

BIG EUROPEAN CAPITALS SKEPTICAL OF U. S. PEACE MOVE

Smaller Neutrals Wait Welles' Trip With Vague Hope

War Pushed Amid Fears Balkans and Near East Will Be Involved.

LONDON, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—Skeptical big European capitals and vague hope in small neutrals greeted President Roosevelt's peace initiative today.

Special Envoy Sumner Welles was assured a cordial welcome wherever he might go on his mission to investigate and report to the President on present conditions in Europe, and interest was shown in the disclosure that Secretary of State Cordell Hull already was in communication with neutral nations which have been working for peace.

But the emphasis of belligerents for the moment was put on the prosecution of the war; neutrals were concerned by the danger that other nations would be dragged into it. The situation in Scandinavia, the Balkans and the Near East were regarded as most delicate.

Stays Away From Russia

It was at once noted that though Mr. Welles was going to Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy he was not going to Russia, the fifth great European power.

There was speculation whether he would inquire into the trend toward formation of a European bloc to resist Communist expansion, the possibility that any economic pressure against Japan might be counterbalanced by efforts of European nations to appease Japan by economic concessions, and the possibility which might arise from the Russo-Finnish war.

It appeared that most nations, but not Great Britain, were surprised by yesterday's announcement of the Welles mission.

An official spokesman at once said that Mr. Welles would be welcome here and would be given all information possible. But he added that Britain and France had made it clear what they were fighting for and that they believed the principles for which they fought were as dear to America as to them.

Suggest Check on Poland

Conservative quarters suggested that when Welles got to Berlin he should be given the opportunity to find out what really was happening in Poland and Czechoslovakia, particularly the Allied war aims include freeing the Poles and Czechs.

Warning against any hasty conclusions from the Washington announcement, an informant in Government circles said:

"We must wait and see what Hull has in mind and we can bet that when we receive a first-hand report from Washington."

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—Announcement of Sumner Welles' European mission and Secretary of State Cordell Hull's discussions with neutral foreign officials awakened hope in Scandinavia today that the United States might become the decisive factor in settling the European conflict.

There was even a tendency to suggest that the United States, so far as the situation could be foreseen, was the only factor which might conceivably bring a solution. The moral power of the United States is regarded throughout Scandinavia as tremendous.

PARIS, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—France will give Sumner Welles any information he desires and will be pleased to receive him, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

Pending his visit, the spokesman said, William C. Bullitt, Ambassador to France, will be able to inform President Roosevelt fully of the situation here.

ROME, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—United States Ambassador William Phillips said today that Italian Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano had expressed great pleasure over the forthcoming visit to Rome of Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles.

BERLIN, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—Competent German political quarters expressed "great interest" today in the visit which Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles is to make to Europe and the discussions which Secretary of State Cordell Hull has had with neutral European nations.

No official statement was authorized, but it was clear that the potential importance of Mr. Welles' visit was not being under-estimated here.

FEAR WELLES MIGHT BECOME 2D 'COL. HOUSE'

Critics of European Peace Trip See U. S. on Way To War Involvement.

(Continued from Page One)

for sound and liberal commercial policies which would be designed to reverse present tendencies toward economic totalitarianism.

Some of the Congressmen who approve in the Roosevelt peace moves the seeds of a "league of neutral nations." Others frankly opposed any move, however, to set up a neutral bloc.

State Department officials would not admit they were working on such an ambitious plan. But the apparent objectives of a neutral bloc would correspond with Mr. Hull's repeated declarations that plans must be laid now to assist in the eventual restoration of world peace on a sound and lasting basis.

Bullitt Arrives Home

Before Mr. Welles leaves, it is believed that the diagram of the world as seen by Joseph P. Kennedy and William C. Bullitt, Mr. Roosevelt's leading ambassador in Europe, would correspond with Mr. Hull's repeated declarations that plans must be laid now to assist in the eventual restoration of world peace on a sound and lasting basis.

Minton in Cheering Section

So, with the idea that Mr. Welles is merely to gather information, his mission is cheered by such Senators as Robert F. Wagner, Claude Pepper, William H. King, Sherman Minton, Theodore E. Green, Wallace H. White Jr., and E. A. Tamm.

Then there are the cagey ones who decline comment—including the President's Senate leader, Alben W. Barkley.

But the Democratic isolationist leader, Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri, and the Republican isolationist leader, Senator Hiram Johnson of California, are alarmed. They cannot understand why, with Secretary Hull emphasizing the talks with neutrals do not involve war conditions, it is necessary for Mr. Welles to have his confidential sessions with the belligerents instead of the neutrals.

"Peace talks with neutrals are all right," says Senator Clark. "But I'm opposed to having Mr. Welles go to Europe to get the belligerents together on a Roosevelt plan, or a Chamberlain plan, or some other."

The guess in London is that it is not a Roosevelt peace plan, but a plan to get the belligerents together on a Chamberlain plan, or some other."

London is Skeptical

"We ought to mind our own business," says Senator Johnson. "Opposition to a special roving diplomat is based on the theory that our regular ambassadors are better reporters in their own capitals than an over-zealous roving diplomat who is not a member of the cabinet."

