

# Await Chinese Reaction to Ship's Escape

Exploit May Force American-British Showdown With Reds

By CLYDE FARNSWORTH

HONG-KONG, Aug. 4.—Escape of the British sloop Amethyst from the clutches of the Chinese Reds has jeopardized 400 Britons and perhaps to a lesser extent thousands of other foreigners in Communist China.

Also, it is possible that the exploit may signal or force a showdown in the policy of both Britain and America toward the Chinese Communists.

Presumably orders for the Amethyst's getaway originated from high-level sources in London and the nature of Communist reaction probably was weighed beforehand.

If it was not a sheer gamble with the future, London must have reckoned on the strong possibility of Red-tinged mob violence not only against Britons but against all foreigners everywhere in Red China.

Something along that line is the likeliest result of the Amethyst's defiant dash for freedom after three months during which Red guns held her hostage for payment of "indemnity" for the Apr. 20 Yangtze incident.

Mob Action Possible

The British government, you may be sure, is now awaiting official Chinese Communist reaction with fingers crossed. But unofficial reaction may be even more important.

To several hundred thousand people in Shanghai the Amethyst's escape will be whatever the Communists want to call it—a breach of faith, frightened retreat or an "imperialist" insult to the "people's government."

Shanghai hooligans need only a tolerant wink or whisper to start mob action. They could always be officially discouraged.

It's difficult to imagine what action Britain might be prepared to take if the Communists publicly or secretly declared an open season on British subjects. Shanghai is not completely inaccessible to determined naval intervention. But Britons in Peking, Tientsin, Nanking and hundreds of smaller places in Red regions would be beyond immediate help.

Relations Strained

The Amethyst's escape caps a strain that had developed between the United States and Shanghai Communist authorities over mob interference last week.

In that case the Reds withheld police protection. That hands-off attitude now familiar to Americans in Shanghai could be a pattern for any reprisals taken against the British community.

Up to now Britons in Shanghai had been comparatively undisturbed in their dream of business as usual with the Reds.

MUSKOX DISCOVERED

The body of a muskox, probably 15,000 years old, has been sent from Alaska to New York for exhibit in a refrigerator unit at the American Museum of Natural History.

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# 'World's Wickedest City' Finds 'Bikini' Suit Too Hot

Egypt Bans Overexposure on Public Beaches; French Creations Still Worn at Private Pools

By GEORGE WELLES, Times Foreign Correspondent

PORT SAID, Egypt, Aug. 4.—The bikini is too naughty for the "wickedest city in the world." The girls can't wear them here any more—not in public, that is.

The bikini, in case your fashion writer hasn't told you yet, is a girl's bathing suit. It looks like a bath towel knotted around the hips, plus a hand towel knotted around the—er—bust. Nothing much to look at, but a lot to see.

When the first Bikinis hit here, fresh from the Riviera, they started plenty of trouble.

Bikini a Barrier

Egypt wants to welcome as many international sun-worshippers as possible. The government has been busy turning old war

The bikini got its name in

France, where the a-bomb-blasted, deserted island of Bikini has taken over some of the exotic overtones of Tahiti. But the Pacific island and the bathing suit have the same effect: There's not much of them left now that the essentials have been taken away.

Even Port Said, which used to be a wide-open town, has followed the law that governs all the Egyptian beaches. A two-piece suit is considered less moral than a one-piece suit. Arithmetically two are more than one, but in the police manual, two counts for less.

Private Clubs OK

The beach shops, here and at Alexandria, show both one-piece

looks like in air and in fresh water. For how the bikini meets sea water, Egyptians must wait and hope.

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