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NEWS FLASHES.

President Prasad of India arrives at Kingsway, the great avenue in New Delhi, for the celebration of Republic Day. Premier Nehru greets him in front of the dais where they will take the salute at the great march-past.

When India celebrates, she does it in a big way. Her modern army contrasts vividly with the timeless pageantry of the stately elephant train. To an ancient civilisation and a very young Commonwealth republic the world sends birthday greetings!

The swans of the Thames return home after an unexpected spring-clean. Hundreds of them were rescued recently when oil clogged their feathers after a sinking barge had contaminated the river from Rotherhithe to Teddington. The RSPCA and other organisations worked hard to cleanse them and now they're ready for the river again.

Swans must have something we haven't! They've all been well oiled, and look at them - not a hangover in the whole bunch!

The Chinese Nationalists' island-stronghold is in the news again after months of uneasy peace. Chiang Kai-shek tells his forces, parading with their American weapons, that the day of attack on the mainland will come. Meanwhile Peking offers amnesty to Nationalists who change sides - and the power barrel goes on smouldering.

The American Army demonstrates the latest addition to its beach equipment - a landing craft retriever. A combination of powerful hoists, steel beams, and huge tyres, the retriever is a peculiar vehicle

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with a peculiar purpose - to salvage stranded boats.

Moving on ten-foot wheels, the self-propelled retriever is steered towards a landing craft aground in the surf. It merely straddles the boat and gets ready to lift. It can work in eight feet of water, and carry seventy tons.

Once the cables are attached, powerful electric winches do the rest, and the retriever takes her away. The landing craft lives to fight another day.