

April 7, 1972
Charles Osgood

ULSTER

The I-R-A launched another bombing and shooting campaign in North Ireland today - with four more persons killed. Two-hundred-ninety-nine now dead in nearly three years of civil strife. By starting a new campaign, the I-R-A apparently served notice that it observes NO truce in Northern Ireland. The new violence came even as British authorities announced the release of seventy-three I-R-A suspects in a move to ease tensions.

VISIT

The Senate party leaders - Mike Mansfield of Montana and his Republican counterpart - Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania - will begin a three weeks visit to mainland China on April Eighteenth. They're following through on an invitation from Red Chinese leaders - conveyed by President Nixon on his return from China two months ago. "Our purpose," say the two Senators, "will be, hopefully, to achieve a better understanding between our two countries"

IT&T

**The Senate Judiciary committee - by a vote of
eight-to-seven - decided to end its controversial IT&T
hearings by April Twentieth. Committee Chairman
Eastland of Mississippi joined Byrd of West Virginia and
six Republicans in voting to end the hearings. Eastland
predicts confirmation of Richard Kleindienst as U-S
Attorney-General will follow.**

JOHNSON

Former President Lyndon Johnson was taken by ambulance to the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville today - when he began suffering from chest pains. It was his second such seizure since ~~ex~~ experiencing a major heart attack seventeen years ago. Latest report describe his condition as "stable." The former President - who is sixty-three - often visits in Charlottesville with his daughter and son-in-law, Mister and Mrs. Charles Robb.

VIETNAM

North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops continued to advance ~~slowly~~ southward tonight - posing an ever-growing threat to Saigon where - for the first time in two years - a tight curfew is in effect. Sixty-five miles to the north - the town of An Loc is under siege - and one band of Communist infiltrators reached a highway near Saigon's airport. Even farther north, heavy fighting continued in the Quang Tri Province just below the D-M-Z, while to the south the Communists launched a series of attacks in the Mekong Delta. Again today, hundreds of American warplanes flew bombing and strafing missions against targets in North Vietnam - under a policy Defense Secretary Laird says will continue until Hanoi withdraws its forces from the South. Speaking at a Pentagon news conference, Laird also reaffirmed the U-S policy of continuing American troop withdrawals despite the enemy's new offensive.

(More)

VIETNAM 2

Senator Edward Kennedy - speaking for Senate

Democrats - charged that the Nixon Administration's policy

~~was to~~ ^{is} - quote - ^{"Let} the slaughter proceed." And he

demanded an end to the current U-S boycott of the Paris

peace talks. His speech touched off an hour-long debate

- which brought a confession from Presidential hopeful

Senator Hubert Humphrey who now says he's sorry he waited

so long to break with President Johnson over Vietnam policy.

Britain tonight appealed to Moscow for help in

bringing peace to Vietnam - but the Russians refused -

**calling instead on the Americans to resume the Paris peace
talks.**

TAPE - NEW GUINEA

**Lowell Thomas tonight has this strange report
on one of his favorite travel destinations - New Guinea.**

Tape Runs: 1:48

Out Cue: So Long....

From Papua - Australian New Guinea - comes a report that the leader of New Guinea's weird "cargo cult" - has just been elected a member of the New Guinea parliament. Matthias Yaliwan, age forty-three, beating his opponent - by a margin of fifteen to one.

The report also tells additional details - concerning "cargo cult" religious practices. For example: - a flash bulb discarded by a visiting newsman - is now considered one of the Cargo Cult leaders important relics. The faithful say they can look at their sacred mountain through this cube - this burnt out Flash bulb - and "see all the riches inside."

The cover of an old Agatha Christie mystery novel - is considered another sacred object. Partly - because of Miss Christie's name - which they somehow confuse with that of Christ; and partly because of the cover design - showing a doll pierced with pins.

One of Yaliwan's lieutenants is quoted as saying: "This persecuted lady - Agatha Christie - is going to be the ruler - the Queen of Papua, New Guinea." Although it appears Yaliwan himself has similar designs.

A friend of mine, an Australian representative of the Readers Digest - has been in New Guinea recently, tells how in one district a madman was elected to this new parliament. My friend and other observers think this again points up the folly of the U. N. in encouraging Australia to give independence to New Guinea - a wild island where the people speak seven-hundred different languages and dialects and where in some areas they still practice cannibalism.

HOT LINE

We now have the
~~The Heroin Hotline - and around the clock~~ *with a*

telephone number ~~that~~ anybody can use to call collect from anywhere in the country - if they have tips or information on heroin peddlers working the streets, or any place else for that matter. A White House announcement - issued at Key Biscayne - says narcotics agents will answer the telephone in Washington - at any time day or night. Officials say the identities of those giving information will be protected. President Nixon personally ordered establishment of the heroin hotline in the war against illegal trafficking in drugs.

PRIMARIES

135

Republican Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon wants our presidential candidates to be chosen through a system of five regional primary elections - covering all fifty states. Under his plan, such regional primaries - he says - would enable state governors and other lesser known candidates to call attention to their qualifications when they run for president. Somehow, says Packwood, a plan must be devised that'll do away with "the present traveling primary circus that begins in New Hampshire and ends after the curtain has come down twenty-four times!"

That rings down the curtain ^{FOR NOW -} ~~the curtain~~
For Lowell Thomas - this is C.O. - Good night.