civil rights to all Germans.

b. "The right of political parties to take part in a free, competitive election system.

c. "Guarantees of the rights of free trade unions.

d. "Effective guarantee of the freedom of the press and radio in all parts of Germany.

e. "Freedom of movement for persons and goods anywhere in Germany."

5. The sentiment in the U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives favor the blocking of shipments to Russia until it fulfills its "commitments made under the Yalta and Potsdam agreements."

The Senate favors the halting of shipment of American goods to Russia, and the House of Representatives turned down the request of the State Department for authority to send \$25,000,000 worth of American oil refining shipment and pipe line needed in Russia.

6. Russia warned the other members of the Big Four that unless Soviet demands for German reparations are satisfied, no agreement on basic issues is possible.

The following Soviet statements may help clarify the stand of the Soviet Union:

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a. "The acceptance of reparations from current production is an absolute condition of the Soviets..."

b. "The Soviet delegation regard economic principles as being organically connected with the question of reparations... But in this connection the Soviet delegation relies upon encountering reciprocity over reparations."

7. From experience it is said that Greece knows it will take time before the young United Nations machinery can extend help to her so she has directly asked the U. S. for assistance. The United Nations, in turn, is powerless to intervene in Greek affairs unless that beleaguered government asks the United Nations for help.

In turn, President Truman in his message to Congress, March 12, said that the United States "intends to help free peoples maintain their identity so that the peaceful objectives of the United Nations might be realized."

U. S. Senator O'Connor said that President Truman's plans for interceding in Greece is "a test of strength between Russia and the United States."

Meanwhile the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U. S. House of Representatives delayed action on the \$350,000,000 foreign relief bill which includes a \$50,000,000 anti-Communist aid to Greece and Turkey. Members of the

Committee were said to feel that they did not have sufficient information as yet. The committee, however, promised to hold public hearings soon.

8. The United Nations Economic and Social Council approved the creation of the machinery (the Far Eastern and the European Commissions) to aid in the economic reconstruction of devastated areas in Europe and in the Far East.

9. Generalissimo Franco's plan to restore the monarchy if approved by the Spanish Cortes was coldly received by the monarchists as Franco's attempt to perpetuate himself as chief of state. His plan provides:

a. That the chief of state must be at least 30 years of age, a Spanish Catholic, and of royal blood.

b. That a council of the realm of eight members be created. This council is given power to choose a candidate for chief of state.

c. That a three-man regency be established to exercise power until the chief of state assumes power.

d. That any candidate must receive a two-thirds vote of the Cortes.

e. That Franco may designate his own successor any time he so desires provided he fulfills the above conditions.

Monarchists are against the proposed

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plan because they claim that it would preserve the present Cortes and Falange and that it would mean indefinite tenure of Franco.

10. The British Government designated June 1948 for getting out of India after almost 200 years of occupation.

Prime Minister Clement Attlee said that "if Indians failed to produce a constitution for a central government through a fully representative constituent assembly, the Government will have to consider to whom the powers of the central government in British India should be handed over." He said that the question is whether the Indian government would be transferred "as a whole to some form of central government for British India or in some areas to the existing provincial governments or in such other way as may seem reasonable and in the best interest of the Indian people."

11. John L. Lewis, CIO chief, declared that "any congressional limit on labor's right to strike would establish an absolute form of government in the United States."

12. The U. S. department of commerce officials expect price drops by next autumn in food, cotton goods, shoes, lumber, paint, drugs, leather, fats and oils.

#### B. PHILIPPINE NEWS

1. The Philippine Senate recently approved three resolutions sponsored by Senator Vicente J. Francisco agreeing

to three conventions to which the Philippines as a member of the UNO agreed. These are the conventions regarding the privileges and immunities of the United Nations; the convention relating to the treatment of prisoners of war; and the convention relating to the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and the sick of the armies in the field.

2. Of the 10 million tons of Japanese materials earmarked for reparations, 30 per cent will be given to China, the Philippines, Holland, and the United Kingdom. China will get 15 per cent, while the other half will be divided equally among the Philippines, Holland, and the United Kingdom.

It is reported that Russia has approved this scheme of distribution.

3. The U. S. plan to authorize MacArthur to grant interim reparations from Japanese industries to the Philippines and other hard-pressed claimants has the approval of Soviet Russia provided Russia "gets its just share" without taking into account Russian removals of Manchurian industrial equipment.

4. A committee to receive and process all claims of private individuals and corporations and government agencies against Japan for the return of looted property has been created by President Roxas.

5. Brig. General Carlos P. Romulo urged the creation of a Philippine information service in the United States

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in order to bring the Philippines and the United States closer. He said that the Americans are interested in the Philippines but are uninformed.

6. Chinese minister Chen Cheh-Ping charged that the Filipino negotiators of the P. I.-Sino Amity treaty had "no constant and uniform policy and made many changes on parts of the treaty already agreed upon" as shown by the fact that the Philippine Government adopted many measures prejudicial to Chinese interests.

Among these so-called discriminatory acts of the Philippine Government are:

a. The proposed reduction of the Chinese immigration quota from 500 to 30.

b. The law prohibiting Chinese from owning stalls in public markets.

c. The decision of Malacañan to allow Filipino sidewalk vendors to have makeshift stands in front of Chinese stores.

Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Elpidio Quirino made a diplomatically-worded reply to the Chinese minister. He pointed out that "it is the wholehearted wish of the Philippine government to reach a complete agreement with the Chinese government on a proper treaty, reflecting the traditional friendly relations which have so long existed between the peoples of both countries."

Referring to alleged discriminations in the assignment of market stalls, the Vice-President stated that "public mar-

kets are the utilities of the government, designed to meet the convenience of Philippine producers, marketers and consumers... The government has delayed the execution of a legislative order for the nationalization of the stalls for more than six years... This program is not aimed against any particular nationality. It deprives no one of vested rights. The grant of permits for the stalls is a privilege and not a right of any individual."

With regard to the charge that the Filipino negotiators continually change their minds, the Vice-President said, "until an agreement is ready for signature and formally approved by both governments, all portions of draft agreements and treaties are subject to change in the process of negotiation."

6. President Roxas sustained the decision of Commissioner Engracio Fabre banning former Japanese residents from coming back to the Philippines.

7. Ambassador McNutt in his February 22 speech in the FEU stated that true liberty is perfect order, that it cannot exist with anarchy and disorder. He also said that "true democracy lies in the spirit of execution of laws rather than in the laws themselves. A nation whose people love liberty and democracy is in no danger of losing that liberty through laws. It is only when the people's passion for freedom weakens and subsides that true danger threatens. It is only when acts of tyranny go unrebuked, when individuals

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may be deprived of their liberties without arousing the national conscience that dictatorship beckons."

8. President Roxas in a press release, commenting on Pampanga Governor Pablo Angeles David's "policy of extermination," said, "No individual and no official is authorized to take the law into his own hands." President Roxas, however, commended Governor David for his work in contributing to the establishment of peace and order in his province.

9. Parity has been approved by a huge landslide in the plebiscite held on March 11, 1947. Congressman C. Jasper Bell said that the approval of parity "will help rehabilitate (Philippine) economy and save the United States billions of dollars which would have been spent in doing what private capital now can do."

10. The 99-year P. I.-U. S. treaty on military bases in the Philippines for mutual protection of the Islands and the United States was signed on March 14, 1947 by President Roxas and Ambassador Paul V. McNutt. President Roxas said that this treaty "will insure the national defense of our territory and the security of our independence not only today but for all time to come."

The fundamental sovereignty of the Philippines over the military areas and bases is unimpaired, but the Philippines grants the U. S. jurisdiction inside the bases "except over offenses in which both the offender and the offended party are citizens of the Philippine Republic (except for Philippine Scouts), or when the offense is against the security of the Philippines."

The Philippines retains "the right to exercise jurisdiction over all offenses committed outside the bases by members of the armed forces of the U. S. except for offenses committed by members of the American armed forces against the security of the U. S. or when the offense is committed in the actual performance of a specific mili-

tary duty, or when both the offender and the offended party are members of the armed forces of the United States."

11. The Philippine National Bank will give loans to small sugar planters even if they do not have security to guaranty their loans through sugar centrals. Since the PNB charter prohibits crop loans without security, small sugar planters may borrow directly from sugar centrals which have security to offer.

Loans to sugar centrals will be charged 4 to 5 per cent and to small farmers at 6 per cent.

12. The stamping of pre-war treasury certificates has been extended to May 31, 1947.

13. In accordance with the provisions of the National Defense Act, the registration of all 20-year old male citizens of the Philippines for compulsory military instruction will take place in April 1947.

14. The first serious attempt to eradicate the slum sections in Manila was the setting aside of P1,000,000, which was approved in a conference between Mayor Fugoso and the officials of the city engineering and health departments. The first step in the proposed plan is the construction of modern asphalted or concrete streets.

15. The architects in convention was told by Speaker Eugenio Perez that 80 per cent of the population in Manila live in an area five times as congested as the minimum requirements of a low-rent housing development; that 90 per cent of the houses have no toilets; that 80 per cent have no baths nor water supply.

16. According to Representative Modesto Formilleza, some 500,000 unpolished marble slabs are lying unused and unsold in Romblon quarries. He also said that the development of Romblon marbles will mean at least P5,000,000 yearly income for the government and more millions for laborers.

17. Government-owned corporations register huge losses. The cabinet has decided that such corporations should do something to increase their income. It is not, however, "the intention of government corporations to compete with the public in any manner whatsoever."

18. The cabinet has ruled that the government will not recognize collective bargaining on the part of government-employed laborers.

19. Fiscal Jose P. Bengzon of Manila scored "shyster lawyers who stop at nothing to gain their ends and whose clever maneuvers and tactics often thwart the ends of justice" during the

broadcast on peace and order of the Department of Interior.

20. Solicitor General Lorenzo Tañada attacked the moral decadence in the government and challenged the people to reform morally, in his speech before the Annual International Conference of the 81st Rotary District. He also said that "no material rehabilitation can be possible when moral rehabilitation lags so far behind."

21. The pilferage of army goods in depots and warehouses means the loss of millions of dollars. Both the Philippine government and the U. S. army are coordinating to stop this systematic looting and to catch the gangs believed to be behind it.

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