

Richard C. Hottelet
Oct. 31, 1969

BANGOR

At the top of the news tonight - another airplane hijacking - surely the most ambitious yet. A story that began before dawn - somewhere in the skies between San Francisco and Los Angeles; with a khaki-clad youth armed with an M-One rifle - seizing a T.W.A. airliner with some forty aboard. Forcing the pilot to fly to Denver - for refueling; and then - after discharging the passengers - on to New York and later Bangor, Maine, for another refueling stop. At last report - the aircraft heading out over the Atlantic - toward ~~Shannon, Ireland~~; with its final destination - said to be Cairo, Egypt.

The "why" of all this - still a mystery. However, the U.S. Marine Corps has tentatively identified the hijacker - as Marine Lance Corporal Raphael Minichiello; a Vietnam veteran who escaped from custody yesterday - en route to face a general court martial at Camp Pendleton, California. His alleged crime - breaking and entering at a Marine PX.

SAIGON

From Saigon - a broadcast address by South Vietnam's President Thieu - on the occasion of that country's National Day. Including an emotional appeal - for nationwide support of the government's new austerity program. His voice trembling - tears welling in his eyes - Thieu asserting he would leave office if his policies were rejected. "My aim" - said he - "is to save the country-- not just be President."

Meanwhile, a brief flare-up of fighting today - in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Leaving thirteen Americans dead - thirty wounded. This in an area - suspected of harboring a major North Vietnamese troop build-up. An area that was then promptly blasted - by U.S. B-Fifty-Twos.

BEIRUT

In the teeming Middle East - Iraq stepped to the fore today as a would-be peacemaker. Sending to Beirut its deputy premier - Lieut. General Saleh Mahdi Ammash - to confer with Lebanese President Charles Helou. This in an attempt to stop the fratricidal fighting - between Arab guerillas and and Lebanese Army troops. General Ammash apparently bearing the views of guerilla leaders - with whom he conferred earlier in Cairo.

Back in Cairo itself - Egypt's President Nasser continued today his own mediation talks - with Lebanon's commander-in-chief, General Emile Bustani. At last report though - the guerilla leaders still refusing to meet the Lebanese face-to-face.

MOSCOW FOLLOW BEIRUT

Meantime, the Russians were also getting into the act. The Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow - urging today a resumption of four-power talks on the Middle East. Asserting that "events in Lebanon are dangerous" - and could "dangerously affect" the whole area.

At the same time - the Soviets warned against any unilateral action - especially on the part of the U.S. The Kremlin declaring: "It is our deep conviction - that the situation is only aggravated by foreign intervention."

LONDON FOLLOW MOSCOW

More on the same - from London; today's stop - for touring U.S. Navy Secretary John Chafee; who told reporters that the United States - in his own words - "is not anxious to become involved in a land operation in the Middle East." He added ~~though~~ "We could become involved - if circumstances make it necessary." BUT THEN WENT ON - A CALL FOR HELP BY LEBANON WOULD NOT ALONE BE ENOUGH.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW LONDON

A later development in Washington: Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin- asking and getting a meeting with Secretary of State William Rogers. There repeating in private - the Kremlin's earlier charge of U.S. meddling in Lebanon. Rogers, in turn, expressing extreme displeasure and disappointment - at the Soviet stand. One that raises the question - said he - whether Russia really wants peace in the Middle East.

CANNIBAL STORY
L.V. Tape insert
(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "CANNIBAL
STORY")

And now - here again is Lowell Thomas; taking
up tonight where he left off yesterday - on the "edge
of nowhere." Lowell...

CANNIBAL STORY

Good Evening Everybody:

Oct 31 '69 01:39
L. J. Tape insert
unedited

Now about that skull on Patrol Officer Robin Barclay's table here at this new outpost in an uncharted part of New Guinea. Someone died in the village nearby. A witch doctor, went into a trance and in it learned, so he said, that a woman of the village was a sorcerer and had been responsible for a death.

Whereupon a group of men went to a clearing where the innocent unsuspecting woman was working in a garden. They slipped up behind her and in one blow of a stone axe bashed in her skull.

Robin Barclay heard of it and with his specially trained native police he captured six men who are here with us now. They are handcuffed but in spite of that they carry some of our equipment.

From them he has learned that there are two Biami tribesmen who actually did the deed, and he plans

to capture them. The woman she was eaten. They always are. And now for ritual reasons either. They admit that they inherited the taste from their ancestors. Cannibalism has been a way of life on this great island for untold centuries. The Australians are now trying to wipe out the gruesome custom. Also dedicated missionaries are helping.

Young Australian patrol officers make the first contacts with the natives in unexplored areas. Then the missionaries come in.

There are many who think that these ancient people of New Guinea would be better off if they were left alone. But in this fast moving world it seems to be impossible. So we are here to spend some time filming a people who are being forced to make a ten thousand year leap from the Stone Age all the way into the Twentieth Century.

Solong.....

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "CANNIBAL STORY")

NEW LONDON

Thank you, Lowell. ~~Back to the news...~~

of Tony Pastor - one of the biggest names in the called "Big Band Era" - who died today at New London, Connecticut.

Tony Pastor perhaps best remembered - for his million-selling record of "Indian Love Call." He also hit it big with songs such as - "A, You're Adorable" - "It's Wonderful" - "Marie's Whoopee" - and "Marie Elena". Along the way - introducing a string of performers that included the Clooney Sisters - Rosemary and Betty.

Tony Pastor - he was sixty-two.

NEW LONDON

From out of the past - a name full of nostalgia; that of Tony Pastor - one of the biggest names in the fabled "Big Band Era" - who died today at New London, Connecticut.

Tony Pastor perhaps best remembered - for his million-selling record of "Indian Love Call." He also hit it big with songs such as - "A, You're Adorable" - "I'm Confessin'" - "Makin' Whoopee" - and "Marie Elena". Along the way - introducing a string of performers that included the ~~Clooney~~ Sisters - Rosemary and Betty.

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PERTH

For the men of Apollo-Eleven - a reception today at Perth, Australia - biggest ever for that city; bigger even - than that accorded the British royal family. The "city of lights" - as it's known to U.S. spacemen - coming to a virtual standstill; with thousand upon thousands pouring into the streets - to salute the world's first moonmen. Perth - as you know - the city that always turns on its lights all night long - as a salute to orbiting U.S. astronauts.

ROME

A final item - from Rome. Observing that banking interests around the globe - have declared today "World Savings Day." Noting, however, that Italians passed the day - without depositing even a single lira in their savings accounts.

Reason: A nationwide strike of bank clerks - demanding a wage boost in the form of a shorter day. They want to work "banker's hours" - so to speak.

That's the news -
As LT will say - so
long until Monday.