

OIL AND WAR

At Abadan the oil crisis (upon the solution of which world peace may depend) sweeps to its climax. The great pumps which load the oil into tankers must soon stop, as ships are told not to call. Persia now demands a receipt for the oil and will not let any loaded ship leave without giving it. To give such a receipt would be to give away the whole property.

To the Anglo-Iranian Persian Head Office went delegates from London to make an offer which surprised the world with its generosity. But whilst the capital was inflamed by agitators the offer was not even considered and amidst wild enthusiasm from the Communists a three-man commission was sent to Abadan to take over. The commission led by Deputy Makki at once intervened in the company's operations. Day by day, it became clear Abadan must close down, as Persian troops moved in. Realising at last the danger, Persia is said to have asked America to mediate. But in American Foreign Secretary Acheson, (who recently warned the Senate Committee that the oil crisis might lead to war), now has a more vital question thrust on him by Russia's surprise bid for peace in Korea in a United Nations broadcast by Jacob Malik.

"The Soviet people further believe that the most acute problem of the present day - the problem of the armed conflict in Korea - should also be settled. This would require the readiness of the parties to enter on the path of a peaceful settlement of the Korea problem. The Soviet people believe that the first step discussions should be started between the belligerents for a cease fire and an armistice providing for the mutual withdrawal of forces from the 38th Parallel. Can such a step be taken? I think it can provided there is a sincere desire to put an end to the bloody fighting in Korea."

While world capitals discuss peace, Korea reports no aggressors south of the 38th Parallel, as U.N. forces blast their way into the Iron Triangle used by the Reds as a build-up area for their attacks.

In the face of this might in action, it is hard to remember those early anxious weeks just a year ago when a handful of men bought time with their lives. Planes shower supplies from the air these days. Then, one man and his rifle was a "strong-point" and supplies, what he could carry with him. Then the enemy had the fire-power that now drives him from hill to hill.

From sea, too, the United Nations strike as rocket-ships prepare for a night attack on Wonsan harbour far behind the enemy lines.

Is Malik's offer real? Or is it only to free Russia's hands whilst she has her eyes on Persia? Back in America President Truman answers Malik.

"Today, after millions of Communist casualties, after the destruction of one Communist army after another the forces of aggression have been thrown back on their heels. They are back behind the lines where they started. We are ready to join in a peaceful settlement in Korea now just as we've always been. But it must be a real settlement, which fully ends the aggression, restores peace and security to the area and to the gallant people of Korea. It must be firm, consistent and level-headed. If we get discouraged or impatient we can lose everything we're working for. If we carry on with faith and courage we can succeed and if we succeed we will have marked one of the most important turning points in the history of man."

If peace comes to Korea, will Persia become the new danger spot? From barren wastes British enterprise and money won wealth which Persia shared on a proper mutually agreed contract. There was no oil till British drillers found it, and built long pipe lines to carry it a hundred-and-fifty miles to the coast. By disrupting the great Abadan organisation, Persia is courting ruin, as Mr. Jackson (who led the delegation to her Premier) explains:

"I do not know of any country which has attempted to nationalise a 95% export business. The Persians think that by nationalising oil they are going to get rich. Unfortunately, the reverse will be the case."

Yes, that is Persia's problem. The oilfields produce more than 30 million tons a year, practically all of which must be sold abroad to bring in revenue to keep the organisation running. Tar and other oil products must be packed and shipped; petrol and paraffin must be canned for some markets, though the bulk of the output may go in tankers.

Sixty-thousand Persians depend on the company for their living. If Abadan closes there is no work for them ... and Abadan must close if Persia holds up shipment of oil. Where perhaps six tankers a day used to load, there is now idleness. When the tanks of Abadan are full, a great organisation will close down and ruin will come to Persia unless obstinacy gives place to reason.

KOREA

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Nico--Weist

As the world capitals discuss cease, the fighting still goes on in Korea. Dutch and American troops dig in on a ridge as the United Nations blast their way into the Communist Iron Triangle north of the 38th parallel.

Then, down in the valley, the infantry teams up with armor for the next push in the endless up and down hill fighting.

As the infantry digs in again, U.S. airforce planes rush supplies ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to keep the Allied drive in motion.

Massed barrel to barrel, U.S. heavy mortars seek out the enemy on another hill.

From the sea, too, United Nations firepower blast the enemy.

U.S.
For the first time, ~~XX XXXXXX~~ Navy rocket ships go into action in Korean waters. The crews--known as "Hotshellmen"--who launch the rockets can be seen in the glare of the exploding powder charges.

Moving in Wonsan Harbor, far behind Communist lines, the rocket ships pour a heavy and terrifying barrage upon the enemy.

MALIK

WEIST

WOLF

Russia's Yakov Malik, on a United Nations broadcast, makes
a surprise Korea peace bid, immediately backed by Red China.

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PEOPLE

Rice---^Baruch

Secretary of State Acheson follows Generals MacArthur, Bradley and Collins before the Senate Committee investigating U.S. policy in Asia. Acheson warns that the Iranian oil ~~situation~~ dispute might deteriorate into war and defends American policy in the Far East.

TRUMAN

WEIST

WOLF

At Tullahoma, Tennessee, President Truman greets Governor Browning and Mrs. Nap Arnold as, before seven thousand spectators, he dedicates the Air Force's huge Arnold Engineering Development Center -- named for Mrs. Arnold's late husband, chief of the wartime air force. Mr. ~~Truman~~ Truman, giving America's answer to Malik's Korean peace bid, reminds his audience:

IRANIAN NATIONALIZATION COMMISSION

Here we are in Teheran, hot spot of the moment.

A palace which is, nowadays, much more focussed than the most classical monuments: it is in fact the Anglo Iranian Oil Co.'s.

All around, the animated and picturesque life of Oriental towns.

By the Central Post-Office, a swarm of public scribes.

At the airfield, we meet the delegates of the nationalization Commission: Deputy Macky of the nationalist party, Mr. Ardalan and Senator Martin Daftary.

They leave comforted by Koran's lecture and Grand Mollah's embracing, cheered by the nationalization partisans on whose banner is the motto:

"IF GOD IS WITH US, NOTHING CAN STOP US."

The Commission is landing on the Abadan oil-wells, where - on Government's behalf, they will ask the Anglo Iranian Co. officials for the transfer of operational direction.

A desolate corner of the earth, but furnishing the world with a third of the fuel which keeps it going along.

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