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Every major move by the President to date, including abolition of the arms embargo, has been proclaimed short of actual participation in the war. There is no evidence of any change in that policy.

Grandmother's Girlhood Newspaper Stint May Be Guiding Star for Civic Play Author

By HARRY MORRISON

When Robert E. Johnson's grandmother was 17 she was writing, setting up and publishing a four-sheet weekly newspaper in Galveston, Ind.—alone.

That's the only writing young Mr. Johnson knows of in his family until he started writing the short stories, novels and short plays that led to his prize-winning Civic Theater production of last night, "The Sheltered."

Bob Johnson is 21 and a senior at Indiana University. "The Sheltered" is his first full-length play and he wrote it at his home in Decatur, Ind., last summer.

Three movie studios and several New York agents have written for copies of the play. They think it's good enough to win a \$500 award and represented by the Civic Theater for a movie and Big City possibilities.

Mr. Johnson isn't terribly impressed by the offers although he naturally is pleased. He says he doesn't know exactly what a genius is and he certainly doesn't feel like one.

He doesn't look like a genius. He's about six feet tall and has a shock of blond hair that's unruly enough to cause him continuous trouble. He looks more like a basketball player.

"The man who said something about writing being application of the seat of the pants to the seat of a chair," he says, "I think they're real but they're not actual anymore."

He can't understand why he wants so much to write. Aside from that grandmother, all his folks have been sensible persons with conventional ideas.

His brother is 17 and will be graduated this June from high school. He is going into criminology. "He's a little more practical-minded," guesses Robert.

Robert is fairly "practical-minded" himself. He's going to try freelancing for six months after his graduation. If he hasn't "caught on" enough by that time, he's going to get a job. Any kind of a job.

He wants to make money at it. He says he's going to recollect the two ambitions by writing as well as he can.

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Robert E. Johnson, "Play" writing is mostly rewriting.

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and not kicking if he happens to make money at the same time.

He's been writing things since he was in high school. He didn't catch on for a long time, but last year the Chicago Daily News syndicated a serialized novel he'd written.

He is taking a Liberal Arts and Science course at Indiana and it wasn't until he got into the Speech Division that he started thinking about plays.

It was the Speech Division and his roommate, Paul Bonnell, who got him thinking about plays. He and Paul are going to write a play this summer.

Robert has taken part in the university's Sunday radio hour as an actor and author. He says he hasn't any wish to be an actor, although it might help him to write better plays. He says you can't be a good playwright and actor at the same time. He just laughs when you mention Noel Coward.

"He's a genius," he says. When he started to write "The Sheltered" he had Ethan, a farm boy moron, for his principal character. By the time he'd finished Ethan's character had changed a lot from the original and he wasn't the principal any more.

"That's the way things work," he points out. "I was thinking of real persons when I began. Now their characters have attributes of numerous persons. I think they're real but they're not actual anymore."

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FINNS HOLDING TRUE STORY OF WAR REVEALS

Russians Advance Slightly But Mannerheim Line Remains Intact.

(Continued from Page One)

progress may perhaps be answered by factual accounts of dozens of neutral correspondents who have been at or close to the front in the last two months, and who testify that the Russians are not overrunning the country and that the Finns are where they say they are.

Communications Lean Backward

(Webb Miller, United Press war correspondent, comments: "My experience has been that Finnish communications lean backward in claiming victories until they have actually been achieved, and that when they make a statement, it is correct.")

Concerning casualties, much comment has been aroused by the repeated publication of estimates—always unofficial and unverified—of Finnish losses and none at all for the Russians. The only official statement of casualties on both sides came from Moscow and that was so early in the war that it is meaningless now.

Correspondents report that they are permitted to go over battlefields after an engagement only after all the Finnish dead and wounded have been removed and only the Russians remain. Of Finnish casualties, Webb Miller reports:

"Neither I nor any other correspondent or military attaché has any well-grounded idea of them and I do not want to make for publication a mere guess without foundation. However, I am sure they are far less than the Russians, because the Russians are always on the offensive."

Severe Battle Near Lake

From informed neutral sources, a description is possible of the fighting northeast of Lake Ladoga, which matches Summa in intensity.

In mid-January the Russians launched an attack northeast of the lake. A times they attacked at five or six places simultaneously over a distance of some 70 miles. Everywhere the Finns shattered their repeated attacks.

The Finns managed to thrust partly around a large body of Russian troops centered in the Kallio region in one claw of a pincer in such a way that Russian communications were endangered and their situation made precarious.

Division Cut to Pieces

That was the 18th Russian Division. For many days, fighting in that region has taken the form of the Russians attacking and trying to extricate themselves from a dangerous position. By now the 18th Division has been pretty well chewed up.

Another division, the Russian 153d, down on the east bank of the lake, also is in a highly unfavorable strategic position.

The upshot of it all is that the Finns have blocked the Russian thrusts like a stone wall. They have inflicted thousands of casualties and captured quantities of war material and completely disorganized one division.

