

U. S. CRUISERS CRASHING GATE AT SINGAPORE

Not "Officially Invited" to Attend Opening of New Naval Base by British

In America "crashing the gate" in sending three cruisers to the forthcoming dedication exercises at Britain's Singapore base? Karl H. Von Wiegand, dean of American war correspondents, encounters that question at Singapore while en route by air to investigate and report the inside development of the far eastern conflict.

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(Dean of American War Correspondents)

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SINGAPORE, Jan. 30 (INS)—Considerable mystery envelops the motives for and purpose of the forthcoming visit of three U. S. cruisers to Singapore to show the American flag at the formal opening of Britain's new base here.

Who took the initiative in this matter—Washington or London?

Continuity to previous Japanese misgivings and alarm, the impression is being created here that the idea originated with the American Navy department or government.

NONE ASKED

The influence Singapore newspaper, the Straits Times, declares that no naval power has "been asked to be present" at the British war exercises next month. It adds that as far as the U. S. cruisers are concerned, "there will be no question of 'participation' in any ceremony."

In this mighty sentinel-post of the far-flung British empire there is a singular mixture of feeling with regard to the American naval visit. The cruisers flying the stars and stripes will be welcomed. But there is fear as to the manner in which Japan might interpret the incident.

Concerning this, the Singapore Free Press makes the following editorial declaration:

"The cruisers' visit certainly creates a new situation. For, whereas the admiralty undoubtedly wished foreign powers to hear about Singapore, it is certain they did not wish them to attend the opening ceremony."

"Singapore information suggests that the United States is 'crashing the gate.' Whether or not the cruisers were invited, they will be welcome."

"The Straits Times and the Free Press are close to the government. It can be reasonably presumed that their comments were officially inspired."

QUESTION INVITATION

Were the American cruisers asked to come? Who invited them and why? These are the questions asked in Singapore.

Aside from the fact that the initiative in the matter is mysterious, it is suggested in well-informed circles that the British admiralty in London did not take the Singapore naval command into its confidence. The questions appearing in the press here were presumably inspired by the Singapore command which is allegedly not enthusiastic over the coming American naval call.

The Singapore naval command's embarrassment can be comprehended when it is understood that on the one hand the British admiralty's attitude has been to do nothing that might provoke Japan and on the other hand that Holland's West Indies naval and air forces have not been invited to Singapore's "coming out party."

The admiralty's anxiety to avoid provoking Japan is obviously due to the fact that the bulk of the British navy is held tightly in the Mediterranean by Benito Mussolini's increasing sea, air and land strength.

As for Holland's East Indies forces, they are only a few hours sailing time away from here and upon their co-operation Singapore would count in the event of a sudden emergency.

AGREEMENT REACHED

It is even suggested here that America's naval staff in Washington has come to an understanding of its own with the British admiralty. This would be along the lines familiar to the military general staff talks held in Europe when governments do not want to commit themselves directly with each other.

The participation of American cruisers in Britain's show here cannot be explained as a "parallel action" for the protection of common interests. There are no American interests endangered in this corner of Asia.

Nervousness in Singapore and the British Malay states, engendered by fears regarding Japan's designs, has largely subsided. It has been replaced by the conviction that Japan will have her hands full in China for some years to come.

Steel Production On the Up-Grade

CLEVELAND, Jan. 30 (AP)—Although demand continues slow in the steel industry, magazine and mill today the steady advance in production indicates consumers are in need of material. Production last week reached 83 per cent of capacity. An increase of 2.5 per cent to the highest point since Nov. 28.

SWINGING IN THEATER AISLES



HERE IS ONE of the reasons that many people are viewing with alarm the fever generated by Benny Goodman's swing band at New York theatre. A pair of badly-smitten swing addicts are shown, unable to sit still any longer as the rhythm got them, doing a shag in the aisles. Now they're calling Goodman a new edition of Hamelin's Pied Piper.

SCOUTS PLAN ANNIVERSARY

Seven districts of Fort Orange Boy Scout council have completed plans for the celebration of anniversary week, February 6-12.

