

ARABIA

L.T.-DELCO.WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1956.

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

Another shipment of military material is on its way to Saudi Arabia. A shipload - sailing, today, from a North Carolina port. Officials in Washington call this - "routine". Consisting chiefly of ammunition - for the eighteen light tanks the United States sent to Saudi Arabia last February.

A spokesman for the Defense Department says - these "routine" shipments have been going on ever since Saudi Arabia gave the United States a lease on a strategic airbase, near the oil city of Dharan, five years ago.

CRASH

There's no explanation of the horror near Ottawa - the air crash that killed fifteen persons. A Canadian Air Force jet plane - plunging into a rest home for nuns. Eleven of the victims were Grey Sisters of the Cross. The other four - a priest, a woman cook, and the two airmen in the plane. Twenty-two nuns survived the flaming destruction of the building.

The Canadian Air Force declares that the plane, sent up on an interception mission that proved to be a false alarm, was flying a round - to get rid of excess fuel. The pilot radioed that his fuel load was too heavy for a safe landing - so he'd burn some of it up before coming in. Then, within minutes, the jet plunged to earth - for some unknown reason.

ALGERIA

The French announce that their troops in Algeria trapped and killed - the "chief of the desert." The outlaw, Si Mustapha - a number one leader in the revolt against France.

The "chief of the desert" was leading a camel caravan loaded with armament. The caravan was trapped by troops in jeeps - which converged from all sides. The insurgent force was wiped out. ~~which included Si Mustapha, and his followers.~~

CYPRUS

Cyprus reports a vicious bit of terrorism today - when three members of the Cypriote underground stopped at a radio shack barricaded with barbed wire. They asked for water, and a British soldier handed them drinks of water through the barbed wire. Whereupon they fired three shots into the shack, killing a corporal and injuring another soldier.

The three terrorists were captured - after a pursuit by two helicopters. One followed two of them across an open field - and, with the helicopter hovering over them, they surrendered. The other flying machine spotted the ^{third} ~~other~~ fugitive in a tree - and hovered there, until British soldiers arrived.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T. RECORDING

Tonight, Lowell Thomas tells us of the troubles - in leading a double life. That is, acting in a double capacity - in the far off city of Katmandu. This recorded bit of reporting comes from the remote world of the Himalayas.

L.T. RECORDING

Hello everybody! Charlie, I m wondering what I can tell about the Nepal coronation that you don't already know. Long before this recorded report reaches America, radio dispatches will have arrived in every radio and newspaper office in the world. When I headed for Katmandu, I didn't realize that this would be so elaborately covered by correspondents of press associations, newspapers and magazines. But I know now that there were lots of others who realized that this might be the last important coronation in Asia in our time. There are at least a hundred cameramen and correspondents here. Not only from Europe and America, but from all over Asia. So your press wires have been humming for days with dispatches, telling of the preparations for the crowning of the King of Nepal and all the ceremonies. So, what can I add?

Well, for the first time in my life I'm not playing the role of an observer, a reporter - and I d like to tell you a little about the difference that makes. There're three of us here as special ambassadors from the United States, appointed by

President Eisenhower. The three, Dr. Charles Mayo, surgeon from Rochester, Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic, Mrs. Robert Lowe Bacon, socialite and top political figure who comes from Long Island and Washington, and myself. All my life, I'd been around with ambassadors and other diplomatic officials in America and other lands. But until now I never had a real idea of what their daily schedules were like. Usually, it goes something like this: Being greeted by officials of the country to which you are accredited; being briefed endlessly on what is going to happen next; talking endlessly to functionaries assigned to look after you; arriving ahead of time, always, so you will not make a diplomatic faux pas by coming to a function after the king and queen have arrived - that, obviously, would be lese majesty; sitting or standing for hours in the sun in the most uncomfortable clothes ever devised by man, striped pants, top hat and so on -- here orientals have it all over us, they simply wear more brilliant, more elegant silks -- riding in processions; watching complicated ceremonies

from the beginning to the bitter end; and changing clothes almost as often as though you were some sort of ashion model - and even that doesn't give you an idea of how complicated that is. You have none of the freedom of movement that a journalist has - and you have far less opportunity than he has to see what's going on and get information that you would like to have.

