

THURSDAY, NOV. 24, 1949

World Report

Tell China Reds To Speed Exit Visa for Ward

U. S. Resentment Rises Against 'Trumped-Up' Beating Charge

Angus Ward Is Free... an Editorial... Page 20.

By United Press
The United States prodded the Chinese Communists today to speed up arrangements for the departure of American Consul General Angus Ward and his entire consulate staff.

It asked the Communists in Mukden to issue exit visas immediately and to arrange railway transportation to Tientsin, the nearest seaport, so the group can leave by sea and air.

A Mukden "People's Court" yesterday convicted Mr. Ward and four of his aids on what this country calls a "trumped up" charge of beating a Chinese consular employee.

The Communists ordered them to get out at once or be slapped in jail again to serve long sentences.

U. S. Acts Swiftly

The United States moved promptly to have the entire consulate staff accompany the five on their forced departure. Officials here were confident that the Communists, faced by rising U. S. resentment and strong diplomatic pressure from other Western nations, would agree.

Mr. Ward and his staff have been under house arrest a full year, ever since the victorious Communist troops occupied Mukden.

The United States, hopeful that East-West tension throughout China will ease, made a contribution to smoother relations between the Communists and the West.

It dropped its prosecution of Amtorg, the Soviet trading company, and six of its officers on charges that they failed to register as foreign agents. Amtorg and the officers complied with the law after their Nov. 21 indictment.

Move 'Coincidental'

The United States still could have pressed the prosecutions as a harassment of the Russians, but decided against it. The decision was reached at high-level conferences between the State and Justice Departments.

Officials insisted that the move did not result from Mr. Ward's release and was purely "coincidental."

There was speculation, however, that the Amtorg indictment might have prompted Moscow to order the crackdown on Mr. Ward. Three days after the Amtorg officials were arrested, Mr. Ward and his four aids were jailed.

Some American officials always have suspected that Moscow was behind the incident.

Other world developments:

Panama

Police who seized power and set up a new government four days ago reported the capital under control today.

They broke up a student protest meeting last night with a barrage of machine-gun bullets and tear gas bombs that wounded six persons.

Heavily armed, steel-helmeted police fired fusillades after fusillades into the blacked-out buildings of Panama National University directly across Fourth of July Ave. from America's Panama Canal Zone.

Hundreds of students who had massed in the university to draft a protest against organizations of a "police state" in Panama fled in terror as bullets spattered around them and tear gas fumes spread through the buildings.

Screaming hysterically, many dashed across the street to the safety of the Canal Zone. There they cringed behind palm trees on the lawn of the U. S. district court.

All traffic along the Fourth of July Ave. was detained by American police. Police reinforcements guarded the border area.

None of the six casualties was a student. Two were women, and the others included a police lieutenant who was shot in the eye.

Manila

The government today scorned a cease-fire proposal and alerted air force fighters and bombers for action against guerrillas entrenched in the Batangas coastal hills south of Manila.

The cease-fire was suggested by Batangas provincial and municipal officials to permit an attempt at peaceful settlement and allow farmers caught in the crossfire of battle to evacuate.

But Brig. Gen. Alberto Ramos, chief of the constabulary, said the government would not agree to any proposal to suspend operations.

That would be a sign of weakness, and we are determined to prove that the government is strong," he said. "We can only agree to a suspension if President (Elpidio) Quirino so orders."

He said fighters and bombers based at Lipa City, 15 miles north of Batangas, would support four constabulary and one army companies in an attempt to dislodge and smash the rebels.

He said that he could not confirm reports that constabulary dead in a week of fighting had reached 27. Only two guerrillas are known to have been killed.

He was skeptical of reports that the guerrilla ranks had swelled from 300 to 1,000 men.

