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Cloudy with a few clear intervals and widely-scattered showers continuing warm. Low-high at Ch'town 45 and 70.

Western Powers 'Could Beat Russia' Claims Canada's Defence Minister

BY RICHARD J. J. GWYN
Ottawa Bureau of the Guardian
OTTAWA — (Special) — "The West could knock the stuffing out of the Russians if they started a war today," Defence Minister George Pearkes said.

He granted an interview to a Guardian reporter shortly after returning to the Capital from a visit to the United States Strategic Air Command headquarters at Omaha.

"Those that they have are not capable of carrying destructive enough weapons, nor of sufficient accuracy to master anything like a knockout blow," Mr. Pearkes said.

"I have just been there (Omaha) and I know the situation," he said.

"I am not trying to indicate that I believe war is any closer or more likely."

Officials in the Defence Department said that they considered Mr. Pearkes' remarks on the West's potential against Russia as probably the strongest he has made since assuming his portfolio in 1957.

The 71 year old Defence Minister made his comments in an interview at his Parliament Buildings office.

On questions dealing with the role of the Militia in Civil Defence, Mr. Pearkes stressed the "shield" concept.

He gained in importance both because of the current crisis over Berlin and because they were made immediately after Mr. Pearkes visit to SAC headquarters. SAC is the U.S. bomber force intended to deliver a mighty nuclear blow on Russian targets in the event of war. It is the "sword" of Western defence while NATO ground forces are the "shield".

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Transport Minister Tries To Relieve Seaway Block



HUNDREDS WATCH AS SPAN IS OPENED

Many hundreds of people watched last night as the old Hillsboro bridge centre span was opened for the first time since 1941. It opened to permit passage of the floating equipment of Found-

ation Maritime company which has the contract of constructing the piers and abutment for the new Hillsboro bridge which will link the ends of the causeway approaches and complete the Trans-

Canada link across the Hillsboro River. Large highway-department trucks with long cables were used to assist in turning the centre span when the engine in the control house apparently could not do the job alone. The

opening job started about six o'clock. It was well after dark when the span was closed again and traffic was resumed. Here the floating equipment is being lowered through the opening left by the turning span.

Shipping Banned Unless Equipped

BY THE CANADIAN PRESS
Transport Minister Hees took a quick look Monday at the ship-laden Welland Canal and announced that Canada has prohibited all foreign shipping not properly equipped to navigate the canal from using them.

Mr. Hees said his prohibition order has already been issued in Ottawa and is effective immediately.

At Ottawa it was learned that masters of vessels planning to use the seaway canals are to be advised at Montreal or ports en route that they should equip their vessels so as to be able to tie up securely in the canal locks while water levels are being changed.

Vessels tied securely fore and aft make it possible to change the water levels faster without danger of the vessel striking the lock sides or gates.

Mr. Hees, B. J. Roberts, president of the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, and other federal officials flew to St. Catharines about noon for a tour of the canal situation. Later he returned to Ottawa.

35 SHIPS WAITING
Early Monday night there were about 35 ships waiting at the canal's Lake Ontario entrance and more were expected during the night.

The main trouble seems to be at the first lock which can handle only one ship at a time. Once through it, vessels have no further delays in their eight-hour, 27 1/2-mile canal journey.

Canal officials fear a rush of ships from Lake Erie into the canal's Port Colborne entrance could cause a further bottleneck, tying up both ends of the system.

Already 120 ships have passed into the upper Great Lakes and haven't returned.

Canal officials say, however, overseas shippers are "learning the ropes" now and are passing through the canal much faster than before.

Another complaint is that there is a shortage of lake pilots to take overseas vessels from Lake Ontario through the canal into Lake Erie and through the St. Clair River to Sarnia.

The dispatcher's office at St. Catharines, which controls about 30 pilots, has refused to comment.

From midnight Saturday to midnight Sunday the canal handled 38 vessels, 24 upbound and 14 down.

Stolen Securities Said Ransomed
OTTAWA (CP) — Liberal George McIlraith asked Defence Production Minister O'Hurley Monday to look into the inability of a Canadian company to get a United States Army contract for turbines, despite its bid being by far the lowest submitted.

The minister agreed to consider the Ottawa West MP's comments request that Mr. O'Hurley report whether the situation is at variance with a new defence production sharing arrangement between Canada and the U.S.

day night, said there is "no magic formula" to conjure away East-West differences. He urged the conference to work sincerely for "a turn of the tide" in East-West relations.

