

# British Christmas Ignores Troubled State Of World

By GRAHAM LOVELL  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
LONDON (CP) — Christmas bells will ring over a troubled Britain but the sense of crisis doesn't seem to dampen the seasonal enthusiasm. Yuletide, 1956, has all the usual trappings, and the country is plentiful and prices are generally lower than in previous post-war years. Grocers promise sufficient supplies, provided there is no last-minute "hoarding" by housewives.

Rumors that the closing of the Suez Canal would cut off Christmas supplies have proved unfounded. The only gastronomic shortages likely are far eastern species and the ever-popular tea. Most other oriental foods, now routed round the Cape of Good Hope, were in stock early, but almonds have gone up in price to a high of 14 shillings a pound. Raisins and dates are also affected.

CUT IN GASOLINE  
Just how much the festivities will be affected by gasoline rationing and the sudden "hump in

prices is hard to foresee. Automobile-owning families often take advantage of the holiday period to visit distant relatives. The 200-mile-a-month quota will certainly restrict these excursions.

Wines are plentiful. Prices and choices vary from the eight-shilling bottle of Spanish white to a 25-shilling bottle of choice Bordeaux red. Rum, whisky and gin are still around 53s a 24-ounce bottle.

Canadian and American whiskies, previously subject to a token quota, will be more in evidence. The government announced in November that North American whiskies may be imported in any quantity.

Christmas decorations have been up for weeks. Recent street sports daily-colored Chinese lanterns made of parchment, and clusters of aluminum globes. Giant models of Santa Claus and his entourage span the entrances of department stores.

TOYS PLENTIFUL  
Aside, things are just as bright. In the children's department toys cater for various tastes,

# Festive Fashion

By Hazel Meyrick  
In the last-minute frenzy of present buying and preparations, Christmas clothes tend to get overlooked — until you get that unexpected invitation to a party and find you've nothing new to wear.

Christmas is the one time in the year when you have a chance to be really dramatically dressed. And to help you make the most of the opportunity, I've asked the advice of several leading personalities in the fashion world.

"Wear bright colours," says couturier Matelli. He suggests kingfisher blue or bright green, undergarments with black.

"Make the most of contrasts," says the Queen's dressmaker, Norman Hartnell. His favorites are cornflower blue or turquoise with silver, black or copper, or black with white.

"Stick to short skirts for dancing," advises Victor Steibel, who prefers dresses in brocade or slipper satin, heavy, re-embroidered lace, velvet, or silk faille. Colors? Mr. Steibel suggests pink, laced with gold or silver.

Digby Morton plumps for separates — elegant shirts and skirts with a difference, that will go with the gayest party, yet still be good for relaxing in at home. His colorings, not to be found in the stores, are made in a wealth of wonderful materials.

And with the accent on economy try these suggestions from the cream of London's fashion world.

Let your imagination run riot on shirt and skirt combinations: try the sorcery of a deep red skirt with a shirt of matching rich brocade, or a blouse of dark, paisley printed silk, teamed with a black party skirt — quite ordinary faille one can be enlivened by the addition of a cummer-

band.

Try a steel grey satin skirt with a black velvet top and, if you are courageous enough to take the lead in fashion, make yourself one of those just-above-the-ankle length skirts that caused such a stir in the Paris collections last summer.

Your sweater can go safely to a party, dressed up for the occasion. The most elegant party sweater we've seen was a black cashmere wooler — it could be lambskin — lined with silver satin, fastened with tiny buttons of white mink — it could be rabbit — make your own from scraps bagged from a fur dealer.

Team a cashmere sweater, party fashion, with a satin skirt of an exactly matching colour — imagine the effect of a champagne silk evening skirt with its own matching twinset for instance, or a similar pink or pale lilac combination.

Dress up your tweed sheath for drop crystals. A crop-necked pin-afore dress is best, wear it without the blouse beneath, fill in the neckline with jewellery.

And if you are a suit girl at heart — copy couturier Michael's idea, and make yourself a dressmaker-style cocktail suit in coffee coloured satin, give it a waistcoat blouse of bright brocade.

