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# United Nations Plan Given At Rio Meeting

**Mexico Wants All On Combine  
Granted Status of Non-Belligerents**

By JOHN P. MCKNIGHT

RIO DE JANEIRO.—(AP)—Mexico presented a proposal to the Pan-American Conference today to extend to all the United Nations the status of non-belligerents in their fight against the Axis powers.

Let by Argentina, most of the Latin American countries have adopted the status of the United States as a non-belligerent. Among other things, this meant that United States warships can enter and leave their ports without fear of the rear guard forcing ships to limit their stays to 24 hours.

The proposal came as the Foreign Ministers of the Americas plan and the necessary steps to put it into effect will be taken shortly.

NOTE.—Sullivan, original author of the plan, also proposed to the President that it be revised immediately after the war to envision the re-conversion of industry to peace production.

## Nelson Appointment

Donald Nelson's selection as war production czar was the best kept secret in Washington in many years.

In all of the Capital there was only one man who knew that the hard-working OPA's pilot chief was to be named to the key production post. That man was the man who picked Nelson—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He and his closest friends, including Nelson, He had long favored a single production executive but recent months had been dominated by a list of possibilities for the job.

Other more prominent names were touted—Secretaries Jesse Jones, Henry Morgenthau, Justice Byrd, Douglas MacArthur, the Economic Warfare Board, Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson.

Months after leaving the old National Defense Commission, Nelson, then chief of purchasing, had been talked of as top choice for head of the defense program. But after a few months in the job, he was not one of the "big" names. Not until he went to the White House with Vice-President Wallace, with a hundred recommendations, a few hours before, did Nelson learn that he was the man of destiny.

Chief credit for "swelling" Nelson to the President belongs to Wallace, who, in his words, "he didn't know until the White house conference how successful his administration had been." Wallace, along with his chief, was present with Nelson's quiet effectiveness during their work together on HOPA, of which Wallace was chairman and director.

On a number of occasions, Wallace high praise of Nelson to the President. These views stuck with the President and when he finally decided to put the production czar in the top job, he turned to Nelson.

Once he made up his mind, the President had to decide what position for this was in word of his decision leaking out, and to block the friends of other aspirants started undercover pressure drives to the President.

The President gave Nelson only one piece of advice.

"Don't," he said, "be tough. This is a tough job and you will have to be tough to make it go."

NOTE.—Clipper, an OPA big shot the day after Nelson's appointment, "I guess we'll PM now instead of OPM."

## Merry-Go-Round

Garrison Purcell, brash young career man whom the Government a year ago elevated to a place on the Securities and Exchange Commission, will succeed to the chairmanship of the agency when incumbent Edward R. Stettinius goes on the Federal bench. Robert O'Brien, a former OPA executive who is head of the HOPA's utility division, will be appointed to Elec-

tric Power and Light's position on the chairmanship. Robert Healy has resigned and is looking for a job.

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## Census Bureau Hit by War

### Cutting Down on Its Long Mailing List

War has hit the U. S. Census Bureau's mail on its figure-figure, though.

The Bureau had the Censuses ready today for, for some reason, reasons, it is whittling its list to an absolute minimum and that the Library is being made the center of all communications here.

Apparently the mailing of thousands of statistical reports is being held up indefinitely. The back pay they will receive for September, October and November . . . Vice-President Wallace said a lot of Americans are thinking about peace after the war. An article by Wallace in the "Atlantic Monthly," "Foundations of Peace," is worth reading.

## Treble Clef To Give Card Party

The Treble Clef department of the Charlotte Women's Club and the Charlotte Music Club will give a bridge and card party at 8 o'clock at the clubhouse on E. Morehead Street.

Proceeds of the party will go toward expenses of the State Music Clubs Convention to be held here April 15, and 16.

Reservations may be made by calling the clubhouse tomorrow.

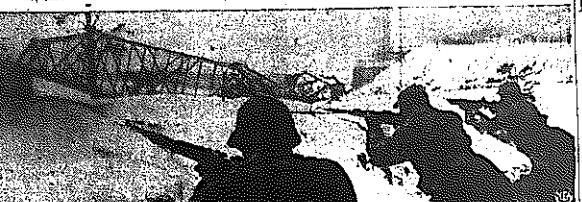
### Lee Camp Closed

The Lee Camp, the Lee County Prison Camp, of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, will be closed as of Jan. 20.

