

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

January 3, 1955

(Charles Collingwood substituting)

C.C.: GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

PANAMA

Panama tonight is quiet following the race track assassination of President Jose Remon. Today the National Assembly suspended civil rights in Panama for ten days, the National Guard called out in full force to maintain order. More than thirty persons have been arrested, including former President Arnolfo Arias, a bitter political foe of the murdered President. One story we have today features a mystery woman, a gun moll, said to have given the signal for the shooting in which President Remon and two others were killed. They say the mystery woman

was a member of the Presidential party at the race track last night. She was helping Remon, it's said, to celebrate the victory of one of his horses. [The races were over, the track in darkness, the Presidential enclosure brightly lit. Out in the darkness three assassins with tommy guns. The gun moll, we're told, stepped away from the Presidential enclosure and gave a signal; the hail of bullets followed. Among the suspects arrested today are two women. It is not known whether either one is the reported gun moll.]

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower was back in Washington today, and held a conference with Republican leaders in Congress, placing before them the State of the Union message, which he will deliver to the new

L.T. - 1/3/55

- 3 -

Congress on Thursday. After this preview today, GOP leaders expressed the belief that most of the Presidential program will be ok'd by the Senate and the House under Democratic control.

SECURITY

The Civil Service Commission gives a figure for Federal employees removed as security risks between June 30 and September 30. In three months, one thousand and eighty-two were fired or resigned according to the Civil Service Commission; three hundred and fifty-three because of charges of subversive activities and Communist associations. This new report makes a total of more than eight thousand removed since the beginning of President Eisenhower's

security program on May 19th . . . in May, rather, of 1953. More than two thousand have been removed on charges involving subversion.

Today's report was challenged immediately by Democrats in Congress who repeated their demand for a full congressional investigation of Mr. Eisenhower's security dismissals. They charge - politics.

U.S. RESTRICTIONS

The United States has imposed rigid restrictions on travel by Russian diplomats and other Soviet citizens in this country. The reasons given in Washington are: reciprocity and security. The reciprocity means that we're now applying the same rules imposed on Americans working in or visiting in Soviet Russia. As for security, the rule applies to

a whole series of atomic, military and industrial areas. Soviet Russians are forbidden to travel in many sections of thirty-nine states, including sixteen cities.

DIPLOMAT

The Acting West German Ambassador to Great Britain has been suspended from his job because of something his wife said at a gay Christmas party in London. She called Britain an "enemy country." The lady is the former Baroness Daisy Freyberg-Freyberg, a former beauty queen, "Miss Berlin of 1931," later she did a turn in the movies. Today the West German government issued a statement telling of a Christmas party at the Embassy in London, the Acting Ambassador's wife making an address. What she wanted to

say, the West German government explains, was that every member of a German foreign mission must always remember that he's in a foreign country and that the frightful events of the last war are still far from being forgotten. In trying to say that, the lady used the words "enemy foreign country." And that got into the British newspapers; and there was an uproar, with the West German government much disturbed. The Acting Ambassador, upon being suspended from his post, has offered his resignation from the diplomatic service

POPE

The Christmas message of Pope Pius XII was made public today. The seven thousand word address had been delayed because of the illness of the Pontiff.

He'd wanted to speak it in person; but could not because of weakness. Pope Pius XII sums up the situation of the world saying: "The principal foundation upon which the present state of relative calm rests is fear." He describes the state of affairs between the East and the West as follows: "It's not a state of war but neither is it peace; it's a cold calm." The Roman Pontiff calls for a bridge to be built between the Communist and the free world. He said the bridge must be based on the common people not the governments.

Tonight Lowell Thomas sends us a recorded report from far away. Lowell is reaching those remote places he set out for.

