

L. T. - DELCO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1957

(Bc given by Walter Cronkite)

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The armed forces may be reduced within the next
eighteen months - cut to two million, five hundred thousand.
A reduction - of three hundred thousand. So says Secretary of
Defense Charles E. Wilson, adding - that President Eisenhower
will have to give his approval to the new plan.

DISARMAMENT

At the London Disarmament Conference, today Soviet Russia warned - that there could be no disarmament agreement - except under conditions that are not likely to be acceptable to the Western allies. Conditions that include - a reduction of military forces in Germany, Western as well as Russian. Also - the elimination of some of the bases we have in Europe, Africa, Asia.

Moscow Delegate Zorin made still another condition - concerning reductions of American and Russian military forces.

The demands he presented had been rejected earlier - by the Western powers. So today's development was discouraging.

However, both sides are saying - that there will be informal talks before the next regular meeting, on Tuesday. With efforts to get over - what appears to be a new hurdle. Today, Zorin said - he felt that the negotiations in London have not made any progress ever since they were begun in March. But, instead - have taken a step backward.

CHINESE PROPAGANDA

Chinese Communist propaganda is featuring, what it calls - an American newspaperman. Who is blasting away on the Red radio, with party line chatter.

They describe him as a U.S. newspaperman operating in Britain. But, in London, the word is that he is Sedrick Belfrage, British editor of a weekly newspaper - who was deported from the United States.

The record shows that in Nineteen Fifty-three, Belfrage was questioned by the McCarthy Committee, and refused to answer questions concerning Communism. He wouldn't say - whether he had ever engaged in espionage against the United States. Then, in Nineteen Fifty-Five, he was deported - sent back to his native Britain.

So that's the alleged American, now doing Communist propaganda in Red Peiping. Upholding, for example - the action of the forty-one Americans, who left Moscow yesterday, on their way to Red China - in defiance of the United States Government.

COAL MINE

A package containing photographs of Pennsylvania coal mines, and booklets about the black pits - is on its way, to J. E. Witchey of Arlington, California. What does he want with them? The answer - strictly sentimental.

In Philadelphia, the Electric Storage Battery Company got a letter from J. E. Witchey, who is ninety-four years old. He said he had seen a Company advertisement - with a picture of a coal mine. In his youth, he had worked as a Pennsylvania coal digger. So the picture evoked - memories of his youth. And he wrote: "I would enjoy looking at pictures of coal mines in my declining years."

Just nostalgia - homesick for the coal mines.

U-BOAT

The Germans have a U-boat, once again. The West German Navy - commissioning its first post-war submarine. Which is not newly constructed. The U-boat was raised - resurrected.

In Nineteen Forty-Five, the U-2365 was a newly built craft, which had never seen combat. Nazi Germany was falling into disaster, and the U-2365 was scuttled by its own crew, in Kiel harbor.

Last year the sub was raised - in good enough condition to be overhauled and put back into service. The task - now complete. The U-boat - put into commission today.

Still another German submarine of World War Two has been salvaged, and will go into service later this year.

All of which certainly does bring up old memories of two world wars - when the U-boats wreaked havoc at sea.

IRAN - BANDIT

From the deserts of eastern Iran - an account of a gun battle. Between Iranian police - and the bandit Dad-Shah. The tribal outlaw - who, with his gang, ambushed and killed three Americans last March. It was a headline at the time - the murder of two members of a U.S. mission, Brewster Wilson and Kevin Carroll, and Mrs. Carroll. There was a hot pursuit of Dad-Shah - and some of his band were captured. But the outlaw chief escaped - and has been hunted ever since.

The Iranian authorities enlisted the aid of a Baluchi tribe - which was commissioned to catch Dad-Shah. But the word is that, on Sunday, the desperado of the wilderness killed a dozen members of the tribe.

Iranian police went after him again, and caught up with him last night. There was a three-hour gun battle in the desolation of deserts and mountains. But - Dad-Shah escaped once more.

McELROY

The Armed Services Committee of the House voted okay, today - for Neil McElroy, as the new Secretary of Defense. The vote - unanimous.

Neil McElroy appeared before the Committee - and promised to get rid of his business interests, except his stock in Procter and Gamble. Of which soap manufacturing company - he, right now, is President. The Department of Justice has ruled - that the new Secretary may retain the six hundred thousand dollars worth of Procter and Gamble stock. Which would not violate - the "conflict of interest" laws. The Company sells quantities of soap to the armed services - but through a system of competitive bids.

However, Committee Chairman Russell said that Procter and Gamble would have to cancel a contract it has - for the operation of an ordnance plant at Milan, Tennessee. To which McElroy replied - that the Company, some time ago, notified the Defense Department that it doesn't want to renew the contract.

He holds blocks of stock in the Chrysler Corporation and the General Electric Company - which have huge contracts with the Defense Department. So, therefore, he will sell his holdings in those two firms. He asked the Committee to give him six months - to dispose of his interests in four companies for oil exploration.

Neil McElroy is expected to take over from Secretary of Defense Wilson - about a month from now.

BERGMAN

In Rome, Ingrid Bergman denies a story - that her eldest daughter, by a previous marriage, intends to marry a nephew of her present husband. She says - "ridiculous."

Recently, the motion picture star was visited by her eighteen year old daughter, Jennie Ann Lindstrom. Who, in the Bergman household met Franco Rosselini - the twenty-two-year old nephew of Roberto Rosselini. A story from Paris now reporting - intended marriage between the two young people.

