

GREAT NUREMBERG WAR TRIAL OPENS

WHOLE DAY SPENT IN READING THE INDICTMENT

GERMANY'S LEADERS IN THE DOCK

The great trial of major war criminals—in the words of Lord Justice Lawrence, the British president of the International Tribunal, "unique in the history of the jurisprudence of the world"—was opened at Nuremberg yesterday. The whole of the day was spent in reading the indictment in four languages.

Twenty of the 24 men originally indicted are in the dock. Ribbentrop has applied through his counsel for a number of British witnesses.

20 PRISONERS IN THE DOCK

RIBBENTROP REQUESTS BRITISH WITNESSES

From Our Special Correspondent
NUREMBERG, Nov. 20

When Lord Justice Lawrence, the British president of the International Tribunal, opened the great Nuremberg war trial this morning he called it unique in the history of the jurisprudence of the world, and on that note the proceedings, which carry the challenge of hope to posterity as begun against the surviving leaders of the Third Reich arraigned as major war criminals, New Nuremberg, with its glaring stadium, was the scene of their monstrous war rallies: old Nuremberg, just along the way from the Palace of Justice, lies in ashes as a token of their achievements—and so far as can be judged outwardly their fate is of small concern to this stricken city.

The accused, however, are evidently out to make the most of the privileges extended to them, by the system of justice built against the background of international law from the legal procedure of the four nations. I learn authoritatively that Ribbentrop, taking advantage of the wide powers granted by the rules of the court in calling witnesses for the defence, has applied through his counsel, Dr. Fritz Sauter, for a number of prominent British witnesses to testify on his behalf, including Lord Vansittart, who was Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office during Ribbentrop's tenure of the Embassy in London; Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Rothmere, and Lord Kemsley. Ribbentrop also included Lord Dawson of Penn, apparently being in ignorance of his death.

ARGUMENTS SETTLED

The arguments that arose at the eleventh hour within the prosecuting committee, and which up to the last minute yesterday seemed capable of causing a further postponement, have been settled, and are settled in two rows, with Göring occupying the right-hand corner of the dock facing the raised Judges' bench. Behind him, beginning the second row of 10, is Admiral Donitz, an almost insignificant figure in civilian clothes. Only three of the prisoners indeed are in uniform, stripped of insignia and badges—Göring in an elegant pale grey Luftwaffe uniform, presumably his own creation, and the soldiers Keitel and Jodl in the familiar grey-green of the *Wehrmacht*. Along the wall behind the prisoners and at each end of the dock American military police stood impassively in the white steel helmets that have made their mark in most of the cities of Europe and beyond since they first appeared a little shy in Piccadilly—how long ago!

SOMBRE COURT ROOM

The sombre, panelled court room has been reconstructed so precisely to hold all who have a part in the proceedings—members of the International Press as far by the most numerous contingent. Priorities and their defence counsel merge so closely into the other side of the court, that one's impression is of a historic spectacle was almost matter of fact in comparison with the far-reaching issues involved, issues that go way beyond the fate of the men who plunged the world into war. Looking at them in the dock there was little in their bearing or appearance to suggest that they were on trial for their lives; the enormity of the charges against them involving the deaths of millions of people somehow eluded reality in this unemotional, analytical atmosphere.

The whole day's sitting was taken up with the reading of the 24,000-word indictment, and as counsel of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia took up the sections on which they are leading the accused, barely followed the proceedings. They had the German text in their hands 30 minutes ago and in the solitude of their cells have had

haemorrhage, Alfred Rosenberg, Hans Frank, Wilhelm Frick, Julius Streicher, Walter Funk, Hjalmar Schacht, Gustav Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach, Ill. in hospital; Karl Dönitz, Erich Raeder, Baldur von Schirach, Fritz Sauckel, Alfred Jodl, Martin Bormann, presumed to be still living and at large, Franz von Papen, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, Albert Speer, Constantin von Neurath, and Hans Fritzsche. Charged with them are the groups of organizations to which they belonged—namely, the Reich Cabinet, the Leadership Corps of the Nazi Party, the S.S., including the *Sturmabteilung*, the S.A., and the General Staff and High Command of the German armed forces.

