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Cold Wave and Snow Bring Threat of Death To Needy in Shanghai

By Keyes Beech
Foreign Correspondent of The Star and
the Chicago Daily News

SHANGHAI, Dec. 20.—Visions of a white Christmas and a more bounteous New Year may bring cheer elsewhere, but for Shanghai Chinese they portend starvation and death.

Events of this pre-Christmas week certify that bleak outlook.

Shanghai had its first snowfall of the season Thursday. The thermometer went down only to 37, but the frigidty was enough to exact a heavy toll of lives. By early yesterday 70 corpses—60 of them children—had been picked from the streets, victims of the cold.

That figure was only half the number of bodies found after last year's first cold spell, but the weather man—who promises a white Christmas—forecasts even colder weather.

Fish Profits Enormous.
As if nature itself were not cruel enough, Shanghai's fish market operators plan to wax rich against UNRRA efforts to increase catches and lower prices.

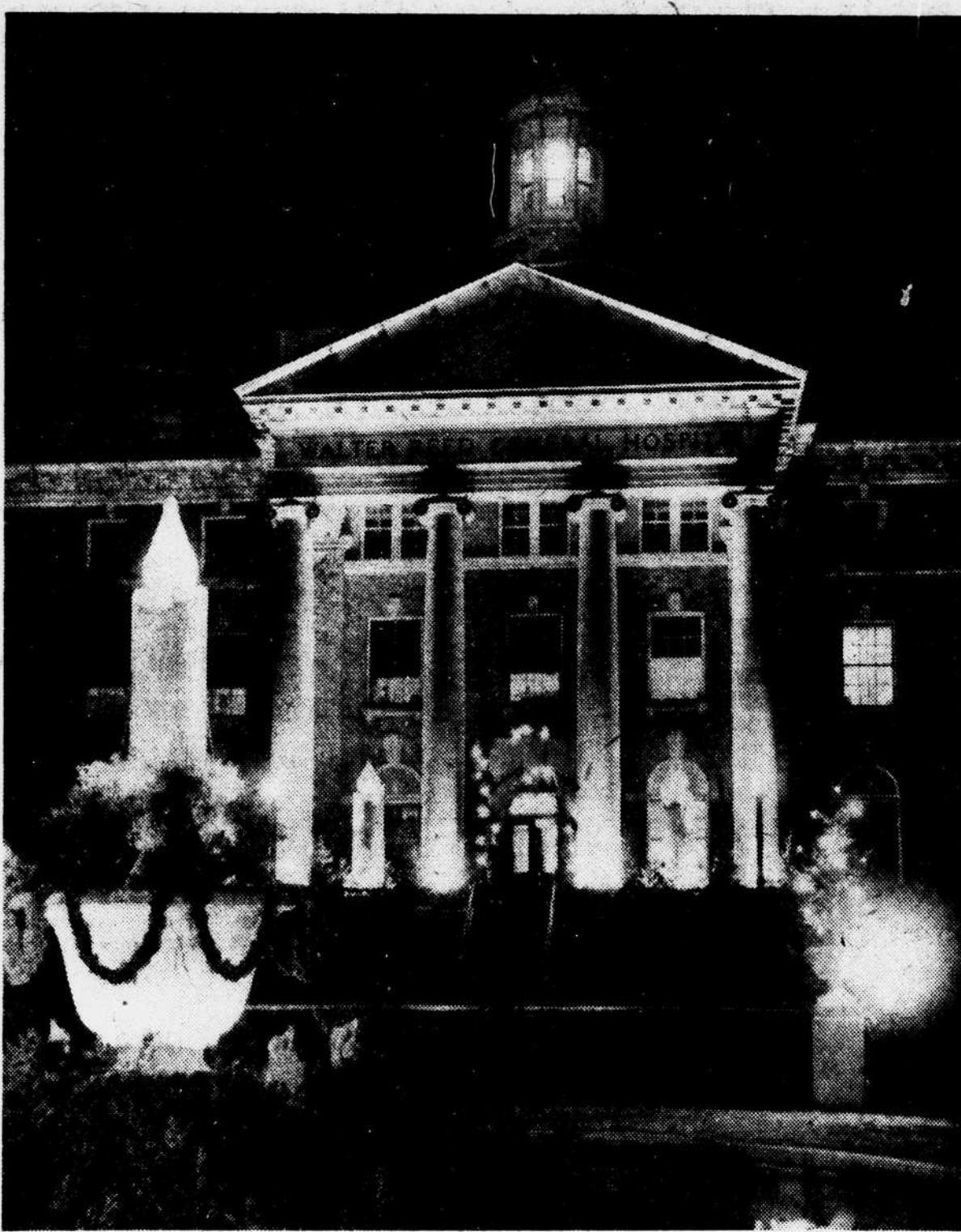
New Year Day will be the signal for the big squeeze play.

