

BRITAIN MAY GET MORE U. S. SHIPS

Part-Way Naval Convoys Possible but Chances Are Slim
For Craft Under American Flag Entering
Actual War Zone.

(This is the third of a series of articles on the role of the U. S. in Britain's need for ships.)

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Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—With Churchill and Hitler making shipping the crucial war issue, the British have a good chance of getting the use of more American ships, shipbuilding facilities, destroyers, and maybe part-way naval convoys.

They have less chance of getting our ships under the American flag, or with naval convoys, into the actual war zone.

The British demands for shipping help, and the Washington reactions, are:

1. More destroyers, plus submarines. The Administration thinks Congress and public opinion are prepared as a result of the last destroyer deal, but the Navy is even more opposed than before. Besides 45 converted ships of this type, the Navy now has 74 "over-age" destroyers, 85 "under-age" and 206 building, including 40 just ordered. Submarines: 68 "over-age," 36 "under-age," 81 building.

Japan Watched

The President's decision probably will depend on the developments of the Japanese war threat, and on the possibility of the U. S. "neutrality patrol," providing an informal part-way convoy for British freighters.

2. More planes to protect British ships, ports and shipyards. The British share of combat planes (not trainers) produced here probably will be increased from the present 80 to 90 per cent to almost 100 per cent of the newest type.

3. Remainder of U. S. Maritime Commission's old ships. Britain got 16 last week, and probably will get 24 of the remaining 44 in January. Our Navy wants the others.

4. All the other idle ocean-going American ships. There are not many left. Between the British, who have bought up 146 of all kinds, and the U. S. Navy, which has bought upward of 100 for auxiliaries in addition to many smaller craft for minesweepers and subchasers, the remainder is unimportant.

Boat Axis Ships to Be Seized

5. All the "enemy" ships marooned here, estimated from 86 to 140 (exact number a military secret). There is little immediate chance of American seizure of German or Italian ships, which is unauthorized by law. But—as described in the first article of this series—our Government is trying to find a device to "buy" Danish ships and perhaps ships of other conquered countries, and to turn over these or their American equivalent to the British.

6. As much as possible of our present merchant marine of about 1,600,000 tons. There is small chance of getting much more than old ships, as they are replaced by those now building. The reason: American companies are unwilling to give up present lines, and the U. S. Navy needs 1000 merchant ships the day it goes to war. Now that foreign buying already has cut the number of our merchant ships below our supply when the war started, our Navy has earmarked most of our fast freighters and particularly the new tankers, many of which it already has requisitioned.

Keels Laid for 118

7. Ditto on most of the 178 ocean-going vessels now building, including the 121 Maritime Commission ships. Of the 179 commission ships contracted for, keels have been laid for 118, 83 have been launched, and 58 delivered. They are now being completed on an average of one a week, with building time cut from two years to six months. These fast ships, built as naval auxiliaries, would be wasted in British convoys timed to the slowest freighter.

8. More British shipbuilding facilities here. Virtually all of the 80-odd active shipways (nominal annual capacity of one million tons) are glutted with ship naval construction or freighters and tankers essential for the naval war. British production must await the reconditioning of some of the 35 or so in active shipyards, or the building of new yards.

Under the new British 60-ship contract, two new yards are to be built in an estimated four months; the first ship is promised for next fall and the last a year later. The expansion will develop more labor shortage in the highest-skilled trades. This, plus a potential steel premium, may drive the British to wooden ships.

9. U. S. diplomatic pressure on Latin American countries to seize and sell to Britain "enemy" ships in their ports. The State Department is not in a position to do this, because of our negative example. But Argentina has hinted she will do it.

RUSS-JAPANESE 'DEAL' DRAGGING

Nippon Makes Little Progress in Attempts Toward Rapprochement.