FOUR JUDGES

At 10 a.m. the four judges and the alternate members of the Tribunal who sit with them took their seats on the bench which are ranged the flags of the four nations—Lord Justice Lawrence, the President, and Sir Norman Birkett for Great Britain; the Attorney-General, Mr. Francis Biddle, and Judge John J. Parker for the United States; Major-General L. T. Nikitchenko and Mr. A. F. Volchhoff for the Soviet Union; and M. Donnedieu de Vabres and M. Robert Falco for France. The Russian members wore uniform, all the others black gowns, and among the distinguished visitors in the gallery was Lord Wright, Chairman of the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

At the outset Lord Justice Lawrence made a short statement on behalf of the Tribunal setting out the brief historical background of the court. The International Military Tribunal, he said, had been established pursuant to the agreement signed in London on August 18 of this year for the just trial and punishment of the European Axis. The committee of the chief prosecutors appointed by the four nations had settled the final designation of war criminals to be tried by the Tribunal, and on October 18, in Berlin, the indictment was read out and copies furnished to each defendant in the German language.

All the defendants were represented by counsel, and almost all counsel had counselled by themselves. In cases where counsel could not be obtained the Tribunal had itself selected suitable counsel agreeable to the defendant. The Tribunal, he went on, had heard with great satisfaction of the steps taken by the prosecution to make available the numerous documents upon which it relies, with the aim of giving the defendants every possibility for a just defence.

ORDER AND DECORUM

The trial which is now about to begin is unique in the history of the jurisprudence of the world; and it is of supreme importance to millions of people all over the globe," he said. "For this reason there is laid upon everybody who takes any part in this trial the solemn responsibility to discharge his duties without fear or favour in accordance with the sacred principles of law and justice."

In asserting that this was a public trial in the fullest sense, he said that the Tribunal would insist upon the complete maintenance of order and decorum, and that it was the duty of all concerned to see that there was no way of departing from those principles and traditions which alone give justice its authority and the place it ought to occupy in the affairs of all civilized States.

The five-hour reading of the indictment, which will stand out as a model of simplicity and directness. As it had already been widely published, and, as stated, had been in the hands of the press for the past month, it had been thought that the reading would be confined to the statements of offence, but the whole document of 24,000 words with its appendices was read to the end, a task that was completed when the court rose this evening after sitting 30 minutes beyond its appointed hour.

TRANSLATION SYSTEM

The time spent on it was, of course, greatly reduced by the system of simultaneous translation installed in the Tribunal room, which should reduce the period of trial to a fourth of the time necessary if separate translations had been made into the four languages. This system, it will be recalled, was successfully used by the League of Nations at Geneva. Every one in court, judges, counsel, prisoners, and members of the public, is provided with headphones, and simply tunes in the language he wishes to hear. National teams of interpreters are installed behind glass panels in the dock and, speaking softly into microphones, simultaneously translate everything said in court into their own languages.

The five-hour reading of the indictment was undertaken by second strings of the prosecution team. Of the chief prosecutors only Sir Hartley Shawcross, the Attorney-General, was present in court at the head of a remarkably young group of British barristers, strongly reminiscent of the *Young Men of the Law* of Cambridge University, an eminent authority on international law.

It is expected that to-morrow morning's session will be occupied with the formal arraignment of the accused and the taking of their pleas. Most of them, I learn, have prepared statements, objecting that it is not a fair trial, and pleading that they are the other to an all-embracing indictment of the world. It is not clear whether they will be allowed to

NEW LEADERS OF U.S. FORCES

GEN. EISENHOWER AS CHIEF OF STAFF

FUTURE OF SERVICES

From Our Own Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Nov. 20

President Truman announced to-day the retirement of General Marshall from the post of Chief of Staff, and of Admiral King from that of Chief of Naval Operations. In their places he is appointing General Eisenhower and Admiral Nimitz.

