

MORNING EDITION

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DOMESTIC -- Secretary of State Hull announced ^{17th} today that exploratory conferences on Organization of a World Security Agency will be held here, probably early in August, but that Russian and Chinese representatives will not participate in the same meetings.

Statement follows:

"The four governments signatory to the Declaration of Moscow are agreed that informal conversations and exchanges of views on the general subject of an International Security Organization will soon begin in Washington, probably early in August.

"It has been decided, following discussions with the other governments that the first phase of the conversations will be between representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union and that conversations on the same subject between representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and China will be carried on either at the same time or shortly thereafter.

"These conversations will be followed by discussions with the other United Nations."

One of the most disastrous explosions in American history killed at least 200 to 250 and injured 1,000 more officers and men of the U.S. Navy Monday night near Martinez, California, when two Naval ammunition ships blew up at the Port Chicago supply depot with such force it was felt fifty miles away.

A Naval statement said:

"At least 200 to 250 men and nine officers have been determined missing and presumed lost so far, in addition to the exploded ship's personnel."

Previously a Navy Commander estimated the dead at 650. The Navy statement said that damage was confined to the wharf and immediate building area. There was no extensive fire. Two small Coast Guard boats, a crash boat and a fire barge were destroyed in the explosion.

NORMANDY -- The Allied perimeter has pushed south in "important gains" from Noyers to Lessay. The Americans northwest of St. Lo liberated two villages in a mile advance down the west bank of the Vire River above St. Lo.

British in the Caen sector engaged German forces north of Evreux in heavy fighting and liberated a town in an advance southward.

Large-scale Allied aerial operations against German airfields, troops, gun positions, rail centers, and fuel and ammunition dumps from Normandy to Central France and East to the Somme River were resumed. Allied aerial support of ground action in Normandy picked up as fighters and fighter bombers attacked targets hampering the American advance on St. Lo. Either fighters and fighter bombers ranged west along the St. Lo-Perriers road, attacking guns and an ammunition dump near Perriers. Air support was given in the Caen area also.

Seven Allied craft were lost in the day's operations as against fourteen German planes destroyed.

AIR WAR -- Flying Fortresses of the United States Eighth Air Force accompanied by Mustang and Lightning fighters, Tuesday morning attacked the German Air Force experimental stations at Peenemunde and Zinnowitz on the Baltic sea coast and other military targets in northwest Germany.

(Over)

MEDITERRANEAN -- Tuesday's communique says Allied armies in Italy have again made good progress in several sectors. On the west coast, American troops of the Fifth Army have outflanked Leghorn.

In central Italy, Allied 8th Army Forces have reached the Arno River in several places, establishing a bridgehead, and have taken the towns of Livorno, on the main highway running to Florence, and Quarata. West of Arezzo further advances have been made. Progress continues on both sides of the Tiber River.

On the Adriatic coastal sector Polish troops of the 8th Army have also made advances and present a serious threat to the important port of Ancona.

Mediterranean Allied Air Force bombers, flying 1,700 sorties Monday, struck at rail bridges and a rail yard in the lower Rhone Valley. Tactical aircraft concentrated on enemy communication lines, tank concentrations, etc., in northern Italy, the battle area and Yugoslavia. Four enemy aircraft were destroyed in these operations. Seven Allied planes are missing.

PACIFIC -- Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, announced that gun emplacement and other defense installations on Guam Island were heavily shelled by battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the Pacific Fleet on July 15.

GERMANY -- Royal Air Force heavy bombers attacked flying bomb installations Monday afternoon and evening. R.A.F. Mosquitos attacked targets in Germany during the night.

NETHERLANDS -- Premier Pieter S. Gerbrandy of the Netherlands Government in London said Monday night that the work of his government was influenced by the approaching liberation of the Netherlands by the Allies, and that a firm policy in dealing with traitors and other collaborationists in the Netherlands has been determined upon.

SOVIET -- Marshal Rokossovsky's First White Russian Army Tank and Cavalry Units have taken the highway town of Vydomlya, north of Brest Litovski.

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