So my reports to you from Nepal for the next few nights will be with this unusual and - to me - most unnatural background. To illustrate, we knew that by far the most spectacular event of the Coronation week would be the coronation day procession from the palace called Hanuman Dhoka Durbar to a large common some miles away, a procession made up of groups that would have made the eyes of Marco Polo bulge, to mention just a few, a company of Sardul Jung with band - a Nepalese military outfit followed by the corps of ancient drummers called Dhemi Baja. Then two groups of exotic dancers, the Devi Mache and Maha Kali Nache, and so on and so on. After the Sirnath Battalion then a group with the five

auspicious musical instruments, two-horse and four-horse
carriages, elegant equipage of another era, more Gurkha
regiments back from India, and one crack outfit just in from
fighting the Reds in the Malay jungle, led by a resplendent
British major general. Then every few minutes in the procession
would come the elephants with their swaying howdahs covered with
gold; elephants with gorgeous trappings of silver and gold
reminiscent of the Indian Durbar days of Lord Curzon; and torch
bearers and incense bearers; then more elephants carrying
delegates from foreign countries, most of these in their
brilliant oriental costumes, emissaries from Ceylon, Afghanistan,
Tibet, India, Thailand, Burma, Pakistan, even Red China - the
Chinese all in black. ~~XX~~

The heads of the delegations were on the elephants.

The point I'm trying to make is this, the rest of the
members of the many foreign delegations and their ladies waited
for hours and hours in the pavilion or under marques near where
the procession ended and where the outdoor golden throne was,

where the ceremony came to a climax - and they just didn't see the procession at all. It wound its way through the narrow streets of Katmandu and then passed far outside the field where the colorful pavilion had been erected. Seeing what was happening, I did what none of the other delegates dared do. In my formal clothes, top hat and all, I left the pavilion and strolled down the red carpet, the carpet that stretched the distance of a city block through the gate, the gate through which only the king on his huge elephant would enter, and there I joined the hundreds of thousands of valley and hill people who were outside where they could see the procession, so I saw it. If you're lucky enough to see some of the colored motion pictures of this coronation and the procession, you'll know what it was that the thousands of foreign delegates and Nepal notables and their families never did see and that I saw only because as a veteran reporter I wouldn't be denied even if this time I was an ambassador in a top hat. More sidelights and highlights tomorrow. So long!

FOLLOW RECORDING

COLLINGWOOD: Lowell, I m sure that it doesn't make you any
less a good ambassador to be a good reporter too.

SUKARNO

Indonesian President Sukarno arrived in Washington today - and acted as if he were running for President of the United States. At the airport, he kissed an elderly lady on the cheek, patted several children on the head, and introduced himself to a five year old boy in a cowboy suit.

The government is giving the President of Indonesia a big reception, but Ike ~~has~~ had better look out, he might find himself running against Sukarno in November!

G.M.

A technical center, for scientific research, was dedicated - in a highly/^{electronic}~~technical~~ way, today. At Warren, Michigan, the proceedings were featured by a telephone conversation between President Eisenhower in Washington - and Harlow Curtice, President of General Motors, speaking at the technical center, in Michigan. This was telecast over a closed circuit - to meetings in sixty-one cities of the United States and Canada. Attended - by twenty thousand business and professional leaders.

G.M. President Curtice spoke a warning - that our national survival may depend on basic research in science. Referring, of course - to the huge Russian program for a mass production of scientists.

KOREA

The final figures for the Korean election are in, and show - President Syngman Rhee getting the smallest majority he has had since Korean independence. Some fifty-five per cent of the voters x cast their ballots for him - as against more than seventy-four per cent in Nineteen Fifty-Two.

The astonishing thing is that more than one million, five hundred thousand votes were cast - for a dead man, the leader of the Democratic Party, who died during the political campaign. The huge vote cast for him is regarded as a protest against Syngman Rhee.

BRITAIN - COMMUNIST

The British Communists have finally toed the new anti-Stalin party line, three months after it was laid down by the Kremlin. Over the weekend, there was a Communist Party congress in London. And it adopted a resolution - published today. Condemning Stalin for what it calls - "serious mistakes and grave abuses."

At the weekend Party congress, Communist leader Harry Pollit was removed from his post as Secretary. Pollit - a long time ardent ^{Stalinist.} ~~Communist.~~

BRITISH - ATOMIC

The atomic bomb the British exploded in Australia, today, was a small one. The type that might be used - as a trigger for a hydrogen bomb. On the desolate Monte Bello Islands, off the west coast of Australia, the blast hurled skyward - the usual mushroom shaped cloud.

MARGARET

A new rumor in London about Princess Margaret, has been squelched, without delay. The London Daily Express printed a report that the Princess might become engaged to a German Prince Christian of Hannover.

Ordinarily, Buckingham Palace refuses to comment on such rumors. Today, however, there was a prompt statement from the press secretary of Queen Elizabeth, who issued a formal denial.

Another denial, equally prompt, came from Prince Christian of Hannover. Who said: "There is no truth in these rumors."