

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

January 14, 1955

(CHARLES COLLINGWOOD SUBSTITUTING)

C.C.: GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

PANAMA

The President of Panama, Jose Guizado, is being held a virtual prisoner tonight by members of Panama's National Guard. So announced by his secretary. There's no explanation yet for the behaviour of the National Guard, but the secretary does say that it follows from the assassination of former President Jose Remon on January 2nd, after which Vice President Guizado became President.

COSTA_RICA

In San Jose, Costa Rica, President Figueres charges that both Nicaragua and Venezuela are

supporting the rebels who are attempting to mount a drive on the capital city. And the investigation team of the Organization of American States agrees with him that planes have flown in from abroad to attack loyalist positions. But Nicaragua denies any responsibility for the invasion. The Nicaraguan Government even offering planes for neutral observation flights over the combat area. Meanwhile, President Figueres has ordered troops flown in to the town of Liberia to meet the advance guard of the rebels. A dispatch from San Jose states that the decisive battle may not be far off.

TEST PILOT

Since yesterday a 1500-man posse has been combing the Mojave Desert searching for test pilot

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James Verdine, who had to bail out of his jet bomber at 35,000 feet. This afternoon they found his body, by a crumpled parachute, some forty miles northwest of Barstow, California. Verdine held the world's jet speed record. Apparently the parachute failed to open.

SUBMARINE

The Navy announces that the Nautilus, history's first atomic-powered submarine, will begin its sea trials on Monday, tests which may well open a new era in maritime history.

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower issued a statement today about the eleven Americans in Red Chinese prisons, the President giving his reaction to a previous declaration by the Secretary General of the

United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold. Hammarskjold said that when he left Peiping the door was open for further negotiations about the Americans. Mr. Eisenhower expressed his disappointment that the Chinese Communists were not more agreeable, but he warned that we must be very careful of not falling into a Communist trap. In his words, "we must support the United Nations in its efforts, so long as those efforts hold out any promise of success." The Eisenhower statement is interpreted in Washington as a reply to Senator Knowland of California, who's been demanding a blockade of the Chinese coast, if other methods fail to get the Americans released.

SOVIETS

The Soviet Government has announced that it is willing to participate in an international conference

on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. So stated in Moscow, where a formal statement was read by the press chief of the Foreign Ministry. This conference is sponsored by the United Nations and will be held before September, probably in Europe. The Moscow statement makes it official that the Russians will attend. The chairman of the American Atomic Energy Commission, Admiral Strauss, welcomed the Russian statement as going at least part way, he said, in the direction of President Eisenhower's atoms-for-peace plan. He explained that in saying Russia had only gone part way, he meant that Russia had not offered to share atomic materials in an atoms-for-peace pool, as has the United States.

MEETING

That meeting in Omaha is all very hush-hush. We know that Secretary of State Dulles and our Ambassador to the United Nations, Henry Cabot Lodge, met with the head of the Strategic Air Command, General Curtis Lemay, but afterward not one of them would comment on what was said. The only word made public is that further meetings are scheduled. Air Force authorities declare that it's all part of regular briefings about our capacity for long-range bombing, and it's believed that the Secretary of State has been hearing about how the Air Force would set **about** the massive retaliation that he has warned would be our reaction to **aggression**.

MCCARTHY

The Senate voted to continue investigating communism. The vote: 84 to 0, the Senate unanimous in its determination to expose subversion. But before the session was over today, there were a lot of fireworks, started by the Senator who has become most famous for investigating communism - Senator McCarthy, who repeated his past accusation that the Democratic party has been guilty of what he calls "twenty years of treason." Naturally, that touched off a heated dispute. Twice the junior Senator from Wisconsin was ordered to sit down. He managed to get in some comments about his censure by the Senate, criticizing Senator Long of Louisiana, who was presiding, of what McCarthy terms "sitting like a bump on a log" during the censure debate. Well, it sounds like old times,

with Senator McCarthy in the middle of a rowdy free-for-all. But from now on he won't be chairman of the committee investigating communism.