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They met for 45 minutes to hear opening speeches and adjourned until this afternoon (11:30 a.m. ADT) when they will tackle the explosive problems of Berlin, Germany and European security.

The Soviet demand nearly torpedoed the conference before it started. The issue finally was resolved at a private session of the four foreign ministers which delayed the opening ceremonies.

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An American spokesman emphasized this made the Germans "advisers," as the West has insisted all along. But it will enable Lothar Bolz, East German foreign minister, to address the West officially for the first time.

CHINK IN ARMOR
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day night, said there is "no magic formula" to conjure away East-West differences. He urged the conference to work sincerely for "a turn of the tide" in East-West relations.

Airline 'Stupidity' Assailed By Malik

HALIFAX (CP) — Charles Malik said here Monday night "the stupidity of two airlines" forced him to charter a plane to keep a scheduled engagement here.

A spokesman for Trans-Canada Air Lines said the mixup in reservations was no fault of theirs.

The president of the United Nations General Assembly got here an hour late for a banquet of St. Mary's University alumni.

RESERVATIONS CHANGED
After being advised of the error, American Airlines told TCA that the reservations had been changed to get Mr. Malik to Boston two hours and 15 minutes before the TCA flight left.

Mr. Malik arrived on the later flight and missed the connection.

The American Airlines ticket showed he was down for Flight 252, the TCA spokesman said.

"As far as we can tell at the moment it was no fault of ours."

He said Mr. Malik told airport officials in Boston he would put in a claim against American and Trans-Canada for the balance of the charter cost after applying his ticket money and that of another passenger who accompanied him on the charter against the \$300.

ONLY COMMENT
Mr. Malik arrived at the Shearwater Airport, seven miles from here, about 15 minutes late for the banquet. He came by car the rest of the way. His only comment before entering the banquet hall was about the airlines' "stupidity."

Motorist Burns Offending Tree
WINNIPEG (CP) — A motorist who tried to burn down Winnipeg's battle-scarred Wolsley Avenue elm said in court Monday the tree caused a near-accident Thursday.

Ronald Oldenburg, 22, of Transcona, Man., arrested with two friends after they attempted to burn the tree, told police a child ran from behind the tree and narrowly missed being hit.

In the evening, Oldenburg said, he met Thomas Battaglia, 25, and George Robert Philbrown, 20, both of Winnipeg. He said they poured a quart of oil and a quart of gasoline around the base of the elm and ignited it.

The three were fined \$100 and costs each after pleading guilty to willful damage. Damage to the tree was slight.

SMALL INCREASE
Mr. Pearson said the \$9 pension increase actually represented only a 17-per-cent increase in the pension. For that increase, the tax was being boosted by 50 per cent.

The government now was taking action that party political considerations had prevented in the fall of 1957, when contributions to the fund should have been increased.

The Liberals condemn the "failure" of the government to apply the pay-as-you-go principle, he said. The government must accept full financial responsibility for the tax increase.

Erhart Regier (CCF—Burnaby-Coquitlam) charged that the old age pensioner is being made to bear the blame for the tax increases. The government's plea that it wants to balance the fund's books was thought up as an excuse to justify the tax increase and the old age pensioner

was being used as someone to blame.

Arnold Peters (CCF—Timiskaming) said he favors lifting the \$90 ceiling on the annual amount that can be collected from a taxpayer.

CONSERVATIVE PROMISE
William Beneditckson (L—Kenora-Rainy River) said the Conservatives in the 1957 election campaign promised that the pension could be increased without requiring any additional tax. Prime Minister Diefenbaker had said so, for one.

Augury Said Good For Geneva Talks

BY ED SIMON
LONDON (CP) — The speedy resolution by the big four foreign ministers of their procedural dispute over the status of the German delegates augurs well for the progress of the talks at Geneva.

Their preoccupation with round and square tables was not as comic as it might appear at first glance. It amounted to a geometrical translation of one of the vital issues that must be dealt with at the conference is to succeed.

A round table, with an East German representative sitting as an equal with those of the other conferring powers, would have implied recognition by all delegates of the status of his country as an independent power—an objective eagerly sought by Russia and as vigorously opposed by the West.

A square table, with East and West facing each other from opposite sides, would have placed the East German where the Western powers feel he belongs—in a subsidiary position to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

LOGICAL COMPROMISE
The compromise—placing East and West Germany at separate tables—was logical enough and required no particular skill in diplomacy or furniture removal. But questions of less import have tied up previous international conferences for weeks on end.