This cruel plot began when, at the urgent request of the Chinese movement, UNRRA sent out 126 modern fishing boats to help haul in needed supplies of sea food. The Shanghai fish market, which has fattened off the fish scarcity, was horrified. To head off the UNRRA fleet, the market operators promptly put forward a fish-catch quota calling for only five UNRRA vessels.

Officials Reject Proposal.
By this yardstick the whole China coast would need not more than 10 UNRRA boats, according to private calculations. In light of the abnormally high fish prices, UNRRA officials said the market's offer was "quite unacceptable."

All the UNRRA fishing boats, happily, are in operation now. But the Shanghai fish operators have not given up hope. They know that UNRRA's China office closes up shop January 1.

The week's one bright note was Mayor K. C. Wu's fabulous relief fund for needy residents. All Shanghai's Socialist millionaires were there, some on tickets that cost \$100,000,000 (Chinese). The affair brought in \$570,000,000, Chinese money.



CHRISTMAS COMES TO WALTER REED—A display of Christmas lights brightens the Walter Reed Hospital administration building. Three 14-foot candles are the main attractions, one in the fountain opposite the main entrance and two on the portico. Colored lights on a row of trees and in the building's dome complete the Yuletide picture.

Reds Fail to Share West's Gloom Over Failure of London Parley

(In the following dispatch the chief of the Associated Press bureau in Moscow, with more than six years' experience in Russia, sizes up the situation in the Soviet capital resulting from termination of the Big Four Foreign Ministers' Conference. Moscow dispatches are subject to censorship.)

By Eddy Gilmore
Associated Press Foreign Correspondent

MOSCOW, Dec. 20.—Despite the gloom in the west over the state-mate ending of the Foreign Ministers' Council session in London and over prospects of future collaboration between the Soviet Union and her war-time big power Allies, no such pessimistic sentiments are being advanced in Russia.

No commentators have come forward with anything like the suggestion that the international situation is hopeless, or that there may be no more meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers. On the contrary, some commentators have intimated that the Council of Foreign Ministers sessions are not at an end.

But in the judgment of this correspondent, there is very little chance that the U. S. S. R. will abandon the position it took at London.

Despite the fact that Soviet commentators and officials have not come out with gloomy predictions, there seems to be no chance of a rapprochement unless one or the other of the protagonists gives in and there is no discernible indication at this stage of the Russians changing their position.

U. S. Blamed for Breakdown.
The Soviet press has taken this position concerning the Foreign Ministers' breakdown in London:

The United States caused the breakdown; the United States and other western powers went to London with decisions already made; the United States counted on a breakdown; Britain and France followed the American lead, and joined with the United States in trying to place the blame on Soviet Russia.

Further, the Soviet contends that (1) it wants a free and independent Germany; (2) the United States does not because that would interfere in the plans of "Wall Street" and "imperialists and militarists"; (3) Russia, because of her role in the war, is entitled to full reparations from Germany; (4) the Big Three at Potsdam and Yalta once agreed to that demand; and (5) the United States and British newspapers reported

the London conference as if "on orders."

In general, this is a reiteration of the position taken by Foreign Minister Molotov in his speeches before the council.

The Russians express conviction that the United States some time ago decided that if she were resolute or "tough" enough Russia would be forced to compromise.

But the Russians call this an effort to dictate to or "bully" them, and they give no indication of giving in.

Pleased by End of Rationing.
The ending of rationing and the issuance of the new ruble, from all available indications, has had an enormous effect on the people. This correspondent soon will spend his seventh Christmas in the Soviet Union and remembers no single peacetime event which created such jubilation.

It seems obvious that if wages remain the same, if prices go down and rationing goes off—as is the case so far—that the Russian people will think their system is working pretty well.

Nevertheless, the end of rationing and the revaluation of the ruble disconcerted some chinks in the Soviet controlled economy.

Speculation Arrested.
The decree said the revaluation was being carried out to combat war-induced inflation and "speculative elements" (profiteers)—two features familiar to capitalist economy.

Moscow newspapers reported the arrest of a number of persons who bought galoshes and rubber boots—reduced to a bargain price by new government orders—and sold or attempted to sell them in speculative deals on the free or black market. Most of those arrested, the papers reported, were "not working."

Komsomol Pravda, reporting on how rationing affected one Lenin (1) it wants a free and independent Germany; (2) the United States does not because that would interfere in the plans of "Wall Street" and "imperialists and militarists"; (3) Russia, because of her role in the war, is entitled to full reparations from Germany; (4) the Big Three at Potsdam and Yalta once agreed to that demand; and (5) the United States and British newspapers reported

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Self-Styled Buddha Exposed in Rome by Friend of Dalai Lama

ROME, Dec. 20 (NANA).—An international faker who is going the rounds of the world's capitals with a curious racket as yet unspecified is none other than the self-styled "Living Buddha of Tibet," alias Prince Cherenz Ling, alias Prince Hooti-Hoomi. Naturally a prince, whether Tibetan or otherwise, is always a welcome addition to society, and fashionable Roman circles gave the "Living Buddha" a warm welcome, with a dinner at the Chinese Legation here.