General Marshall, the President said, had been anxious to retire ever since the surrender of Japan, and felt that the important decisions that would have to be made for the future should be made by his successor now. Mr. Truman added that he was very loth to let General Marshall go, for he thought him the greatest military figure that the United States has ever produced. General McNamery is being nominated to succeed General Eisenhower in Europe, and the Pacific command will be taken over by Admiral Spruance.

When a reporter pointed out that the President's new principal advisers had recently expressed contradictory views about the future of the fighting services, the President smiled and said that he had a point of view on this matter which he would announce at a right time in the form of a Message to Congress.

In reply to another question Mr. Truman said that the United States was still manufacturing atomic bombs "for experimental purposes." Asked for his views about the peace that was "not really peace," he expressed the firm conviction that permanent peace would be achieved. The world, he said, was on the threshold of the greatest age in history, and the great opportunity must be grasped, for the alternative was complete destruction. To secure peace there must be confidence between Governments, but this took time. Every country was having its own outlook, and he thought that all were trying to meet first their domestic problems. Later they would pay more attention to international affairs.

PRIME MINISTER HOME

AIRCRAFT DIVERTED BY FOG

The Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, flew home from Canada yesterday to Tangmere aerodrome. Sudden after driving to London went to Buckingham Palace, where he had an audience of the King. He gave the King a full account of his visit to the United States and Canada.

When Mr. Attlee's Skymaster, in which Sir John Anderson also flew, arrived over southern England after an uneventful Atlantic crossing, it met a widespread blanket of fog, which extended to Northolt airport, where it had been scheduled to arrive. Three alternative landing grounds were offered to the pilot, who touched down at Tangmere at 2.49 p.m. only four minutes late according to schedule. This was the second of two Douglas Sky-masters which crossed the Atlantic in company. The first machine had landed 18 minutes earlier.

Mr. and Lady Anderson went together by car through fog to Tangmere, but the aircraft had arrived by the time they got there. Lord Stangate, the Air Minister, was present, and the Prime Minister and Sir John Anderson were also present. Air Commander R. F. Fielden, representing Headquarters, R.A.F. Transport Command, and Wing Commander E. J. Hardman, Station Commander, were also present. Mr. Anderson, who had been at Reading, described the trip as a smooth one, and the Prime Minister said they had had a very good trip indeed.

EVERSHED REPORT ON COTTON WAGES

SOME DOUBTS ON COST

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
MANCHESTER, Nov. 20

The Evershed Commission's report on the spinning section of the cotton industry is not likely to be on sale before Monday, and at present the rank and file of the industry have only the necessarily short newspaper accounts on which to base their comments.

There is, therefore, a tendency to reserve judgment, but here, and in some of the cotton towns, one notes a general readiness to accept the proposals which should certainly attract some labour to the mills, though there is a doubt in many people's minds as to whether the industry will be able to pay the higher wages now advocated when the days of international competition come round again, as assuredly they will.

A representative opinion has been expressed by Sir Frank Pick, the former Cotton Controller and now deputy chairman and managing director of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, says that if this scheme does not attract labour, it will be a failure. He says that of re-equipment, must follow as quickly as finances allow. Both reforms will be extremely expensive and can only be achieved through the accumulation of profits, and the highest margins must come, and the buyer of cotton goods must realize that for 25 years he has had them on low wages and capital costs far below the cost of production.

Sir Frank Pick said that the industry will be much in the hands of the State. What will Sir George Schuster and his sector working party have to recommend?

DOCK TALKS ADJOURNED

BOTH SIDES TO DELIBERATE

COMPROMISE IN FRANCE

ACCEPTANCE BY COMMUNISTS

SHARING PORTFOLIOS

From Our Own Correspondent
PARIS, Nov. 20

The French political deadlock appears at last to be resolving itself. After conversations which have lasted all day, the Communist Party announced this evening that they have accepted General de Gaulle's proposals.