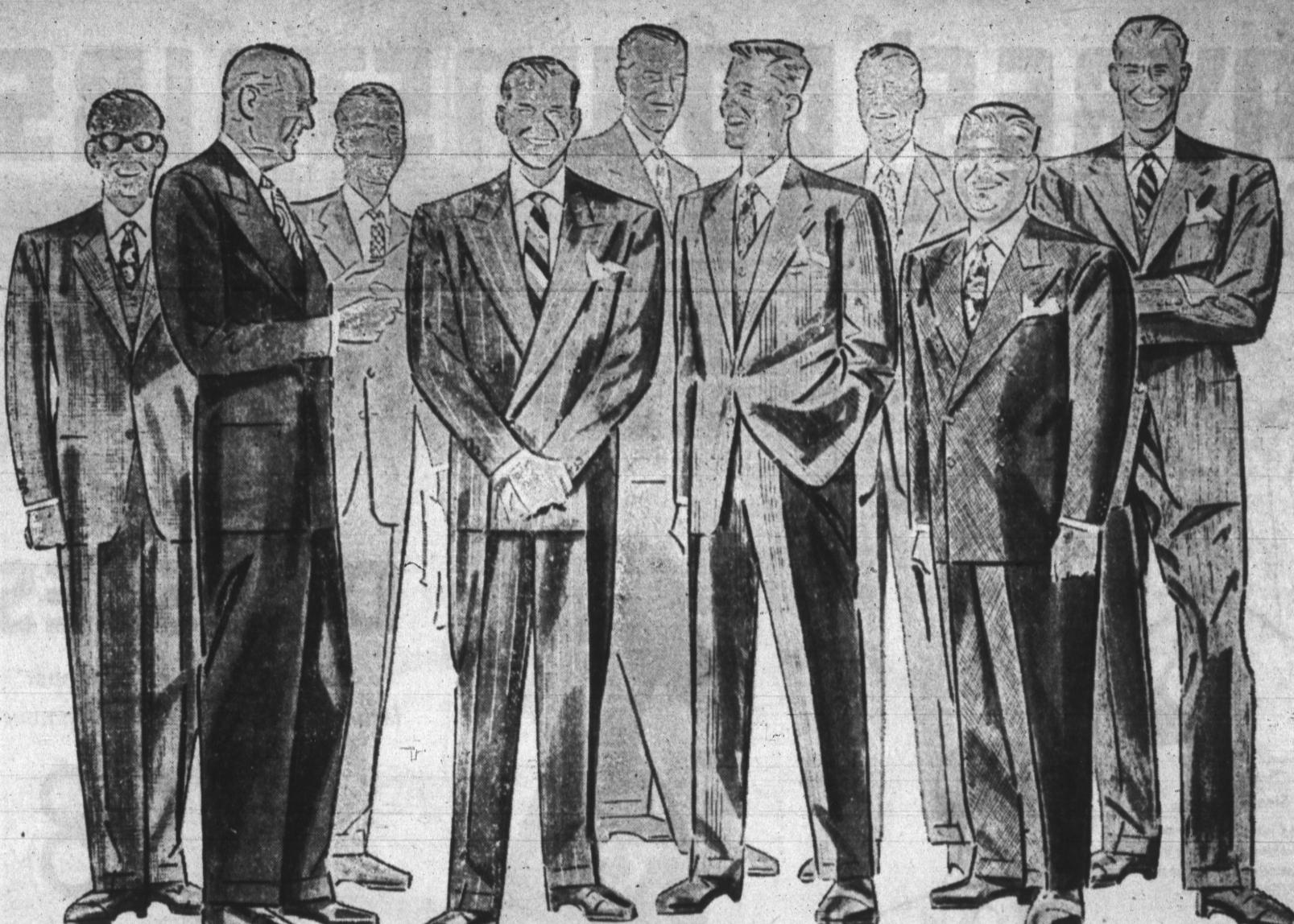
Hong Kong

Sources close to acting Nationalist President Li Tsung-jen said today that he has rejected all overtures from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to return to Chungking and resume direction of the government.

They said Mr. Li, who came here for treatment of ulcers, intends to remain in Hong Kong

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