District one will conduct its celebration in School 23 on February 11; district three, Calvary Methodist Episcopal church gymnasium, Feb. 8; district four, St. Joseph's school, Feb. 8; district five, St. Paul's Episcopal church, Feb. 8, and district six, St. Patrick's hall, Feb. 8. Colonie district in the Rensselaer school, Feb. 8; and the Rensselaer district February 9.

The annual ski meet will be conducted, weather permitting, Feb. 12 under the auspices of the Dartmouth Alumni association at the Municipal Golf course. Scouts who joined troops last week were Gino Fiscaletti, troop 26; Richard Butler and William E. Becker, Jr., troop 44, and Richard Nichols, Jr., troop 53, Castleton.

Greater U. S. Navy Stirs Japan

TOKIO, Jan. 30 (AP)—The Japanese press, commenting today on the United States naval expansion program, recalled Minister of Navy Yonai's statement to the Diet (parliament) that Japan need not feel uneasy about national defense as long as the American navy stays within treaty limits. The newspaper Nichi Nichi asserted that "if the United States should build a navy beyond treaty strength, it is clear that Japan must take counter measures."

Ashai, another Tokyo paper, said "there is no reason for such American expansion at this moment, when no country is challenging or planning to challenge the United States."

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NEW OFFICERS FOR CORNELL

ITHACA, N. Y., Jan. 30 (AP)—Election of George F. Rogalsky as comptroller of Cornell university to succeed the late Charles D. Bostwick and of Prof. William N. Barnard as director of the Sibley School of Mechanical Engineering was announced today after the winter meeting of the board of trustees in New York Saturday.

Dr. John Gamble Kirkwood, 30, who in 1936 received the A. A. C. Langmuir award in pure chemistry as the most promising young chemist in America, will return to Cornell from the University of Chicago as the first incumbent of the Todd professorship of chemistry.

140 Foot Model Tells of Floods

ITHACA, Jan. 30 (AP)—Floods which occur, on the average, only once in a hundred years are being studied by use of a flood control model of the Chenango river at Binghamton, which has been set up at Cornell university.

The model is a 140 foot long miniature representing two miles of the Chenango. It shows Binghamton pinching the river where the stream divides the city. The model is under a long shed. Rain and snow do not disturb its artificial floods. Nearby creeks take supplies the lower water, which flows under the shed in a stream equivalent to a couple of open hydrants.

More Relief Funds Demanded by Lewis

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (AP)—John L. Lewis declared tonight that thousands of workers now face desperate need and even starvation "in spite of the President's promise" to let no willing worker starve.

In a letter urging all affiliates of his Committee for Industrial Organization to notify Congress that "immediate action is needed" to provide 3,000,000 work relief jobs for the unemployed, Lewis added:

"The administration has taken upon itself this obligation, and the workers of America expect it to fulfill its promise."

No more work relief jobs are available at present to meet an unemployment situation that is reaching "a very serious emergency," he said.

"Unless an immediate order is made by the administration to the WPA to open its rolls and put at least 3,000,000 people to work, there will be dire suffering in the nation. This order can be given immediately. Following that there will be needed a supplemental appropriation by Congress for the rest of the fiscal year up to June 30, 1938, sufficient to cover at least 3,000,000 jobs."

Saying the CIO "has taken upon itself the duty of presenting the case of the unemployed," Lewis added that the Affiliated United Mine Workers already was handling the matter to the attention of Congress.

Ball Record Set

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (AP)—Incomplete returns from 18,000 celebrations of President Roosevelt's 60th birthday indicated today, said Keith Morgan, chairman of the "Fight Infantile Paralysis" campaign, that "all record were shattered."

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High Court Turns Liberal Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (INS)—The natural course of events will bring President Roosevelt tomorrow an objective he could not obtain through legislation—a liberal Supreme court—when Stanley F. Reed dons the robe of an associate justice.

Ironically, however, the court may not swing definitely to the left for some time, because of the serious illness of the liberal Justice Cardozo. Thus, Chief Justice Hughes and Justice Roberts, generally regarded as middle-of-the-roaders, will continue to hold the balance of power for the present.

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