The agreement so far as is known at this moment is confined to the principles on which the distribution of portfolios will be made.

The names were to have been argued over during the night. But an unusually thick fog, which has blanketed Paris and its outskirts, has apparently prevented the consultation. General de Gaulle's private house in Neuilly is taking place. There have been put off until to-morrow so that there is no chance of a Government being announced very early.

ECONOMIC MINISTRIES

A close discretion is being observed at the moment on the terms of the agreement. According to Communist informants, each of the three principal parties is to receive a Ministry of State. The Communists are to be given the Ministry of National Economy, which coordinates the work of the various economic Ministries. Of these Ministries—Finance, Labour, Production, Agriculture, Transport, and Food—the first two are also to be given to the Communists.

Over the distribution of the three key Ministries, the Interior, Foreign Affairs, and War, a compromise has been found, the nature of which is only partly disclosed. The Ministry of War is to be shared by the Ministry of National Defence, and may itself be subdivided, one department going to the Communists. General de Gaulle will be the Minister of National Defence; thus the Communist Minister of War might be called a "Secretary of State," though losing part of his independence, would not be under the orders of a party representative; and his power, deriving Ministers of the Interior, would suffer the same loss of independence as himself.

These interpretations have yet to be confirmed. If they are true, they show that both General de Gaulle and the Communist Party have made concessions, the latter perhaps more than the former. After the uncompromising attitude proclaimed yesterday, and even during the morning, it seemed that only a narrow compromise would be possible. But remarks dropped yesterday inside and outside the Assembly, and certain points in the debate which escaped notice at the time, might have showed how the wind was veering.

POINTS OF PRINCIPLE

The Communists, for instance, might have put what the French Assemblies call a "previous question." They might, that is to say, have demanded a vote on whether or not General de Gaulle's request to the Assembly should be discussed at all. It is true that their defeat on that issue was a foregone conclusion, but the Communists' demand for a vote on whether or not the Government's motion should not have been laid before the House. It remains, however, that they gave way on points of principle.

Generally, General de Gaulle prepared his acceptance of the Assembly's "imperative mandate" by his second letter to the president of the Assembly, M. Quin, though by inviting the Assembly to arbitrate he was implicitly binding himself to stand by its verdict.

It is still premature to assess gains, for the Government is not yet formed and a last minute hitch may yet occur. But plainly the Communist demand for a vote on whether or not the Assembly, and, through it, the system of parliamentary government, that is to say, democracy itself, its roots torn up in 1940 are still standing.

The conversations which have led to this solution have been laborious. In reply to his invitation, the three main parties each sent a delegation to meet with General de Gaulle this morning. The talks lasted nearly three hours. In the afternoon General de Gaulle saw each of the party leaders separately. They knew that time was now strong enough to bear the burden of leading a Government. The Socialists have once more proved themselves to be parliamentary honest, and the Communists have shown that they are practising the spirit of compromise almost to the point of abnegation. The M.R.P. has averted the danger of being exiled by a new coalition, and at the same time has maintained its power, its spiritual leader, France will finally have been saved, for the time being at least, from the split into Communists and anti-Communists which so many feared would lead to civil war.

General de Gaulle, though he has given way to the Assembly and has suffered a setback to Communism, hardly will have every chance of directing the nation's affairs (as he has always said he must) until France has given herself new democratic institutions. The re-division of power will be his. As this crisis has proved, the nation is behind him and France has not yet thrown up an alternative leader.

COMMUNIST CLAIM

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THE REVOLT IN PERSIA

GOVERNMENT TROOPS TURNED BACK

DISQUIET ABROAD

From Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Events in north-west Persia have caused some disquiet in well-informed quarters in this country. It had been known for some time that the Tudeh movement in northern Persia, and especially in the Persian, but Turki-speaking, province of Azerbaijan, had taken a decidedly separatist form, and such few foreign visitors as were able to visit this region which was and still is occupied by Russian troops, were impressed by the support given to this party by the Russian occupying forces and by the influx of large non-Persian political adventurers into its ranks. The expected rising has now begun and the troops sent to Karzin to prevent any advance along the railway toward Teheran have been stopped there by the Russian Command and ordered back.

