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# ATOMIC WEAPONS IN 10 YEARS

## “Unwise to Withhold Knowledge”

WASHINGTON (A.A.P.).—Other nations might be armed with atomic weapons by 1955, Dr. Arthur Compton, atomic bomb consultant and Nobel Prize winner, said yesterday.

“It is well recognized,” he said, “that we have nothing to hold back that will appreciably affect the rate of progress of a determined rival in building atomic bombs. It will be at least five years before any nation except England, which has good start, can be ready to make military use of atomic weapons.”

“We may consider perhaps 1955 as the date from which no agreements between the contrary are reached, we will be living in a world armed with atomic weapons.”

“The major consequences of atomic power will inevitably be war, and the power will inevitably be used to wage war. If we are wise we shall take immediate steps to form this government by international agreement instead of waiting for a third world war of unparalleled destruction to determine the role of the world.”

Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of Harvard College Observatory, said it was selfish and perhaps dangerous, to conceal knowledge of atomic research or to restrict its dissemination.

“It was unwise to withhold for any appreciable time essential knowledge that could be of value to the whole world.”

“We must, as soon as it is emotionally possible, accept the principle that scientists are world citizens who serve all mankind and must work for the future, not for the past,” he added.

“Wise Control Needed”

The Secretary for War (Mr. Patterson) urging legislation to establish a commission to control atomic energy, told the House Military Affairs Committee that mismanagement of the atomic bomb secret would mean passing the death sentence on the future of the U.S. and the world.

“No single Government department should be charged with a responsibility that affects the whole future of mankind.”

# GENERAL

## JAPS. TO FIGHT COMMUNISM

TOKYO (A.A.P.).—A group of Diet members have formed themselves into a commission to investigate the reconstruction of Japan. Their objectives are the dissolution of Parliament to permit the formation of a legislative body keyed to reconstruction; the formation of a new political party comprising men of ability in all branches of the national life; and the waging of a determined fight against Communism, which aims at the extermination of our unique national policy under the Emperor.

## LAVAL TO DIE

PARIS (A.A.P.).—Pierre Laval, Ex-Vichy Chief of State, has been found guilty and sentenced to death.

UNLESS Gen. de Gaulle relieves him, Laval will face a firing squad before the end of this month. High French officials to British correspondents that according to present arrangements Laval's execution will be carried out speedily.

Before the jury retired the President read a letter from Laval in which he stated that Laval could have refused all charges against him had he been able to present at his trial. “I won't sign a petition for mercy.”

Later Laval told his counsel: “I don't want mercy, I want justice.”

“The sentence which is now being given is a fair hearing with an unprejudiced jury which would not abuse me in court, and a guarantee that I would be free to travel wherever I wished.”

Despite Laval's refusal to sign a mercy plea, his defence counsel will continue to fight the case and to quash the death sentence and obtain a retrial.

## Denial of Charges

Associated Press claims to have exclusively secured written defence evidence which Laval refused to make to the court.

Answering charges on which the verdict of guilty was based—collaboration with the enemy and the giving of Laval said that the 1940 armistice inaugurated collaboration rather than anything he did during the four years of the Vichy regime.

“We had no means to try to dam German rapacity and cruelty other than to give intelligence to the enemy,” he said.

Answering a charge that he developed hatred of England after events connected with Eltham, Laval said Mr. Anthony Eden communicated an expression of regret to him when he learned of Laval's intention to resign the Foreign Ministry.

Laval disclaimed responsibility for the scuttling of the French fleet.

“He declared that he protested against the scuttling of the fleet and against the persecution of Jews.”

Gen. Eduardo Azaola, commander of the Argentine Air Force, demanded the return of the Argentine Vice-President (Senor Peron).

# THREE STATES HARD HIT BY COAL SHORTAGE Industrial Upheavals

MELBOURNE.—Industrial upheavals and disorganisation throughout Australia, resulting from the coal shortage following disputes in the N.S.W. coalfields and transport troubles, are deeply concerning the Federal Government.

Gas is severely rationed in Melbourne; Sydney is in danger of a complete electricity blackout, and many industries in Adelaide had the electricity supply cut off from midnight last night.



The official party after the opening ceremony at Elphin yesterday. From the left—The President of the N.A.P.S. (Mr. Gordon Hughes), the Premier Mr. Cosgrove, the Mayor (Ald. Clark) and the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden). In front are, second from left, the Mayoress (Mrs. E. P. Fawcner) and on her left Mrs. Cosgrove.

