

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

War jitters in the Middle East -- complicated still further today by a sudden split in Arab ranks. The government of King Hussein of Jordan -- breaking off diplomatic relations with neighboring Syria, and blaming Syrian terrorists for a border explosion in Jerusalem that killed fourteen persons.

What effect, if any, the split will have on total Arab solidarity -- hard to tell, as yet. But this much -- we do know: Arab leaders from half-a-dozen countries are flocking tonight to Cairo, vowing full support of Egypt's Colonel Nasser -- whatever the course of his threatened showdown with Israel.

United Nations Secretary General U Thant was also an arrival today in Cairo, to try and avert war. Government

sources reporting, however, that Nasser will be unable to see Thant til tomorrow at the earliest.

Israel -- for its part -- expected to observe a twenty-four-hour "cooling off" period. Trying to give U Thant -- a little time to work his peace magic.

The question for now then -- whether Nasser will hold off at least temporarily on his announced threat to blockade the Gulf of Aqaba -- Israel's lifeline to the Red Sea. If he refuses -- the die apparently cast. Israel warning that such a blockade would be "an act of war" -- to be met accordingly.

A later report -- from the Kremlin. Warning tonight that Russia will offer "resolute resistance" to any power -- guilty of aggression against the arab states in the Middle East.

ADD MIDDLE EAST

A quick reply--from President Johnson. Egypt's threatened blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba--"illegal and potentially disastrous to the cause of peace"--said he. Adding that the United States is "firmly committed--to the independence of all nations in the area;" that the U.S. will oppose any aggression--whether "overt or clandestine."

WATER

An eighty-nation Water-for-Peace Conference -- off to a running start today in Washington. With President Johnson -- a keynote speaker; announcing plans for a Water-for-Peace office in the U.S. State Department -- to spearhead U.S. participation in global water programs.

The President also calling for establishment -- of an international network of regional water resource centers. Pledging substantial U.S. support -- in the form of technical assistance, supplies, equipment and money. These centers "to serve" -- said he -- "as a spur and a goal" to solving regional water problems.

Meantime, the U.S. set to begin discussion next month with India -- on an experimental rain-making project, to help drought stricken countries -- all over the world -- said the President.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam -- business as usual tonight -- the grim business of war; in the wake of a scheduled twenty-four-hour cease-fire -- that never quite made it.

The so-called truce -- marred by a number of incidents, claiming the lives of eight Americans-- and at least forty Viet Cong. Enemy forces also attempting to take advantage of the lull -- to infiltrate men and equipment through American lines.

HONG KONG

Apart from a bus strike tying up transportation -- comparative quiet today in Hong Kong. British authorities taking the opportunity -- to put the lie to a Communist rumor -- that the crown colony is ready to surrender to Peking.

Governor Sir David Trench pledging to "stand firm" -- in the face of what he called "extreme desperation" on the part of Chinese rioters. Adding, what's more, that Britain "stands four-square behind Hong Kong authorities" -- in their determination to resist Chinese coercion.

BRUSSELS

At Brussels, the grim job today -- of sifting through the wreckage of that big department store fire. Government experts searching for an estimated two hundred and eighty persons -- missing and feared dead in the flames; in addition to forty-seven known victims -- whose bodies have already been recovered.

Meanwhile, a mounting suspicion today -- that the tragic holocaust was the result of several fires -- set simultaneously by anti-American protestors. Police reporting seizure of a number of pro-Peking pamphlets -- calling for a "clean-out" of American flags and goods -- that were on sale in the store.

GENEVA

As so often in the past -- another impasse today at Geneva. The United States and Russia -- failing again to reach agreement on a nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

In the absence of effective controls -- another U.S. nuclear blast today in the Nevada desert. Second big underground test -- in four days; with a maximum force -- fifty times that of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima.

HOUSE

Coincident with auto safety hearings in Detroit -- road safety hearings were getting underway today in the House back in Washington. Congressman Cramer of Florida -- leading off the program; with a charge that perhaps one-third of the nation's total highway deaths -- could be prevented by safer roads.

The Congressman blaming poor design -- faulty guardrails -- misplaced road signs -- for thousands of lost lives.

EXPO 67

If you haven't been to Montreal to Expo 67, I have a suggestion. My wife and I are just back from this most interesting fair, and what Ed Sullivan said about it Sunday night is true. Don't miss it. Already millions of people have come to that conclusion, and they are having far more visitors than expected. That means standing in line to get in many places. However, there is a way to avoid the lines.

Arrive in the morning, when the gates open, or soon afterward. One of the great oil companies has an information booth near the main entrance. Go straight to this booth. Tell the girl what pavilions, what shows you want to see during the day. She has an electronic computer to enable her to find out when you can go and not have to stand in line. Then she gives you tickets. How about you -- Stew?

Most of the visitors going to the Fair don't know this. But with this tip you can solve the problem that annoys so many of us, and that many Americans just won't

do -- stand in line for an hour or so.

Wish I had time to tell you about the various pavilions and the really superb entertainments waiting for you. It would take at least an hour to do that. But, don't miss the film at the U.S. Pavilion. Don't miss the one called Labyrinth. Be sure and visit the one about Man and Exploration. Whatever you do, go to the Telephone Pavilion and see the show about Canada. And for laughs, don't miss a Czechoslovakian show called Lanterne Magica -- but I could go on and on indefinitely.

HURRICANES

Good news for some -- bad for others -- in this next from Washington. A new list of girls' names -- for identifying hurricanes in the month ahead.

Stricken from the files -- such old-time favorites as Hurricane Betsy, Connie, Diane, Hazel and Donna. The Weather Bureau explaining -- they've already taken the blame for too much destruction in recent years.

The new list beginning with Hurricane Arlene -- then Beulah, Chloee, Doria -- ~~and~~ on up to Nona, Orchid and Portia; ending with Terese, Verna and, finally, Wallis. There was a girl named Wallis who was something of a whirlwind, wasn't there?