It does not appear that this action on the part of the Russian authorities is warranted by the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance with Persia, which was signed in Teheran on January 29. Article 4 of the treaty permits the allied Powers to maintain such forces in Persia as they may consider necessary; but it records that the presence of these forces on Persian territory does not constitute a military occupation and will disturb at little a possible the normal application of Persian laws and regulations.

TEHERAN DECLARATION

Further, by the "Declaration of the three Powers concerning Iran," made on December 1, 1943, at Teheran, President Roosevelt, Mr. Stalin, and Mr. Churchill affirmed their desire for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Persia, which the British and Soviet Governments had already bound themselves to respect in Article 1 of their treaty with Shah's Government. It is therefore not surprising that this seeming breach of the treaty of alliance by one of the Powers that signed it should have aroused anxieties which are confined to Teheran.

The situation in north-western Persia further complicated, according to reports from neutral Oriental sources, by the appearance of a Kurdish nationalist movement which seems to be soliciting Russian support for its autonomy (if no more of the Kurdish districts to the west of Lake Urmia). Should these reports be confirmed, this agitation arouse no small perturbation in Turkey and Iraq. Both countries have a Kurdish minority which has given them, especially Turkey, no trouble in the recent past. The prospect of establishment of a centre of Kurdish nationalism just across their borders will appal to them.

The Moscow *Zvezda* yesterday gave account of the disturbances which it ascribed to the oppressive treatment of the demobilized by the gendarmes and "black hundreds" organized by large landowners. The Tudeh party, which has been exercising a monopoly power in northern Persia under Russian control, is depicted by *Zvezda* as an oppressor body struggling for self-expression and denouncing the rights of the *Zvezda* repudiates the idea that the movement is separatist in intention; this, it says, is an invention of the *Free Press* and "London Radio," which is bringing charges against Soviet Russia in order to divert attention from much more serious dangers in Palestine and Egypt.

PERSIAN AMBASSADOR SEES MR. BEVIN

The Persian Ambassador, Mr. Seyed Hassa called on Mr. Bevin, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, last night to acquaint him with the latest reports on the situation.

In a statement to the Press the Ambassador expressed the view that his Government exercised the greatest possible patience. It drew the attention of the Soviet Government to the incidents which had occurred, but deliberately refrained from hostile declarations. The lack of a solution in the spirit of treaty of alliance might be possible.—*Reut*

"A TEST CASE"

PERSIAN ARGUMENTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—The Persian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Hussa Ala, said at a Press conference to-day: "Persia is a test case for all the principles on which the world went to war. Are United Nations agreements mere scraps of paper?"

The Ambassador disclosed the terms of Persian Note delivered to the Soviet Embassy in Teheran on November 17. It stated: "Should the Persian Government not succumb to the Russian military authorities, the lack of freedom of movement of its air forces, it will have the right of impunity for its failure to the 30 military authorities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs the Soviet Embassy that Persian Government has decided to send present two infantry battalions, one light battalion, one horse gendarme battalion, arms and ammunition, from Teheran, Minneh and Tabriz via Ghazvin and Zan. It is requested that the Soviet authorities consider these decisions as the earliest possible moment."

The Note enjoined the Soviet Government to respect the sovereignty of Persia, and instructed the Russian military authorities to refrain from interfering with the free action of the Persian army and constabulary. Asked if British troops were in remitt Persia, in spite of the fact that most of the Persian army had already withdrawn, the Ambassador said: "The British are willing to withdraw their troops. They stated this several times. But they will not until the Russian forces are withdrawn. Reut."

TYNE COAL EXPORTS