

French Official Sees Drop in Export Franc

PARIS, Jan. 7 (AP)—Creation of a second, devalued franc to help increase French exports will be carried out within two weeks, a highly placed government official said last night.

The government source explained that for import purposes and within France the old rate of 119 francs to the dollar will be maintained. The "export franc," which is expected to be set at about 240 to the dollar or double the present rate, would affect only French exporters and foreign importers and tourists.

The French government, this source said, received assurances from Washington yesterday the American attitude toward the French move was "more friendly" following the National Assembly's approval Monday night of an extraordinary tax bill to mop up excess purchasing power.

Negotiations for permission to create the "export franc" have already begun in Washington between officials of the International Monetary Fund and the permanent French representative to the fund, Jean de Largentaye.

Premier Robert Schuman and Finance Minister Rene Mayer meanwhile, began work on the second half of their overall economic program as the assembly wound up its extraordinary session and recessed until Jan. 13. One of Mayer's proposals is to import as much foodstuffs, principally wheat, meat, eggs and dairy products, as can be paid for in an effort to break the back of the black market and force food prices down.

Expectant Mothers Isolated by Bridge Collapse in Oregon

MEHAMA, Ore., Jan. 7 (UP)—Three expectant mothers were getting "pretty nervous" today as they waited for highway crews to finish building a new bridge so they could get to a hospital.

The old bridge collapsed last week under the weight of a logging truck, isolating three women in the Eluhorn Valley district on the other side. Highway crews immediately began to construct an emergency Bailey bridge. In the event of a race with the stork, planks could be laid from the span on the opposite shore and the women taken across, it was said.

A neighbor said Mrs. Gordon Knox, 25, Mrs. Roy Roberts, 25, and a third woman whose name was not disclosed were "anxious" for the bridge to be finished.

Jap 'Mad Doctor' to Die

YOKOHAMA, Jan. 7 (AP)—Hisakichi Tokuda, so-called "mad doctor" convicted by a U.S. 8th Army commission of killing four prisoners of war, including three Britons, in medical experiments, has been sentenced to death.

Prelate Assails Sanction Given Childless Marriages

LONDON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, said last night that man "could permit relations without procreation and could exterminate the race."

Expounding a thesis that man's own mastery of nature is compelling him to revalue his moral ideas, the head of the Church of England told 2,000 delegates at the opening of a student Christian movement annual conference:

"Man by artificial insemination could produce births and could people a whole nation from one father. He could permit relations without procreation and

Miss '48 of Munich



Karen Hilda Knowles, who arrived at the 98th Gen. Hosp., Munich, at 0104 on Jan. 1, thus taking third place in the diaper derby, is shown with her mother, Hilda, wife of S/Sgt. Earl A. Knowles, of Neuburg Air Base photo laboratory. The hospital officer's club presented her with \$48 as "Miss '48."

1st Vet Gets Bonus in N. Y.

ALBANY, Jan. 7 (UP)—New York State's first World War II bonus was paid yesterday to a 31-year-old veteran who received the Purple Heart for a wound received while fighting on Saipan.

Vincent J. Butera, of Schenectady received the first \$250 check from Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in a brief ceremony in the executive chambers.

Butera's application was the first to be processed and approved by the Veterans Bonus Bureau for Overseas Service. Other bonuses of \$50 and \$150 will be paid to veterans whose service was in the continental U.S.

A native of Schenectady, Butera was a staff sergeant with the 105th Inf. He was wounded in action June 25, 1944, while leading his rifle platoon on Saipan. He still has shell fragment in his lung.

Discharged Feb. 27, 1945, after more than four years' service, Butera is now employed as a bookkeeper in Schenectady.

The state bonus to 1,600,000 ex-servicemen and women is expected to cost \$400,000,000.

Mine Sinks Swedish Ship

WARSAW, Jan. 7 (UP)—An unnamed Swedish ship, carrying coal from Stettin to Bornholm, struck a mine yesterday off Dieusiedle (the former Swinemunde) and sank within 10 minutes. Of the 14 crew members 10 were rescued by the Polish ship Torun.

Tojo Testifies He Urged War Against U.S.

TOKYO, Jan. 7 (UP)—Former Premier Hideki Tojo stepped down from the witness stand today, after concluding his defense against war crimes charges, with the admission he had advised Hirohito to declare war upon the U.S. and Britain.

Tojo rejoined 24 other major Japanese war crimes defendants in the prisoners' dock after holding the spotlight since Dec. 26 with his version of the story behind Japan's launching of the Pacific war.

In his final testimony he told an international military tribunal he and two chiefs of staff were the three persons who in 1941 gave Hirohito final advice to make the war declaration.

"Japan reached the decision to go to war in self defense after the important decision had been studied carefully by a series of liaison conferences, imperial conferences and councils of senior statesmen and the generals of the supreme war council," Tojo said.

"Their determinations were reported to his majesty personally by me and two chiefs of staff."

Paris Gendarmes Assailed by Own Camembert Coup

PARIS, Jan. 7 (UP)—Police at the St. Lambert district station were up to their necks today in overripe Camembert cheeses and the stifling atmosphere was growing worse every day.

It all happened because police arrested Pierre Chapsal, 65, on charges of black marketing following the complaint of his landlady he had been receiving mysterious packages daily.

When police opened one of the boxes, they found it contained 50 packages of "well done" Camembert.

The police commissioner ordered Chapsal to jail and the daily shipments forwarded to the station house. Since economic police have not yet gotten around to investigating an accomplice in the provinces, Camembert has been piling up in the station at the rate of 50 boxes a day.