Official Finn Communique Reports Major Victories

By EDWARD W. BEATTIE
United Press Staff Correspondent

HELSINKI, Feb. 10.—New Major defeats inflicted on Red Army forces by Finnish troops were reported in an official Finnish communique today as Russian units, attacking the Mannerheim Line at four main points for the 10th consecutive day, broadened their offensive.

Northeast of Lake Ladoga the Finns yesterday inflicted considerable losses on the Russians, the communique said. About 800 Russians were reported killed and a column of 60 motor trucks and two tanks were destroyed in some of the hardest fighting of the war.

Russian pressure continued to be heavy in the Summa sector of the Mannerheim Line where they were attacking in a stubborn attempt to break through the Finnish defenses.

All Red Army attacks in the Summa sector were repulsed and 30 Soviet tanks were destroyed, the communique said.

The communique said that Col. Borisoff, commanding the 11th Division of the Russian Army, had been killed in battle on Feb. 8.

Apparently oblivious to their losses, the Russians seemed determined to smash the Mannerheim defense line at any cost.

The intensification in the attack was taken here to mean that the Russian high command had ordered a break through despite expenditures in men and materials.

Russia Claims Finnish Losses Are Heavy

MOSCOW, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—Repeated attempts by the Finns to recover lost positions in the Karelian Isthmus yesterday were repulsed by Russian troops with heavy losses, a communique of the Leningrad military headquarters released by the Tass Agency, said today.

POPE CALLS ON JAPAN TO END WAR IN CHINA

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 10 (U. P.)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII appealed today to Emperor Hirohito of Japan to "cease hostilities" in China.

In a telegram to the Emperor on the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Empire, the Pontiff said:

"We ask God that may you cease hostilities and that through divine aid may the Japanese people and their sovereigns attain greater glory and happy years."

Spanked Wife

F. D. R. DECRIES ABSOLUTISM OF RULE IN RUSSIA

Warns Youth Congress That 98 Per Cent of U. S. Favors Finland.

(Continued from Page One)

designed to solve economic problems, specifically citing plans to aid the aged and the young.

He said some progress had been made in solving the problem of the aged through the old-age pension act and warned against schemes like the California ham-and-eggs proposal.

"Ham and eggs and other plans will not do it (solve the problem of the aged)," he said, "because they are all open to the simple objection that they either bring so much paper money that the money would be worthless or that the whole burden would be placed on the shoulders of the younger workers."

Mr. Roosevelt did not mention the \$500,000 Youth Aid Bill for which the Congress is lobbying but said "some of you think that objective can be gained overnight. I don't."

The opening session of the Congress was thrown into an uproar last night when anti-Communist forces, including Archibald D. Roosevelt, a grandson of the late President Theodore Roosevelt, sought to introduce resolutions condemning Communist members and Russia's invasion of Finland.

Stephen McCarthy, of Kearny, N. J., and Peter Torpe of Jersey City, N. J., were carried from the hall when they attempted to introduce anti-Communist resolutions during a speech by Chairman Jack McMichael, Quinlan, Ohio.

Young Roosevelt tried the same tactics but, falling walked out. Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, last night's principal speaker, departed from his prepared address to tell the group that the Department of Justice is investigating the Ku-Klux Klan in South Carolina and may present its evidence to a Federal Grand Jury.

I. U.-PURDUE GAME ALREADY A SELL OUT

(Continued from Page One)

Branch is opposed to bringing the game down to earth. He has boys—Moore Don, Curley Armstrong and Jay McCreary, to name a few—who operate efficiently at street level and he may put them to work if Purdue starts cutting down on its overhead.

Piggy Lambert's visiting firemen (and brother, that's no figure of speech) will employ the same sort of attack that the Purdue Bolleymakers' 516 points to their opponents' 377 this season. The Purdue five doesn't profess to know any tricks of the ballet, and they've never known to pause at the center circle for an intricate step or whirl into a figure-eight at the foul line.

The Bolleymakers' only orders are to highball it for the basket, which Messrs. Bob Igney, Don Blaken, Forrest Sprowl, Fred Bertetta and associates will do with pleasure.

Mr. Lambert ran his boys through a regulation game at the final tune-up session this week, and the score looked something like the high-low temperature readings at Miami. More than that, the boys had but a two-minute rest between halves. All this was Mr. Lambert's way of removing the kinks he thought had developed during the Bolleymakers' 26-day vacation. (There's your man to get Seabiscuit romping again, Mr. Howard.)

The season records of the state rivals? Indiana has beaten Wabash, Xavier, Nebraska, Pittsburgh, Butler, Duquesne, Villanova, Illinois, Wisconsin and DePaul, losing to Minnesota.

Purdue's victims have been Western Illinois, Detroit, Washington State, Oregon, Southern Methodist, Rice Institute, Northwestern, Ohio State, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Bolleymakers have lost to DePaul and Southern California.

Purdue leads the Big Ten with five straight victories, while Indiana is tied with Michigan in second place with four wins and one loss. Note to 600 fans with tickets—Game time is 7:30.

Note to the disappointed others—They'll play again March 2 at Lafayette. Why