And for the above-the-neck fashion, why not try those suggestions from the top.

"Try a dramatic hairstyle for a change," says French London's leading hair stylist. If you've been following fashion faithfully, by now your hair will be long enough to pin back into a chignon, if not you can always use a nylon switch. These can now be bought almost anywhere, and dyed to match your own hair colour. But it's more fun,

normally use it. Look for the types that have a glittering, silvery base, to give your eyelids a party sparkle. Try the effect of a very thin line of eyebrow pencil drawn along the lashes, finishing with a doe-eyed point in the corner. Just for the fun, emphasize your eyes with a heavy spot on your cheekbone — a heavy dot of black eyebrow pencil does the trick.

Wear a vivid nail lacquer for once, even if you prefer pale finger-tips, top it with a coat of colourless glitter-varnish to give your nails a frosted look.

"Hats for Christmas should be frivolous," says London milliner John. He suggests you make yourself a tiny chignon cap to sit right on the back of your head, from dark red velvet, edged with a narrow band of fur.

Cut a circle of velvet about 7-8" in diameter and gather the outer edge into a narrow elasticated band to fit over your chignon, or over a stiffened pillbox shape. Trim the hat with fur and sew a tiny comb into the top to anchor it, or spear it through with a giant hat-pin.

White, furry hats are this year's sellers, but if fur is not your first love, look for herets in curled or grey feathers or make your own haberdashery department of your local shop. Sew it snail-fashion over an ordinary felt beret.

Have fun with party stoles. Make your own from a yard of red velvet split lengthwise and joined end to end, backing onto pink. Be sure to pick your colours from the same tone category — scarlet must be teamed with an orange-pink rather than a mauve-pink for instance. The prettiest combination is crimson with very pale clove pink.

Finally here are some crazy party ideas for the intrepid. The coloured glass balls that hang on the Christmas tree make fantastic gypsy earrings, have loops attached to them that you can easily fix to a pair of stud earrings. Sew tiny bells around the edge of a pair of evening gloves

so that they jingle as you move with silver sequins. Stick them to your hands... pin a jewel on with colourless nail varnish your evening shoe to glitter as they stay put even when the you dance... and her's the most stole is washed.) Wear the tulle glamorous piece of nonsense we in a cloud around your head, ov-know — a yard or so of frost-er your shoulders, it looks wonder-white tulle, scattered liberally ful with a black dress.



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

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## Season's Greetings



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# Centrally-Heated Circular Towns Will Surround Paris

By BASIL CHAPMAN  
PARIS (Reuters) — Architects inspired by the pattern of ripples when a stone is thrown into a calm pool have presented French housing authorities with a bold scheme for relieving over-crowding in Paris.

They propose to build self-contained "satellite" towns, each housing between 20,000 to 250,000 people, designed in concentric rings with one central heating furnace for the whole town.

The first of these circular towns has been named White Lady. It is due to rise over the next four years on waste land at Arrouville, six miles outside Paris.

Government authority has been given for another such town at Vincennes, which is also on the fringe of the capital's suburbs.

CAREFULLY PLANNED  
White Lady and its Arrouville sister town have been carefully devised to focus the daily life of residents on a civic and commercial nucleus.

The nucleus with ripples on a pool is strengthened by grading the height of the rings of buildings, with 14-storey ones at the central "splash" and tipples of diminishing size represented by 12 eight and four-storey blocks of apartments.

There will be four building rings, each formed of blocks of apartments separated from the next group by the main road, by open spaces.

There will be 400 stores, a town

# Premier Chou Visits Pakistan

By ROSS BIRTWISTLE  
KARACHI, Pakistan (Reuters) — Premier Chou En-lai of Communist China cut open a huge cake at a civic reception Friday—and six white doves flew out.

But the peace doves found it heavy going.

Amid the shrieks of women, they fluttered awkwardly out of the cake and landed on the heads of some of Karachi's leading citizens. Workers had painted the tails of the birds green—Pakistan's national color—and the paint appeared to affect their flying power.