According to a newspaper in Rome, the word was taken to Ingrid Bergman's first husband, Dr. Peter Lindstrom, father of Jennie Ann. Who is said to have exclaimed: "Another Italian - and, even worse, another Rosselini."

But Ingrid Bergman says - ridiculous.

FLU

In Washington, the Public Health Service is planning a campaign - to persuade people to take anti-flu vaccine. Newspapers, radio, television and posters will be used - to convince the public.

Earlier this week, half a million shots of the vaccine were made available - and eight million will be released by September First.

The vaccine is being produced by six major drug firms, and they say - unless the public uses the drug, they will have to curtail production. They say they're taking a gamble - by investing ten million dollars in full scale production. They're not being subsidized by the government.

The Asiatic flu, we are told, has already appeared "in all sections of the United States." And, in Congress, today, Senator Lister Hill of Alabama criticized the government for cutting down on funds recommended for a fight against the danger of an epidemic.

RACKETEER

Alleged Racketeer Johnny Dio has been indicted for income tax violation - accused of evading the payment of twenty thousand dollars in taxes in Nineteen Fifty through Nineteen Fifty-Two. Actually, the indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in June. But it was not made public - because the Riesel case was pending. Dio - charged with masterminding the acid attack, which blinded the well known labor columnist.

If convicted on the charge of tax violation, Dio could be sentenced to twenty years in prison. He already stands convicted of bribery and conspiracy in a labor extortion case.

Likewise indicted for income tax violation - Dio's bodyguard, Theodore Rij. The two made appearances before the Senate Rackets Investigating Committee, last week - and took the Fifth Amendment over and over again.

CRASH

There was an air disaster at Copenhagen, Denmark, today - as a Soviet airliner was coming in to land. Flying from Moscow - with twenty-three persons aboard.

The big plane was flying low through an overcast, and ahead were five tall smoke-stacks of a power plant. One wing struck a smoke-stack, and was torn off. The cabin, with twenty-three persons - plunging into the water. No survivors - one American among the victims.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T.

Tonight we find Lowell Thomas on a jungle voyage,
in some of the wildest parts of this earth. On a river trip -
through equatorial forests of New Guinea.

NEW GUINEA

L.T.: - ~~Now~~ In my last I said that in my next broadcast I would explain a little more fully about where I am and why. I am always reluctant to give any detailed information in advance when I head for some rather remote region; for the reason that I so often have found that my plans change at the last moment. However, I am in the Southwest Pacific, on the island of New Guinea, within a few days of the region that is our final objective.

I am a member of an Australian expedition heading for one of the great rivers of the world, a part of which runs through country still unexplored.

New Guinea -- now that it has been established that Greenland is two or more islands instead of one as had been thought -- New Guinea is the world's largest island, a land mass about one-sixth the size of the Continent of Australia or the United States, a thousand and five hundred miles long, and so mountainous that if you were to flatten it out it would be the largest land mass in the world, within comparable boundaries.

There are literally hundreds of rivers, of which the Sepik and the Fly rank among the mighty rivers of the world. New Guinea is directly across Torres Strait, due north of Australia, and due east of Indonesia, with the Moluccas only a few miles away off the northwest tip which

is on the Equator. While at the opposite, southeast end, the Milne Bay tip of the Owen Stanley mountains, you are 10 degrees south of the Equator.

Other neighboring land masses being the large islands of New Britain and New Ireland, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Solomons, the Trobriands and the Louisiades; with the Carolines a thousand miles to the north and the New Hebrides a thousand miles to the east.

While New Guinea is largely an island broken up by mountain range after mountain range with peaks up to 16,000 feet high, sometimes snow-capped, it includes one swamp area that is one of the largest in the world, covering a hundred thousand square miles, extending to the Fly River country to the Kukukuku Mountains.

The Dutch hold three-fifths of New Guinea, Australia two-fifths, the Australian part divided into two vast areas - Papua and the New Guinea part under a U.N. Mandate.

Except around the edges, the island is populated by some of the most primitive peoples on earth, still living in the stone age, several million of them, and of many races. Papuan pygmies in the interior, also tall Papuans in the Highlands, Melanesians, Micronesians, and a few Polynesians. Speaking several hundred languages and dialects so different that they ~~are~~ can't understand their neighbors in the next

valley. Still using stone axes, each axe taking six months to make, but razor sharp.

An island with animal life related somewhat to Australia, of which continent New Guinea, long ago was a part. But there is so little animal life that birds flourish more than almost anywhere, birds with the most gorgeous of all plumage, including the greater Bird of Paradise. Vast jungles inhabited by kangaroos that climb trees at great speed and descend tail first. Huge bats with a wing span of five feet. A hundred kinds of lizards, and an equal number of snakes including more pythons than found anywhere else - the most poisonous snake being the giant taipan. If it strikes you are dead in a matter of hours. So far no anti-toxin for it. Also another called the Dead Adder. An island that seems a continent, with swamps and rivers that swarm with crocodiles. New Guinea's top crocodile hunter is with us, a character named Tom Davidson. And along the coast are mammoth turtles that weigh up to a ton.

We have just made another flight, this time from Madang on the Bismarck Sea, to Angoram, last outpost on the Sepik River. On this one we again flew inland over mountain ranges and swamps, also along the coast with the two live volcanoes off to our right - Manum a four thousand foot cone rising out of the sea, and Bam, a mountain half as high and

even more explosive. There is a belt of active volcanoes all along this north coast.

From here on we go by river scow and dugout canoe up the Sepik to cannibal country.