"Prince" Hooti-Hoomi, in fact, did very well for a few days until he came face-to-face with Prof. Giuseppe Tucci, the world's authority on Tibet and Buddhism, and who is at present preparing for his eighth expedition to the "roof of the world" next February.

The "prince" and the professor met at a party given by the "Living Buddha" in Rome. For a time Hooti-Hoomi was in his strange element. Dressed in flowing robes of yellow and maroon, with a huge rosary round his portly waist and a pair of sandals on his feet, and surrounded by his "monks" and "nuns," he refused the food and drinks while benignly urging his guests to partake. Eager Italian journalists asked him about his plans, and the Buddha made vague references, through an interpreter, to the peace of the world and the need for men to love one another.

Tucci Friend of Lama.
Then a guest introduced Prof. Tucci, who had been standing to one side, observing the "Prince" with considerable curiosity. Prof. Tucci happens to be a personal friend of Tibet's Dalai Lama, who is considered the incarnation of Buddha on earth; hence the professor's curiosity.

"Welcome to Rome," said Prof. Tucci, as he was introduced. "I understand that you have come down from the roof of the world. Shall we exchange a few courtesies in Tibetan?"

The "Prince" seemed to go a little glassy-eyed as the professor broke into a curious monosyllabic language. Prof. Tucci stopped and waited inquiringly. The "Prince" gulped, and little beads of sweat broke out on his forehead. Finally he replied with a few guttural sounds.

Spoke in Hindustani.
Then Prof. Tucci spoke again, bowed and walked away. "This man doesn't know a word of Tibetan," he said. "He is an Indian. He spoke in Hindustani."

The newspapers and then the police soon got wind of the hoax, but the "Living Buddha" was ahead of them. He next turned up in Milan and went to the questura to get a visitor's permit, this time as a Cuban journalist. He was in possession of a Cuban passport, on which it was stated that he had been born at Behara, India, in 1899, as plain "Mistrain Ling." His application for a permit was refused, and shortly after the "prince" was heading for the French border.

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Hospital Drugs Stolen
The Garfield Hospital pharmacy was broken into Friday night and \$322 worth of drugs and medicines were stolen, Arnell B. Cook, superintendent, told police yesterday.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 20 — Dr. Donald Casely, Indiana University Medical Center director, today reported some deterioration in the condition of Siamese twin boys born November 29 to a Bedford, Ind., woman.

The twins, born by a Caesarian operation, were brought to the Medical Center here and placed in an incubator crib.

Dr. Casely said the twins, joined at the tops of their skulls, have stopped making progress and are again being supplied oxygen.

"Monday may tell whether they slip on downhill or whether they recover," Dr. Casely said.

The father, Edward R. Speer, is an accountant at the Crane naval ammunition depot near Bedford.

Paris Buyers' Strike Reduces Christmas Sales 35 Per Cent

PARIS, Dec. 20 (CDN).—Strike-plagued France is now chalking up a Yuletide number on its walk-out list.

Without political incentive, completely spontaneous, and supported by all the Jeannes and the Jeans who usually fill the shops at this gifting season, this is a buyers' strike, and it's nation-wide.

But Paris, citadel of fashion and haunt of the carefree spenders, is probably hardest hit. Paris shops are gloomy places in this season of gayety. Christmas shopping has dropped 35 per cent, even since last year. And this despite the fact that goods on display have almost reached prewar standards of excellence and French creative talent has surpassed itself.

Window Shopping Prevails.
The windows along Rue St. Honore and Rue Royale have their prewar fascination once more and are a universal drawing card as usual, but the 1947 holiday shopping is the window brand.

Famous stores have outdone themselves this year in providing the newest in gloves, neckwear, jewelry; small shops have mushroomed; dressmakers like Robert Piguet, Marcel Rochas and Schiaparelli have added frivolities to their staid salons and are brimming with gadgets and novelties.

But salesgirls in little stores and top-notch emporiums are equally gloomy. There just aren't any customers. All the would-be buyer has to do is look at the price tag and then in his purse.

Price Schedules Broken.
The government fixed prices hoping shopkeepers might be controlled through fear of "the inspector," but prices have constantly soared.

The shopkeepers have their own explanations for bad business this year. The rich foreigners won't come here now due to money export restrictions and fear of new strike disorders, they say.

Then there's the "window blackout." At 4 p.m., just when people start out to shop, window lights have to go out, because of the power shortage. Nobody can see the beautiful goods they have to offer, the merchants complain.

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