

L.T.-OLDS. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1962

(L.T. on South Sea Islands, Antarctica, Asia, Europe trip. Bc. given by Doug Edwards of CBS.)

GOOD EVENING:

The turbulent situation in the Congo emerged tonight as an issue of urgent concern as President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Macmillan met in the Bahamas for two days of talks. Earlier today, American officials announced that the President has decided to send a military mission to the Congo to survey the needs of the United Nations force there, and its ability to deal with growing tension over the problem of Congo unification. And tonight, a U.N. spokesman said in New York that the United States has agreed to supply additional military equipment for the U.N. forces.

The spokesman said the United States took the decision at the request of Secretary-General U Thant. The Kennedy administration is reported to be showing increasing concern over some new bids by Russia to establish a power position in

LEAD - 2

the african country which has failed, so far, to solve the problems brought by the secession of Katanga Province. President Kennedy and the Prime Minister are expected to discuss the Congo situation in detail tomorrow. Another major topic on the agenda will be the U.S. intention to abandon the Skybolt, the air-to-ground missile on which Britain had pinned its hopes for a nuclear power deterrent.

CUBA

For the fourth time, New York Attorney James Donovan and three members of his negotiating team are in Havana -- this time in an effort to secure the release of more than eleven hundred invasion prisoners before Christmas. Donovan and his party arrived today and so far there has been no announcement concerning the progress of the talks.

INTRO. TO L.T.

Time now to hear from Lowell Thomas again. Lowell,
what's the latest from the land of ice-breakers and penguins?

L.T.

Greetings again, from down here near the South Pole. The McMurdo mess hall is open right around the clock -- that is, during the Antarctic summer from September to April. I dropped in at four in the morning, and was greeted by Chaplain Chris Young, a young Episcopal clergyman from Gladstone, New Jersey. While he praises all the people who are here, he seems particularly enthusiastic about the seabees, the chaps who do the heavy construction work, often under a desperate handicap. Last year they put up the nuclear plant that now supplies all the power here at McMurdo. He refers to them as "the most self sufficient outfit I ever saw." They were sent up to the South Pole to dig more tunnels under the ice and then put in the under-ice-buildings where the South Pole group lives and works. As soon as they were flown to the Pole, with the temperature down around minus thirty and forty, they first put up their own quarters.

Chaplain Young seems to get a special kick out of

telling about the arrival of seabee battalion eight, when they were flown down from New Zealand. They arrived after the weather had closed in. Their huge globemaster made four approaches before it finally made the runway. The Chaplain met them as they filed out of the whale-like mouth of the Globemaster. Said the leader of the group: "Chaplain, we didn't have religion when we left New Zealand. But, we have it now!"

But Chaplain Young added with a smile: "I regret to say it did not last until Sunday."

The population at McMurdo during the summer months totals some nine hundred men. How many go to church? Only about fifty. They don't take Sunday off. Of the two hundred who stay through the long dark winter, the Chaplain said only a dozen or so attend church.

But, they all seem to have much respect for him, and even look upon him with affection.

He is nearing the end of his stay in the Antarctic,

L.T. 3

and will be relieved by a Lutheran Chaplain from Pittsburgh, a Navy Lieutenant, David Windle. In addition to the religious side of his work, the Chaplain acts as a councillor to those who seek council. He also is the library officer. He assigns the men to their housing accommodation. And his work includes information and education, off duty coaching for men who seek advancement.

Although he has only been out of college a few years, Chaplain Young is totally bald. As he puts it, his hair is at the wrong place. He has a long red beard. So long.

FOLLOW L.T.

So long, Lowell, and we'll be hearing from you again

soon.

REPUBLICANS

As you know, President Kennedy appeared on radio and television last night, reviewing with correspondents his first two years in office. Today, the Republican National Committee served notice it will ask all three networks for a forum comparable to that accorded the President. The Republicans concluded that this would be only fair since last night's show, as they put it, "resulted in substantial benefit to the Democrats and their probable Nineteen Sixty-Four candidate."

So far as we know, the GOP made no suggestions as to their spokesman.

JAIL BREAK

Big jail-break effort in Buenos Aires today. About four hundred prisoners killed six police and wounded four others in a desperate dash for freedom. Apparently there were rather furious exchanges of gunfire because the word we have is that the prisoners were heavily armed. No estimate so far of the number of prisoners killed or wounded. But at last report, there had been an agreement among the prisoners and officials to negotiate.

ROMANCE

A story from Palermo, Sicily, tonight tells of a mechanic named Salvatore -- aged eighteen. He appeared cool to the idea of marrying Anna. The Sicilian police report that the girl's mother decided to speed things up. She invited the young man to her home -- and then locked him up in a room with Anna for four days. The lad's parents alerted the police, who freed Salvatore and arrested the two women on charges of restricting his personal liberty. An Italian version of -- "never underestimate the power of a woman -- or women."

Or, for that matter, Dick Noel.

NAME

Well, Dick. This actually happened, but it gets to be confusing as you'll hear. Rochester, New York, is the setting. It seems the Carnevale family had a birthday party. Frank Carnevale was celebrating his Ninetieth birthday. And the special guests were -- Frank Carnevale, Frank Carnevale, and - Frank Carnevale.

By coincidence, the birthday fella had a great grandson named Frank, celebrating his first. And attending as special guests were the elder Carnevale's son Frank, and grandson. Well - you guess his name.

With that - we'll toss it to Frank Noel.

And back tomorrow.