Reservists transferred to the Chatham County camp at Siler City.

## The Tide Turns

... and the Russians, with their invincible ally, Winter, make vain the Nazi boast of quick victory . . . Leningrad withstands siege . . . a paralyzing cold grounds the Luftwaffe, landing wheels snow-trapped, engine oil frozen . . . peasants return to their broken homes . . . the photos below all portray the turn of the tide against Hitler.



Pounded by besieging German armies for months, the defenders of Leningrad, Russia's second largest city, nevertheless harassed the foe at every opportunity. The Soviet soldiers above are part of a volunteer reconnaissance party that came out of the city to keep tabs on German activity—and to burn one of the many bridges wrecked in the battle for the city.



A Russian peasant family returns to what was once their home, after Soviet troops chased the Germans out of their city. Above, at right of photo, a soldier climbs up to examine wreckage of the house. Behind the group in the foreground, another is apparently helping an old woman to her feet.



Reports from Russia agree that the Germans were not prepared for the almost instantaneous cold of the Russian Winter. Luftwaffe planes were not equipped with anti-freeze and could not land on ice-covered fields above at Kirov, 125 miles southwest of Moscow. It is but one of many abandoned by the Germans.

Mr. MacKenzie's War Analysis

## The British Can Take It--Proof Lies In Way They Stood Bombings

By DEWITT MACKENZIE, Wide World Military Analyst

British Premier Churchill has returned home from Washington to encounter an angry outcry over his statement that Britain would be an easy target for Hitler if there were no Commonwealth and other nations charged with responsibility for Britain's warlike

This situation can scarcely be paralleled in the history of prime minister U. S. S. MacKenzie

charge in command of Burma's coast, with the Japanese. Were Burma delivered to Nippon it would be one to depict the British as the base from which to strike at the rest of the Far East.

That is the reason Britain must seize territory before Germany is allowed to do so, and we can take care of Nippon.

That is the reason Britain must be allowed to do so, and the Japs a grand base for action against the Far East, which they so far have coveted.

Well, it's the Englishman's proud right to damn his own government, and likely to do so again.

That is the reason Britain must be a spot of damage.

Still, it's been known to wonder whether the outburst isn't largely a matter of flagging a dead horse.

That is the reason Britain must strike me as due largely to pre-war lack of foresight which couldn't be remedied after the outbreak of hostilities.

That is the reason Britain must have to turn to its Uncle Sam, let him put him on to and to stand in the corner.

On consideration, we terribly wonder when that fatal day came.

Since that fatal day she has needed every ounce of war material she could get her hands on, but by misfortune or sheer chance to keep the empire from uttering.

The great danger has lain in Europe and in Asia. In Europe, Britain has been the active menace, while the Japanese threat was

only potential until the surprise attack. It is strange then that Britain in many parts of the world, in peace and in war, at all too small resources in Europe in order to provide against a Japanese assault which might never materialize?

GALLANT SOLDIER

If I am sure of anything, it is

that Britain and the United

Commonwealth troops have indeed

been gallant fighters in the

war of a small boy and a man

between a rifle and a bayonet.

Damage and injuries were

light.

## Wake Isle Garrison In Japan

### Fighters and Civilians Captured

TOKYO — (Official Broadcast Received by AP)—Showing little signs of their ordeal except beards and soiled uniforms, 1,235 men captured on Wake Island by the Japanese arrived at Yokohama today.

The prisoners included Commander Winfield Cunningham, commanding the United States forces on Wake Island, and Nathan Daniel Peters, civilian in charge of 1,050 defense emplaced on the island.

### IRRELENT COMMAND

Commander Cunningham was in command of his post only 25 days after his arrival there from Honolulu. It was stated. He is from Wisconsin.

The Navy Department at Washington said it could not confirm Tokyo's statement that Commander Cunningham was at Wake Island, but it was reported that the commanding officer of the United States forces at Wake Island was a Lieutenant Commander James P. D'Everaux as commander of the thirteen Marine officers and 1,050 sailors on Wake Island.

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