Britain Warned Of Scurvy Menace

LONDON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Potato rationing may lead to an outbreak of scurvy in Britain this spring, a professor at the London Hospital Medical College warned today in a letter to the weekly Medical Press.

Geoffrey H. Bourne wrote that potatoes have been a principal source of Vitamin C—the anti-scurvy vitamin—and that most families have been making up for lack of calories by eating more potatoes.

Now with potatoes rationed to three pounds a week per person, because of this year's unsatisfactory crop, "the vitamin intake of the large section of the population restricted to the official potato ration will be at a scurbutic level," Bourne declared.

Dogs Guard Master's Body, Finally Have To Be Killed

ERIE, Pa., Jan. 7 (AP)—Twelve snarling dogs which guarded their master in death had to be killed by police and a dog catcher before officials could remove the body of Fred Koch, 68, from the small shack in which he died of a heart ailment.

Neighbors, who missed Koch, called police but the officers were kept at bay by the dogs. A dog catcher broke a window and started firing. Neighbors said the mongrels were strays Koch had befriended over a long period.

Eyes Have It



The X-ray eyes of this 16-year-old boy, Pieter Van Jaarsveld, of Southwest Africa, have astounded the gold and diamond mining magnates. Normally intelligent and a lover of good music, Pieter has turned his eyes to phenomenal use, locating buried diamonds, underground streams of water, gold and coal. —INP

Report Stalin Is Ill Doubted

LONDON, Jan. 7 (UP)—Konni Zilliacus, Labor member of Parliament who saw Generalissimo Stalin last Oct. 14, today scoffed at a report the Soviet premier is paralyzed down the right side, walks with crutches and is gravely ill.

The report was attributed in London morning newspapers to Dr. M. P. Brandao, Brazilian ambassador to Moscow until his withdrawal in November.

Zilliacus said Brandao could not have seen Stalin after Oct. 14, because the premier did not return to Moscow until after the ambassador had left.

Zilliacus and six Labor Party colleagues were received by Stalin at his villa at the Caucasian Black Sea resort of Sochi.

"After our talk in the villa, Stalin walked down a flight of steps with us to a parking area where our car was waiting," Zilliacus said. "He was bronzed from the sun, jovial and walked with a sprightly step. His whole manner was jaunty. Certainly he had no limp or any use for crutches."

Zilliacus said Stalin indicated he intended to remain in Sochi at least through November to avoid the heavy rain and sleet of Moscow's autumn.

Russian Christmas Calls Worshippers

MOSCOW, Jan. 7 (AP)—Thousands of worshippers thronged Moscow's Cathedral of the Resurrection yesterday evening to be led in Orthodox Christmas Eve services by Alexei, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia.

Throughout Russia, similar services were held, celebrating the anniversary of Christ's birth, according to the Eastern church calendar.

Today was the Russian Christmas Day, no longer an official holiday, but which many people still revere. Russia, ever since the revolution, has made New Year's Day a day of parties and gift giving, complete with Christmas trees and Grandfather Frost, the Russian equivalent of Santa Claus.

Poles to Purchase Cars

ROME, Jan. 7 (UP)—A Polish mission will visit Italy this month to negotiate the purchase of motor vehicles from the Fiat and Isotta Fraschini plants, the Foreign Office announced today.

Yugo Troops Fire Into U.S. Trieste Zone

TRIESTE, Jan. 7 (UP)—Yugoslav troops fired into the U. S. Zone of the Trieste Free Territory last night, American authorities reported today.

The incident occurred between American outposts No. 4 and 5, about 12 miles northeast of Trieste city, along the Free Territory-Yugoslav frontier.

This was the same area where Yugoslavs attempted to enter Trieste Free Territory through U. S. lines in mid-September after treaty ratification.

There were no casualties. 30 Rounds Fired

The preliminary American report on last night's incident was submitted by Lt. Hayes J. Orth, 28, executive officer of the 98th Cav. Recon. Tp.

Orth's report said his six-man patrol received about 30 rounds of fire from a spot approximately 50 yards inside Yugoslav territory. The shots were said to have been fired both by automatic weapons and rifles.

Orth's early report added that none of his men was injured and that the Americans did not return the fire.

Top Reds Seen Holding Talks

MILAN, Jan. 7 (AP)—Top Italian Communist leaders and guests from the Cominform countries, including the Soviet Union, slipped out of the Italian Communist congress in Milan today, while minor party leaders took the rostrum.

Their departure together gave the appearance at least that a Cominform conference, for which Italian papers have said this congress is a shield, was taking place.

Those who left included Palmiro Togliatti, of Italy; Pavel Judin and Vagan Gregorian, of Russia, and Maurice Thorez, of France. Others included Yugoslav, Czech, Bulgarian, Romanian and Hungarian visitors, all men high in their parties.

With a representative from Poland, they would compose a complete Cominform representation.

Harry Pollitt, secretary of the British party, also left, although Britain is not a Cominform country.

Graziani Claims War Immunity

ROME, Jan. 7 (UP)—Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, builder of the Italian African empire and once a skillful desert warrior, charged with collaborationism, raised a fine judicial point yesterday when he claimed the crime with which he is charged was "extinguished under the constitution."

Graziani, who had obtained five postponements of his trial heretofore for physical inability to be removed from the Naples clinic and stand trial in Rome, yesterday presented an application to the court of appeals claiming exemption, under Article 25, of his alleged crime. Article 25 of the republican constitution, in effect since Jan. 1, forbids the retroactivity of penal law.

British Airline Lists Losses

LONDON, Jan. 7 (AP)—The British Overseas Airways Corporation, biggest of Britain's three nationalized airlines, reported today it incurred a loss of \$244 on each of the 129,828 passengers it carried during the 12 months period ended last March 31.