L.T.: America seems a long, long way off tonight, for I'm on the south coast of Arabia. The distance between us, Charlie, is at least six thousand miles. The Egyptian Prime Minister Colonel Nasser sent word several times to me yesterday that he intended to see me. But he was ill and kept postponing it. So last night I boarded a plane at Heliopolis bound for South Arabia, the part of Arabia that the Romans called Arabia Felix, Arabia the Blessed, the land of the Queen of Sheba, the ancient land of frankincense and myrrh. In taking off from the airfield at Heliopolis, I remembered that in the days of the pharoahs there at Heliopolis was located the University of Ahn, which ^{is said to have} Moses attended, and where such great scholars as Pythagoras and Euclid taught. ^P" Crossing the southern end of the Suez Canal, we flew over the Red Sea right

about where the Israelites made that famous crossing on dry land, and then on past Mt. Sinai, where Moses went on up to the mountain top and received the Ten Commandments from Jehovah, ~~not from Cecil B. DeMille.~~ And ~~by the way, DeMille, the Hollywood patriarch, made a personal pilgrimage to Mt. Sinai recently, I hear, just to make sure that the tablets of stone were properly smashed, this time, by the man he selected to be his modern Moses.~~ ^PAnd then on through the night we flew through a sky full of stars, shining only as stars can shine over the Arabian desert. ^P"We were above rather familiar country now, a region full of memories for me, memories of the days when I was with Lawrence of Arabia. Skirting the Hejaz, the part of Arabia that includes the two most sacred and forbidden Moslem cities, Mecca

and Medina, we swept on south, past the Yemen, a closed country, a country over which no airplanes are supposed to fly except those owned by the Yemen King, Imam Ahmad Seif el-Islam. Off to the right now only a few miles away, the African coast of Eritrea and French Somaliland. Below us the treacherous waters of the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb. ^R"Rounding the cape that marks the southern end of the Red Sea in a few minutes dead ahead we saw the brilliant lights of a new huge British oil refinery at Aden. No response to our radio calls. That seemed strange, Aden airfield apparently closed for the night. And it's just one long narrow runway, down a peninsula that stretches out into an arm of the Arabian Sea. The lights around it were exceedingly dim, but we made it. ⁶⁹"One thousand

three hundred miles non-stop from Cairo to a place which some regard as the end of the world.["]) From here I'm going into a wild mountain region which few outsiders have ever seen.) And now from Arabia back to Charles Collingwood in New York.

- 0 -

C.C.: Thank you, Lowell. We'll be waiting to hear something about that wild part of Arabia.

BRITAIN - NUMBER TEN

Here's a story from London. London has a report on No. 10 Downing St., the famed residence of British Prime Ministers. For long generations affairs of state have been transacted at that legendary address, but this story concerns the roof, the walls, the

foundation. Number 10 Downing Street is in danger of falling down; no pun intended. The building was put up in 1678. It was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, greatest of British architects. Now after nearly three hundred years, an examination by experts reveals that the foundations of Number 10 Downing St. are crumbling; the interior walls need rebuilding; the roof timbers must be strengthened or the roof will cave in. The whole structure will have to be renovated, if it's to be saved; same situation which confronted the White House in Washington a few years ago. The job will take at least a year and may begin immediately. In which case, Sir Winston Churchill will have to move out.

HURRICANE

There's a novelty in the Carribbean, a stormy novelty, a January hurricane, the first on record. The season of the tropical tempests, you know, is late summer and into autumn. But now this January third a hurricane is blowing in waters off the Virgin Islands with winds of seventy-five miles an hour. The storm is moving into the Carribbean. All of which has a curious historical interest with a vindication of Christopher Columbus. Returning home after his discovery of America, Columbus recorded a violent storm, a hurricane, that was in February, 1493. Historians have long believed that that entry on the log must have been a mistake because hurricanes, they said, don't occur in mid-winter. But now we have one in January. So today the Weather Bureau at Miami stated: "This may indicate that

perhaps old Chris knew which way the wind was blowing after all."

AUTOMOBILE

In Chicago, a man named James Dameron was arrested because he liked to impress people. He changed the license number on his automobile plates, sawing off the last three digits, so he had a nice low number - 11-63 - the kind of number assigned to very important people. The trouble came because of a traffic violation. The license number was taken down, the cops mailed a ticket. The ticket was duly received by County Judge Otto Kerner, the real holder of license number 11-63. His Honor was astonished; he hadn't violated any traffic regulations. Moreover, his was a different make of car. The cops made an investigation,

L.T. - 1/3/55

- 15 -

the search leading to James Dameron, much-embarrassed VIP. Today he explained, "My friends thought I must be a real big shot to get such a low number." And the police found in his possession a fat bankroll, marked one thousand dollars. They opened it and found four one dollar bills wrapped around a wad of newspaper. It's kind of a sad story. Today the deflated VIP moaned, "I hope my friends don't hear about this." Well, the story went on the news wire, Hugh!