

## World Report— 9 Nationalist Ships Taken Over by U. S.

Step Believed Made  
To Block Seizure  
By Red Forces

TOKYO, Feb. 11 (UPI)—The United States government today seized nine Chinese Nationalist ships, ostensibly because the Chinese defaulted on payments for them.

However, observers said the move, obviously was aimed against the Chinese Communists who have laid claim to the ships.

The seizure apparently was intended to keep the vessels, which would be valuable in a Communist invasion of Formosa, out of the hands of the Chinese Communist government.

Today's announcement from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters did not mention the Communists, however. It stated merely that eight Chinese liberty ships and one victory ship had been seized in Japanese ports on orders of a newly-formed admiralty court.

It was considered significant, however, that the seizure came less than a week after the U. S. joint chiefs of staff completed their tour of U. S. Far East bases, including lengthy conferences with Gen. MacArthur.

Authorities seized the ships at seven separate Japanese harbors following suits for default of mortgage payments totaling \$3.5 million filed in Washington against the Chinese Nationalist government by the U. S. Maritime Commission and the Export-Import Bank, mortgage holders.

### Berlin

THE WESTERN powers charged the Russians today with breaking the Paris agreement on Berlin transportation by confiscating scrap metal shipments from Berlin to West Germany.

The charges were contained in a letter from the American, British and French commandants of Berlin to the Russian commandant, Maj. Gen. Alexander Kotikov.

It was the first formal three-power protest against Soviet interference with inter-zonal freight trains since the Soviet baby blockade began three weeks ago.

The Allied protest said evidence had been gathered showing that the head office of the Soviet-controlled railway ordered its employees to confiscate any scrap metal leaving Berlin "with the sole exception of shipments bound for Eastern European countries."

### England

LABORITE Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee and Conservative leader Winston Churchill called a week-end truce in their election campaigning today, but will resume the battle next week in Scotland.

Mr. Attlee finished the English phase of a 1,000-mile campaign tour yesterday. On Monday, he will appear in Greencastle to drum up votes for Minister of State Hector McNeil, Labor candidate for the Greencastle seat in Parliament. Then Mr. Attlee will address a big Edinburgh rally Monday night.

Mr. Churchill will invade Edinburgh Tuesday. He wound up a two-day swing through Wales and southwest England yesterday.

### State Takes Over Ft. Harrison Coal

State Fuel Committee Chairman Thomas R. Huston today said about 1,500 tons of coal stocked at Ft. Benjamin Harrison will be distributed to institutions now on emergency fuel status.

Mr. Huston said distribution will be started Monday.

Although little development in the coal picture was expected during the week-end, Mr. Huston said, "trinkets" of coal are being received "here and there" in the state.

Al. Bedford, one dealer has offered the state 70 tons to be rationed on an emergency fuel basis. A small supply has been routed to the Center Supply Trustees' office to meet poor-relief needs.

Mr. Huston said, however, figures showing the supply of coal on hand in Indiana do not present a true picture.

Should the mines start producing Monday, he said, it would be 10 or 15 days before shipments started to arrive at destinations.

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