

# Belgian Pledges 5 Army Divisions At Risk of Post

BY KINGSBURY SMITH.

European General Manager, INS.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 9.—Belgian National Defense Minister Eugene De Greef said Tuesday night shortly after General Eisenhower's arrival in Brussels that he will promise him five Belgian divisions by July 1, 1952. This at risk of his portfolio in case the nation refuses to support him.

In an exclusive interview with INS on the eve of his formal conference with the supreme West European commander, the minister also expressed concern about the foreign policy debate raging in the United States.

De Greef, in commenting on that debate, said:

"The participation of United States land defense in Western Europe is essential to galvanize the energy of the various allied countries in Europe.

"If the United States should refuse to participate it is certain that not a single European country would make the necessary effort itself.

"American failure to participate would result in a rapid development of Communist strength in Western Europe.

"The Communists would tell the people that the United States abandoned them. Out of fear many would flock to the Communist ranks."

## Taking Strong Stand.

De Greef received this correspondent in his defense ministry office where he will talk Wednesday with Eisenhower, who is on a morale-boosting and investigation tour of Western Europe.

He said he will tell the supreme commander the Belgian people morally and materially are prepared to assume their share of sacrifices needed to establish an effective West European defense force.

Eisenhower, he said, also will be told that the government is trying to rush through parliament a measure increasing military service from one to two years.

Debate on this measure was under way when Eisenhower arrived in the wake of organized French Communist Party demonstrations against the general in Paris.

For the first time De Greef publicly announced he will stake his cabinet job on the outcome of the hiked military service measure.

"I am confident," said De Greef, "that the measure will be approved. But if it should fail I will not remain minister of national defense."

## Outlines Troop Plans.

The slim forceful defense minister said of his troop scheme: "We plan to give Eisenhower within six months one infantry and one armored division, one of

which will be active the other in reserve.

"Within 18 months there will be another active infantry division, and another in reserve.

"By July 1, 1952, there will be a total of five divisions and also a tactical air force to support the ground troops."

De Greef said he did not think rearmament of France, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands would provoke Russia into attacking Western Europe, but privately he thought there is some danger of attack

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# Hogsett, Priest Directors of W

Incumbent water board directors Joe B. Hogsett and Dan H. Priest were re-elected for two-year terms Tuesday by a margin of almost five to one in a 1,310-vote election.

Hogsett polled a total of 1,016 votes and Priest garnered 1,009.

Their opponents in a hastily organized write-in campaign that broke less than 24 hours before polls opened Tuesday morning, Elton Vann and Joe Owens, each received 294 votes.

Interest stimulated by the write-in campaign was credited with bringing the total of votes cast up to one of the largest figures recorded in such an election in recent years. Last year there were 121 votes cast.

The Vann-Owen ticket failed to carry any of the 10 voting boxes. The election figures were gathered by the Star-Telegram as

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in any rearmament of western Germany.

"Personally," he said, "I would prefer to see the rearming of the western Germans postponed a year or two pending the creation of a strong Atlantic Pact defense force in Western Europe.

PARIS, Jan. 9 (INS).—An estimated 200 French Communists out of a crowd of 4,000 demonstrating against General Eisenhower were arrested in Paris Tuesday night after some of them clashed with police.

Eisenhower himself had flown to Brussels.

The Communist agitators who are trying to sabotage the supreme commander's mission of organizing West European defenses against the danger of Russian aggression first began demonstrating at noon.

Compact groups gathered in front of Eisenhower's temporary headquarters at the Hotel Astoria near the Arc de Triomphe.

Others assembled on the nearby Champs Elysees, scene of the Allied victory march in World War II, and shouted their protest against Eisenhower. They also taunted the drivers of any American-made automobiles they spotted, as well as the drivers of Coca-Cola trucks.

Police dispersed the demonstrators after a scuffle in which the Communists hurled stones and metal missiles.