## ALL ON WAY SOON

CANBERRA.—All Australians recovered from the Japanese and concentrated in Singapore will be on their way home within three days.

## GRAVE ALARM FELT

SYDNEY.—Union officials expressed the opinion yesterday that a crisis in the industrial and social life of Sydney is being introduced by the Coalition Government.

## WAR CONTROLS TO STAY

LONDON (A.A.P.).—The Commons today passed the second reading of the Supplies and Services (Transition Powers) Bill, which continues certain controls for a further five years.

## SHARING U-BOATS

HAMBURG (A.A.P.).—Under the terms of a provisional agreement for the disposal of the former German U-boat fleet, the British and American navies will each receive six boats for experimental purposes. Approximately 150 will be scrapped.

## RECUPERATING AT RANGOON: TAS. Ps.O.W.

RANGOON.—Forty liberated Ps.O.W. evacuated from Saigon and Bangkok have been held over at Rangoon for special hospital care and attention by British and Indian doctors before being moved on to Singapore for evacuation to Australia.

## Protestants Demonstrate at Archbishop's Enthronement

LONDON (A.A.P.).—Shouting “this is Popery—let those wanting Roman Catholicism go to Rome,” about 200 members of the National Union of Protestants gathered outside St. Paul's to protest against the enthronement of Dr. J. W. C. Wand (former Archbishop of Brisbane) as Bishop of London.

## Hopeful of Solution of Big Five Foreign Ministers' Divergence

LONDON (A.A.P.).—The Foreign Secretary (Mr. Bevin) expressed confidence in a report to the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon that the Foreign Ministers' Council stalemate would be overcome.

## SECRET JEWISH RADIO

JERUSALEM (A.A.P.).—The “Voice of Israel” is the title of a secret Jewish radio station first heard on the air on Tuesday night. It claims to be transmitting from the “mountains in Palestine” and is being broadcast by the Jewish movement. The announcer in Hebrew condemned British policy in suspending Jewish immigration.

## WORLD SPEED RECORD ATTEMPT

LONDON (A.A.P.).—Two British planes will shortly attempt a world air speed record. Rolls Royce are fitting out two Gloster Meteor fighters for the attempt. They will fly over Southampton water, where the Schneider trophy races were held. One Meteor will have full speed equipment of guns and ammunition and the other will be stripped and polished for the speed. Special timing apparatus will be installed. The Meteor is expected that both machines will do at least 600 m.p.h. in a level flight.

## Announcers' Ban on Liberal Party

MELBOURNE.—Objections by members of the Actors' Equity to the broadcasting Liberal Party programme will result in the banning of Liberal Party announcers from the air.

## YOUTH CHARGED WITH MURDER

MELBOURNE.—Police last night laid a charge of murder against a youth charged with the murder of a young woman earlier in the day. He will appear before a children's magistrate.

## PILOT TOOK BALL SURRENDER

MELBOURNE.—The Japs on Ball's published island of romance in the N.E.L. surrendered to a R.A.A.F. transport pilot on October 1.

## EXTREMISTS DELAY P.C.W. RELIEF

BATAVIA (A.A.P.).—Widespread disturbances in Java have halted activities for the relief of former Allied prisoners everywhere except in Batavia.

## IRONWORKERS' STRIKE

SYDNEY.—The strike at the Australian Iron and Steel Plant at Port Kembla is not settled by Sunday.

## 56,000 FROM S.E. ASIA

S.E. ASIA H.Q. (A.A.P.).—A total of 56,000 war prisoners and internees have been evacuated from S.E. Asia, including 8230 to Australia.

## DIGEST OF THE LEADERS

Atomic Bomb Secrets  
The attitude of Britain and America toward the agitation for dissemination of information about the atomic bomb may be rather like that of an individual who while willing to be friendly with a person he does not know very well, and while willing to do much to achieve such friendship, would not unthinkingly bestow his good so far as to sit in the electric chair and put the switch in the person's hands. It can only be hoped that further association will bring that rest understanding without which complete trust is impossible.

Idle Shipping  
Six hundred Tasmanian soldiers, stranded in Melbourne, and their thousands of relatives, will know what Mr. Menzies meant by the slogan of the returned soldiers in the Commonwealth Government in the face of industrial lawlessness.

Marketing Bill  
Details of the marketing legislation announced at the Launceston Show by the Premier (Mr. Cosgrove) will be awaited with keen interest.

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