

U. S. MAY ACT TO KEEP AIR BASES

Panama Urges Release of
Wartime Fields.

By JOHN A. THALE
Times Foreign Correspondent
PANAMA CITY, Panama, Nov. 23.
—Observers are expecting the
United States to make a definite
bid soon to keep permanent posses-
sion of some of its wartime bases
in the Republic of Panama.

They would
form part of the
regular Panama
Canal defense system.

When and if
the proposition
finally is put up
to the Panamanian
government, cold turkey, some
fine head-butting
is likely to take
place between the
Panamanian and American officials.
Early in the war, when it looked
as if the Panama Canal was likely
to be Axis target No. 1, Panama
leased to us some 83 tracts as tem-
porary defense sites. The agree-
ment is that they are to be returned
within at least one year after the
signing of a "definite peace treaty"
ending hostilities.

We are paying \$50 for each 2 1/4
acres of privately-owned land, \$1
for each 2 1/4 acres of public-owned
tracts. Most of the defense base
sites are privately-owned. A lot of
the private land probably could be
bought outright for less than the
lease price.

Eager to Get Bases
Panamanian officials say that
about 60 of the 83 sites already have
been returned to the Republic. Still
in United States hands are some
of the larger ones.

The Panamanians currently are
acting exceedingly eager to get the
bases back. Americans in the midst
of a foreign land are not an un-
mixed blessing. Also, the Panamanians
claim a strong national pride
which makes the presence of for-
eign bases in their midst exceedingly
irksome. The Panama Canal zone,
they say, is one thing; bases scattered
all over their country are
another.

In response to recent direct in-
quiries from the Panama govern-
ment, Secretary of State James F.
Byrnes soothed their feelings some-
what. He said that the United
States would comply strictly with
the terms of the temporary base
agreement.

But in the welter of the diplo-
matic talk there was also the con-
ditional thought injected that the
bases would be returned as per
agreement "unless other arrange-
ments were worked out in the
meantime."

American diplomatic officials here
put a foot on the subject of an ex-
act definition of a definitive peace
treaty. It is something like the
question of when does the "dura-
tion" end.

Set Own Return Date
Panamanians have gone ahead
flatly on the theory that when the
Japanese envoys stepped aboard the
battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay,
it marked the signing of a definitive
peace treaty. That means they say,
that the temporary bases must be
back in Panamanian hands by Sept.
1, 1946.

Panamanians admit that the Re-
public has no possible use for most
of the bases as such. They just
want the Americans to get out of
the most discussed sites still in
American possession is the 15,500-
acre Rio Hato base, used by liber-
ator bombers.

One influential Panamanian was
asked what might be done with it
when the United States gives it
back. "Well," he replied, "They
might make a week-end resort out
of it."

More cynical American officials
regard the Panamanian love-of-
land argument narrowly. They sus-
pect that there is some public
breast-beating going on to the end
that the net price will be higher
when the United States comes
around with an offer to buy.

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ATOM COMMITTEE TO QUIZ EXPERTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (U. P.).—The special senate committee on
atomic energy will hold frequent
closed-door sessions with atom experts,
it was disclosed today.

Public hearings begin Monday,
but will be interrupted "from time
to time" to permit private question-
ing of witnesses on still-secret
phases of atom-splitting. Committee
Chairman Brian McMahon (D.
Conn.) announced.

McMahon said the first part of
the hearings will be devoted to basic
domestic and international problems
rather than to any specific legis-
lative proposals.

Witnesses during the first week
will include Dr. Vannevar Bush, di-
rector of the office of scientific re-
search and development; Maj. Gen.
Leslie R. Groves, director of the
"Manhattan project" which devel-
oped the atomic bomb; and five
other atom authorities. They are
Dr. Harold Urey, Dr. Irving Lang-
muir, Dr. Lee Shillard, Dr. E. P.
Wigner and Dr. H. D. Smyth.

Representatives of government,
industry, labor, agriculture and other
groups will be heard later, Mc-
Mahon announced.

ADVICE ON JOB

Vernie L. Miller, president of the
Marion county Building Trades
Council, will be interviewed on
"Your Job, Today." WIRE, 12:45
p. m. tomorrow. He will discuss
the expanding field of employment
that is open to qualified men,
trained in military service or war
work, now seeking jobs.