TOKYO, Dec. 26 (U. P.)—Japan has made little progress in its attempt to effect a rapprochement with Russia, the influential newspaper Nichi Nichi reported today, despite the efforts of Lieut. Gen. Yoshitsugu Tsurumi, new Japanese ambassador to Moscow.

Lack of progress was due, Nichi asserted, to Russian misapprehension that Japan was soliciting its favor because of the "necessity" for its expansion southward, as well as because of its policies toward China and the United States.

Nichi Nichi made its statement after saying that this was the golden opportunity to adjust relations.

New Difficulties Seen

The newspaper's editorial might be interpreted as implying that Japan might encounter new difficulties even in containing a temporary treaty or modus vivendi with Russia on Siberian fishing concessions to Japanese interests. Though as Nichi Nichi pointed out, the temporary treaty expires in five days, the newspaper made no mention of an agreement to keep it for pending a permanent treaty.

Emperor Hirohito, in a message formally opening the new session of Parliament, asked the entire nation today to aid the Government in conducting state affairs in view of the troubous world situation.

He said he was pleased to see the intercourse between Japan and the nations with which it has treaties, become closer.

These nations now include Germany and Italy, with which the Government had contracted a military alliance since the last session of Parliament.

Disturbance Endless

The Emperor said "the prevailing unprecedent disturbances in the world appear endless."

It was for that reason, he said, that he wished the entire nation to exert greater efforts in aiding the Government.

The Emperor instructed Parliament to approve the budget for the next fiscal year, the largest in the country's history, totaling 6,863,000 yen (\$1,611,432,400).

if necessary to move wheat and meat surplus to England.

Hesitate on Ireland

10. U. S. diplomatic pressure on Eire to grant Britain use of naval and air bases, the quickest way to combat German raiders. This is diremable, and will be handled as such.

11. Closer co-operation with British blockade control and intelligence. Probable.

12. Boycott by American business firms friendly to Axis, as proposed by British Minister Dalton. Improbable this winter.

13. Use of American-flag ships through war zone, requiring repeal of "carry" provision of the neutrality law. Possible, but the President prefers the indirect method of "lending" such ships for use under Latin American flags.

Direct Method Opposed

Gallup reports 60 per cent of the public still opposed to the direct method. Another alternative considered here, but not so acceptable to the British, is for American-flag ships to take over British shipping routes outside the war zones, thus liberating more British ships for the war trade.

14. Use of the U. S. naval vessels for war-zone convoy. Highly improbable until and unless the President is ready for war. Probable alternative: More combat planes and perhaps destroyers and submarines transferred to Britain for that purpose. Second alternative: Virtual convoy by the U. S. Navy within an enlarged "neutral zone," extending several hundred miles beyond Newfoundland and Bermuda.

The latter might risk a German declaration of war.

NEXT: Limits on shipping aid to Britain.

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Irregulars of durable rayon stockings that make fine everyday stockings. Assorted colors, sizes 9 1/2 to 10 1/2.

Children's 5/8 Length Stockings 15c Pr.
Misses' and Children's 5/8 length stockings. Irregulars of Buster Brown stockings in assorted colors.

"SILVERTONE" FELT HATS 88c
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Infants'—Tots'—Girls' WEAR

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Warmly lined snow suits for tots. Brown, Wine, Green. Sizes 3 to 6 in the group.

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2-piece wool fleece snow suits, warmly lined. Sizes 2 to 4.

Tots' Coat, Leggings and Hat Sets \$8.24
Higher priced sets including coat, hat and leggings. Some have fur trim. Sizes 1 to 6.

Tots' Buckingham Fleece Coat Sets \$5.99
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Girls' warm snow suits in neatly tailored styles. Broken sizes in this group.

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PERCALE REMNANTS

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Pillow tubing remnants. Full 40 inches wide in 64x64 thread count fabric, 2 to 20-yard lengths.

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Rayon Samples of 1/2 to 1-yard lengths. Printed and plain colored patterns. Nice for pillows.

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