

McCloy Puts Red Strength In Reich At 25 Divisions

U. S. Aide's Estimate Is Considerably Under That of West Germans

Lack of Soviet Military Activity Not Necessarily Reassuring, Official Says

BONN, Germany, Dec. 2 (UPI)—U. S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy says the Russians have more than 25 combat-ready divisions in eastern Germany capable of reaching the Rhine in a quick push.

But Mr. McCloy, in an impromptu discussion with correspondents last night, emphasized this Russian strength has been in the Soviet zone since well before the outbreak of the Korean War.

There have been no recent reports of special military activity in eastern Germany, he added.

It was the first time Mr. McCloy had discussed the question of Russian strength for publication. Mr. McCloy's estimate was considerably below the Bonn government's. West German officials have spoken repeatedly of 35 Russian divisions.

Although stressing that he did not want to create a "scare psychology," Mr. McCloy said these are facts which Allied planners have had in their possession for a long time.

He said the lack of military activity in eastern Germany is not necessarily reassuring. The fully-equipped Russian divisions stationed there could roll westward with little advance notice, he said.

The more complicated tasks of mounting such an operation, he said, could be accomplished farther to the east—perhaps in Poland, where secrecy is easier to maintain.

Informed western military and political officials have said that Russia has enough troops in the eastern zone for a successful invasion of western Germany.

These sources estimated that the Russians have between 280,000 and 320,000 top flight troops, 1500 aircraft (more than half of them jets), at least 200 tanks, and the normal artillery component for such a force.

Moscow

U. S. Ambassador Alan G. Kirk will leave by air for the United States next Monday "on a routine consultation and brief Christmas leave," the American embassy announced today. It will be his first trip home since his arrival in Moscow in June, 1949.

Berlin

Sir David Kelly, British ambassador to Russia, arrived here by air today en route to London. "War is never inevitable," he said. "We cannot discuss anything about anything."

Seoul

President Syngman Rhee called upon the Korean people today to turn every village into an armed camp "to destroy the vile Communist pestilence which Russian and Chinese Communists have now brought into our land."

He asked Koreans in a nationwide broadcast to have faith in the military forces of the 13 United Nations fighting in Korea.

Rome

Italian Communists called flash strikes and meetings throughout Italy today to protest what they called President Truman's "criminal decision to drop the atom bomb." Communist papers launched an anti-American campaign. They called Mr. Truman and other U. S. leaders "war-mongers," "mad capitalists," and "murderers."

The Communist organ *Unita* charged that four U. S. Marine guards "brutally beat up" a number of Italians outside the American embassy last night during an "anti-war" demonstration. The Marine duty officer said the charge was "pure hogwash."

Oslo

Foreign Minister Halvard M. Lange said today that if the United Nations makes a new charge of aggression it would be unreasonable to expect the United States to assume the disproportionate share of the burden it took on in Korea.

In any future United Nations action comparable to that in Korea, he said, Norway would have to consider what help it could give.

Mr. Lange said Norway will support all actions aiming at a negotiated settlement of the present Korean crisis.

Hong Kong

The Chinese Communists were reported today to have arrested three American missionaries who operate a leprosarium in the Sun-wu district, 60 miles south of Canton.

A Canton report said the Americans were arrested Nov. 14, after Communist troops raided the premises and found a generator, radio receiver and seven pistols. The missionaries were not named.

Prague

Nine members of Czechoslovakia's Roman Catholic hierarchy were convicted today of treason and espionage as agents of the Vatican in an alleged plot to overthrow the Communist government.

The state court sentenced them to prison terms ranging from 10 years to life and fined them \$400 to \$3000.

Court President Jaroslav Novak said the plot was directed in Czechoslovakia by Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague and Archbishop Josef Matocha of Olomouc under orders from Pope Pius XII delivered by the Papal Nunciature here.

Government officials said the Beran and Matocha have "voluntarily retired" to their palaces.

Smash Plot Of Assassins In Pyongyang

U. S. Colonel, Others Marked for Death; 12 Are Arrested

PYONGYANG, Korea, Dec. 2 (UPI)—Twelve Pyongyang citizens were arrested last night for plotting to assassinate Col. C. R. Munske of Brooklyn, N. Y., American civil affairs chief, and the mayor and two vice mayors of this former Communist capital.

Col. Munske said the 12 North Koreans were arrested by Police Chief Wang Gun, a North Korean who went to Seoul after the Communist occupation of his homeland and returned with United Nations forces.

Eight of the arrested men were members of Wang's own newly-formed police force, Col. Munske said.

The defendants intended to assassinate Col. Munske and the North Korean officials "by shooting or using hand grenades," the American official said.

6000 in Underground

He said there were about 6000 North Koreans in the Communist underground in Pyongyang and have been since the Americans' arrival in the city. To cope with them, he said, there is an estimated battalion of South Korean military police and the United Nations forces in and around the former capital.

Col. Munske said he doubted the underground would make any concerted effort to help the advancing Chinese for two or three days. He said the 300,000 inhabitants of the city—about half the normal population—were jittery about the possibility of Chinese capture of Pyongyang.

He said refugees streaming south from the front were being halted at two points north of Pyongyang and none was being permitted to enter the city. There are 3000 Chinese in Pyongyang, he said, but all profess to be anti-Communist.

Meantime, a 9th Corps spokesman reported that a civilian was arrested in Pyongyang near the United Air strip with a 120-millimeter mortar with which he allegedly shelled the strip last night.

Gen. MacArthur's estimate of enemy strength was nearly twice any previous official estimate.

Gen. MacArthur himself said early this week that 200,000 Chinese were attacking in the northwest. Later Maj. Gen. Edward M. Almond, commander of the 10th Corps, said up to 10 Chinese divisions—totalling perhaps 100,000 men were massed in the northeast.

Gen. MacArthur reiterated that North Korean forces had been destroyed and the United Nations command's mission "practically fulfilled when this new aggression was launched."

UN Officials, China Reds Talk

Acheson, U. S. Aids Confer on Crisis

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2 Bandits Take \$1733 At Grocery

5 Persons Tied During Daylight Holdup

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Acheson Calls Surprise Parley

Meets With Austin, Gross in Capital

(Continued From Page One) were certain to draft strategy on next moves to be taken early next week in the United Nations in an effort to avoid a spread of the Korean conflict.

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