Luxurious Fur Scarf
The perfect answer to her Christmas dreams!
4-skin mink-dyed jumbo Kolinsky.

165.00 tax included

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Suited for the Holidays
In a softly tailored gabardine suit that's an asset to
your wardrobe. 100% wool.

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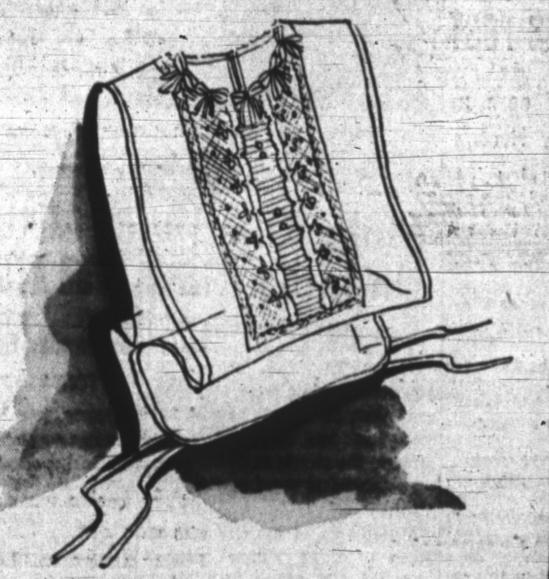
Suits, Third Floor



To Top Everything!
The classic coat that goes everywhere with smart
simplicity. Luxurious warmth without weight. 100%
wool.

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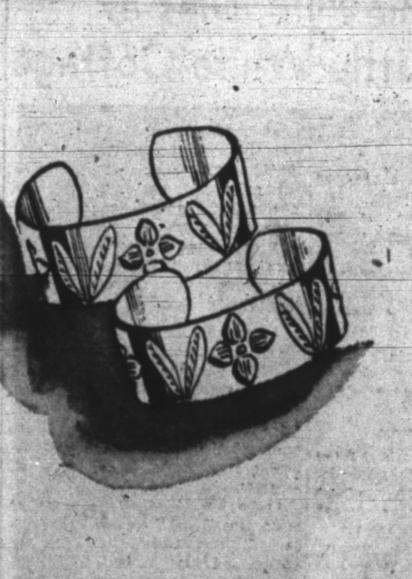
Coat Shop, Third Floor



Sheer Loveliness
A gifted white dickey by Maison-France that brings
new interest to suits.

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Jive Bracelets
Gaily decorated aluminum bracelets are a shirring
item on any gift list for girls! Assorted patterns.

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plus 20% tax

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Warm, colorful slippers are right-around-home or
dormitory.

A. Blue with blue cuff, blue with red cuff or
wine with wine cuff. 4.25
B. Red, royal or wine shirring. 3.00

Slippers, Second Floor

L. S. Ayres & Co.

FRIDAY,
HULL E
NOTE

Says Enemy
Gave War

(Continued
a day after Hull
to the Japanese)

TWO: The U.S.
war and navy pre-
vailed on Nov. 29,
of a proposed truce
warning that
interests in the

Hull recom-
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Emperor Hirohito
effect on the site.

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next day, and the
gloss was never

TWO: The U.
vealed in the mes-
sage to congress
suggested some
sions to Japan
period, which
tended.

In a memo-
vealed on Nov. 26
proposal was de-
emissaries here,
the modus vivendi
the President ag-

He alluded in
to "the opposi-
government and
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of the British
and the Austral-
In his state-
Hull listed
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added that the
event would be
"chicken feed."

The "light
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proposal, Hull
the danger of a
morale and resi-

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U. S. cabinet of
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who had "no re-
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commodities.

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in the Pacific
have promised
from French In-

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26 not, that no
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sages revealed

U. S. accept-
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pan in its pro-

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Explaining
proposals was di-
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to the Japanese
American auth-
vinced that the
"mote" chance
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Because of
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collapse of Chin-
sistance.

He said that
mended to Pres-
the modus vivi-
Roosevelt agree-
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Hull.

2. That the
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before Pearl H.

3. That the
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4. That Pres-
not accept Japa-
Fumimaro Kon-
face-to-face con-
administration
could result in
Munich or in

5. That the U.
the Japanese
matic discus-
it had a faint
peaceful settle-
lens and it al-