It would be premature to conclude that the ministers will tackle all their problems in the same spirit. But it is evident that they are interested in getting down to cases rather than in seeking an excuse to pick a quarrel.

RCAF MERCY FLIGHT
N. Rustico Girl Flown To Halifax Hospital

Eight-year-old Debbie Gallant of North Rustico was flown by RCAF mercy flight from Charlottetown to Halifax General Hospital last night.

The little girl, suffering an undisclosed illness, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aubin Gallant.

She was taken from the city hospital to the airport by the Charlottetown Funeral Home ambulance where a Dakota aircraft from the RCAF Station, Summerside was waiting to fly her to Greenwood, N.S.

An RCAF doctor and nurse were expected to be waiting at the Nova Scotia air base to accompany her to Halifax by ambulance.

She was accompanied on the trip by a city hospital nurse Miss Marguerite Morrissey of Iona. Miss Morrissey was expected to return to the Island last night.

The plane, piloted by Squadron Leader R. A. Swartz, left the airport at 9:30 and was due to arrive in Greenwood an hour later. Co-pilot was Flight Lieutenant G. A. Lawrence. Crew members were LAC Kinney and LAC G. A. Marsh.

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Old Age Security Tax Hike Is Charged 'Party Politics'

OTTAWA (CP) — Opposition Leader Pearson charged Monday that a 50-per-cent increase in the old age security tax in the federal budget resulted from the Progressive Conservative government playing party politics with the old age pension.

Speaking during debate on bills embodying budget tax and tariff changes, the Liberal leader said the government should have made additional revenue available to the old age security fund in the fall of 1957 when the old age pension was increased \$9 to \$36 a month.

The fund is financed by tax levies on personal incomes, corporation incomes and manufacturers' sales. The taxes were two per cent on each category until the April 9 budget which boosted them to three per cent.

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Attendance dropped to as few as 31 MPs during the discussion. The Commons approved the tax bill and went on to discussion of bills setting out the budget tariff changes.

During this debate, Mr. Beneditckson and J. W. Pickersgill (L—Bonaville-Twillingate) forecast serious repercussions from Italy as a result of a tariff increase on woolens and worsteds.

Mr. Pickersgill said he is certain that the fishing industry and the grain growers will register strong objections because of the importance to them of Italy as an export market.

Mr. Pickersgill recalled that Mr. Fleming argued on this question last week that the higher tariff would mean only a very slight increase in the cost of living in Canada.

Employment Rises In U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment in the United States fell sharply last month as the number of persons at work reached a record high for April.

A jump of 1,184,000 in the job total from March to April took 735,000 off the unemployment rolls. Administration leaders say the gains are double the normal seasonal expectation.

FOREIGN MINISTERS
Reds' Stubborn Demand Delays Opening Of Talks

By JOHN EARLE
GENEVA (Reuters) — The big four foreign ministers Monday night began their first conference in nearly four years after an unprecedented delay of 2 1/2 hours brought on by Russia's stubborn demand for full German participation in the talks.

They met for 45 minutes to hear opening speeches and adjourned until this afternoon (11:30 a.m. ADT) when they will tackle the explosive problems of Berlin, Germany and European security.

The Soviet demand nearly torpedoed the conference before it started. The issue finally was resolved at a private session of the four foreign ministers which delayed the opening ceremonies.

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Big Airlift Is Recalled

BERLIN (Reuters) — The 10th anniversary of the end of the Berlin airlift—the biggest peacetime air ferry operation the world has seen—will be celebrated here today.

Varied ceremonies will recall the day in 1949 when the Russians, conceding defeat after an 11-month blockade, again threw open the roads, railways and canals linking West Berlin to West Germany, 110 miles away.

More than 200,000 flights by Western pilots reinforced the determination of the city's 2,150,000 residents not to give in to the Communists.

West Berlin officials have invited hundreds of guests to the anniversary celebration — ranging from statesmen to pilots who flew the airlift and next-of-kin of the 77 men who died saving the city from starvation.

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Co-op May Enter Fluid Milk Trade

The Central Farmers Co-operative will investigate the possibility of extending their operations to the fluid milk trade, it was decided last night at the annual meeting held in the Clover Club. It was also decided to make long term plans for to promote and assist setting up processing and marketing facilities for farmers producing small fruits and vegetables.

It was also decided to promote

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Late reports from Guardian news bureaus in Summerside, Montague, Alberton and Souris, and from special correspondents, now appear on the Island News Page.

and assist producers of small fruits and vegetables to set up processing and marketing facilities of their own.

(Continued on page 2 Col. 4)

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