Chou, on his first visit to a country allied militarily with the West, urged the Afro-Asian nations to be united among themselves and with all peace-loving countries of the world "so that there will be no plot of the colonialists that cannot be smashed."

Speaking at the reception, he pointed to Anglo-French armed aggression in Egypt as an attempt to "revive colonial rule in the Asian and African countries."

SEATO MEMBER  
Pakistan is a member of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization and the British-backed Baghdad Pact—both designed to meet possible Communist aggression and subversion.

Chou's Pakistan visit will last 10 days.

Soon after Chou arrived here, he spent nearly two hours in private talks with Prime Minister H. S. Suhrawardy. The talks dealt with Indian-Pakistani relations.

Chou was shown an impressive flying display by 25 American-made jets.

# 'Quake in Queen Charlotte Islands

VICTORIA (CP) — A powerful earthquake in the Queen Charlotte Islands area off the British Columbia coast was recorded Friday by the seismograph at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory here.

Siesmologist Hugh White said the quake's centre was 480 miles northwest of here.

He said it was registered at 1:18 a.m. PST and lasted 50 minutes. The magnitude was between 6.5 and 7 on the Richter scale which rates the largest shocks ever recorded at 8.6.

However RCMP at Queen Charlotte City, on northerly Graham Island, about 600 miles from Victoria, said they had no inkling of the quake. General merchant Gordon Joffe also said he felt no tremor and had heard no reports of damage.

Mr. White said several earthquakes of the same intensity have been recorded in the Charlottes this year, the last being Nov. 37.

# Legion Sends \$6,000 To Disaster Families

OTTAWA (CP) — The Canadian Legion has sent \$6,000 to brighten the Christmas season for families of veterans killed or thrown out of work by the Springhill, N. S., mine disaster.

Legion headquarters said Thursday the money has been sent from its national disaster fund a fund established solely to assist veterans.

The money will be divided among families of 16 veterans killed in the disaster, and those of 19 veteran survivors who are unemployed as a result of the November tragedy.

# Canadians In Egypt Are Not Yet Expert At Scrounging

By DAVE McINTOSH  
Canadian Press Staff Writer  
ABU SUWER, Egypt (CP) — Many Canadian officers here say they feel that welfare services for the 265 Canadian soldiers in Egypt have been mismanaged or not managed at all.

Two weeks after their arrival at this United Nations base, Canadians still had not received any shipments of reading material or sports equipment from home.

It got to the point where available books and magazines—those brought by the soldiers in their personal kit—were being hoarded a chapter and an article at a time.

One but with 12 men in it had no magazine. Each soldier passed it on to his neighbor after reading—as slowly as possible—one article or story and waited for it to come around again.

UNIT MOVED QUICKLY  
Officers say they realize that the Canadian unit for the UN force was dispatched in a hurry and that there was no time then to think of small comforts. But they are proud of the defence department has a branch devoted entirely to welfare services and that it should have swung into action immediately.

Welfare services—sports equipment, reading material, films, confections and the like—are vitally important here, more so than anywhere else—because there is nowhere for the troops to go on off-duty hours. They are confined to camp except for UN business.

The Canadians are on a seven-day week but for many of them there is little to do. The members of the medical corps were supposed to set up a hospital aboard the aircraft carrier Magnificent when she arrived and the ship has all the necessary equipment.

But the Magnificent has not arrived and except for a few colds and one appendectomy the Canadians are in good health. Even the appendix case went to the Norwegian medical men, who set up a field hospital before the Canadians arrived.

Medical assistants are being used to rake up the sandy patches between the barrack blocks.

SOLDIERS IDLE  
Most of the engineers and signallers have had little to do. The army service corps has probably kept the busiest what with driving British trucks from Port Said to Abu Suwer and looking after supplies and rations for the whole UN base.

Many of the men would prefer to get out into the Sinai Desert where the Khamsin—an east wind—drives the sand at 50 miles an hour but where they would at least be kept busy.

The Canadians get along well with the other UN troops, which include Danes, Norwegians, Indians, Swedes, Finns, Colombians and Yugoslavs.

The Yugoslavs are shy but

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