

Russ Offer Reported On Soviet-Zone State

Proposal Seen As Checkmate On Big Three

Reds Declared Ready to Cancel Reparations Bill

Usually well-informed quarters in Western Berlin said today that Russia has promised German Communist leaders a peace treaty for Eastern Germany and cancellation of all reparations claims once an East German state has been created.

The reported Soviet offer appeared to be Russia's answer to the agreement reached by Western German political leaders and the American, British and French military governors yesterday for establishment of a West German state.

There was no confirmation of the report of a Soviet offer. But if it is made publicly, it probably will win much support for the Soviet Union. Russia has demanded \$10 billion reparations from Germany, one of the most severe penalties for its aggressive war still hanging over the Reich.

Western Germany

THE State Department at Washington made public today the text of an 11-point agreement by the Big Three for merging the western zone of Germany.

It provides for a high commission, made up of representatives of each of the occupying powers, and it outlines the manner in which the commissioners will reach their decisions.

After establishment of the German federal republic, the agreement said, the three governments will continue to retain supreme authority. However, military government will cease, and occupation officials will exercise only supervisory functions.

German authorities will be free to take administrative and legislative action, subject to possible veto by the allied authority.

India

INDIA will grant de facto recognition to local Chinese Communist authorities in Nanking, the external affairs ministry announced today.

The announcement was issued in denial of local reports that India already was negotiating for recognition of the entire Communist government in China.

This, the announcement added, is "a major question which will be taken up in due course."

Bus Convention To Hear Writer

OCCUPATION headquarters today published an analysis of Japanese magazine articles showing that the nation's once god-like ruler is being increasingly criticized by both left and right wing liberals.

Many Japanese writers, university professors and scientists are advocating outright abolition of the emperor system, while others are insisting Hirohito abdicate for his "war responsibility."

Turkey

THE Turkish press reported that Turkish and Bulgarian patrols exchanged fire in the Edirne border region last night. Inhabitants of the frontier village of Dogana were reported to have been forced to flee their homes to escape the machine-gun and rifle fire.

Hoosier Canners Group To Meet Thursday

The 1949 spring meeting of Indiana Canners Association will be held Thursday afternoon in the Claypool Hotel Chateau Room, the association announced today.

H. K. Bachelder, association president, will give the main address at the 12:30 p. m. luncheon which will open the meeting.

Other speakers will be Dr. Thomas E. Jones, Earlham College president, and M. W. Baker, of the fruit and vegetable branch, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

After F. A. Klein, safety engineer for Employers Mutual of Wausau, presents the Canners Safety Contest Award for 1948, the meeting will conclude with a 218 Bankers Trust Building, association secretary.

Legion Speaker



Fate of Watts Rests on 14th Amendment

Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments in Mrs. Burney Slaying

By DAN KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Whether the State of Indiana violated the 14th amendment to the U. S. Constitution in sentencing Robert Austin Watts to death for the rape-slaying of Mrs. Mary Lois Burney, Indianapolis housewife, today is up to the Supreme Court to decide.

Chief Justice Vinson and the eight associate justices remained on the bench over-time yesterday afternoon listening to oral arguments in the matter. Guilt or innocence of the 25-year-old Negro is not involved in the case as presented to the highest court.

May Get New Trial

Scheduled to die in the electric chair at Michigan City State Prison Jan. 31, a 30-day stay of execution was ordered by the court and on Feb. 28, a full hearing was granted so that Watts will not die until the high court acts. He may be ordered freed.

Attorneys for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People raised two points in the Watts case in taking an appeal from the Indiana Supreme Court:

ONE. No Negro was on the Marion County grand jury which indicted Watts for the Burney murder and they have been systematically excluded from such juries in Indianapolis for the past 20 or 30 years.

TWO. Confessions upon which the Watts conviction was based were obtained through the use of force, duress and intimidation in violation of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment.

Say Counsel Denied Him

Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for NAACP, and his assistant, Franklin H. Williams, both of New York, argued these points before the court.

Mr. Williams contended that Watts had been picked up on an attempted rape case and was being held by police when the Burney slaying was discovered Nov. 12, 1947. He also contended that they refused Watts counsel, kept him without food and sleep, didn't permit him to see his wife and beat him into signing a confession.

This treatment took from Wednesday until Friday and all the time he was held without warrant, Mr. Williams maintained.

The exclusion of Negroes from the grand jury was argued by Mr. Marshall. He said the only testimony that names of Negroes ever were drawn from a Marion County jury box was that of Glenn Funk, a chief deputy prosecuting attorney, who said he saw two called in 1948 and then they did not serve.

Questioned at Length

Chief Justice Vinson questioned Mr. Marshall at length on that point, saying that if Negroes were called and did not serve they could not be considered excluded.

Arguing for the state, Deputy Attorney General Frank E. Coughlin contended that there is no planned exclusion of Negroes from Marion County grand juries and positive evidence on the point had not been produced in the appeal.

He also said witnesses had testified that Watts was well fed and well treated by police and deputy sheriffs throughout his three day questioning period.

Because the time ran out, Attorney General J. Emmett McManamon didn't get to give his part of the state's argument.

Prof. R. T. Hill Quits IU Post

Times Staff Service April 26—

Prof. R. T. Hill, a member of the Indiana University School of Medicine Faculty since 1937, has tendered his resignation to accept appointment as professor and chairman of anatomy in the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla. It was announced here today.

Prof. Hill received more than \$18,000 in grants from the U. S. Public Health Service for research work in physiology of endocrinines while at the university. He has written many articles, including a medical book titled "Anatomy of the Head and Neck."

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