BADEN-BADEN

An historic meeting took place today at Baden-Baden in West Germany, when Mendes-France came to hold his conference with Adenauer. It was the first time a French premier had visited Germany since Daladier went to Munich in 1938. Today's meeting was very different. The two leaders surveyed the world situation at a three-hour session, and afterward a spokesman for Adenauer said they agreed to fulfill all the commitments undertaken by their two countries.

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Now, here's a report on one of the least-known and most important capitals on this earth.

In tonight's recording we find Lowell Thomas in the city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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L.T.: The first thing that impressed me about the Saudi capital here was the number of autos and the excellent metal road from the airstrip into the city. Mostly American cars, many of them of the more expensive type. For instance, I was told that the most profitable Cadillac agency in the world is right here, because it's the car the King prefers. And, as you no doubt have heard, both he and his dynamic father, the late King Ibn Saud, bought fleets of Cadillacs for their wives. The present ruler and all

of his forty-odd brothers and all of the members of his family, including some sixty sons, have Cadillacs. Often when an important sheikh comes to pay his respects to the King, Saud will bring much joy to his guest's heart by sending him home rejoicing with a dazzling new Cadillac and maybe a couple of Buick Roadmasters, to bring happiness to the ladies of the sheikh's harem. Sounds fantastic, but it happens. The other day when the emir of the desert area called Katar came to pay his respects Saud gave him two Cadillacs and five Buicks. But I guess, his majesty, the King of Saudi Arabia can afford it. The output of the Arabian oilfields this past year was nearly a million barrels a day and of this King Saud's share is 50%. With the current price of oil at over two dollars and a half a barrel . . . well, his income is

way over a million dollars a day. The next in line for the throne is King Saud's strikingly handsome and exceedingly keen brother, Prince Feisal, of whom you have heard a great deal. When the mighty Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud was gathered to his fathers about a year ago there were all sorts of rumors coming out of central Arabia to the effect that Saud, the oldest son, might not succeed to the throne, that it might go straightway to his cosmopolite brother Feisal or even the emir Binjalouie (?) of the oasis of El Hasa. He's the emir of the region where all the oil comes from. But differences there may have been were composed. Saud became King. Binjalouie became Governor of El Jasa, and fairly recently it was announced that Feisal would be the next in line for the throne, and in the meantime would be Prime Minister.

At the moment, Sheikh Abdullah Bul Ker (?) has left me. I'm in the King's guest house. In case Frank Stinchfield happens to be listening, I'm in Room No. 2. That's next to the room he occupied when President Truman had him mysteriously flown over here in the White House plane, the Independence, about two years ago. Our top oil people were afraid that the mighty Ibn Saud was going to depart for the Moslem paradise at that time and they and our State Department people wanted to postpone that departure as long as possible so one of our famous surgeons was rushed here on a secret mission. His reward incidentally for being away from his practice for a month was one camel saddle. It would be natural for

the King to figure that all that was at the behest of our President, a strictly American party, which it was, otherwise, the King, a most generous monarch, at least would have given the great surgeon a couple of Cadillacs plus a Buick for the lady in his harem. A giant Sudanese has just brought me coffee and now I am sitting here wondering what is going to happen to me next.

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C.C.: Well, Lowell, we'll have to wait till Monday to find out things. Next installment in Lowell Thomas' travels.

COSTA RICA

Here's a late development in that Costa Rican story. The investigation commission of the Organization of American States informed the council today that a substantial part of the military force

in Costa Rica is coming from neighboring Nicaragua.

BIG BEN

The world's most famous clock stopped ticking early this morning - Big Ben, on London's Houses of Parliament, slowing down at 3:00 a.m., and then within half-an-hour the hands had ceased completely to move. Every time Big Ben stops it's news and the story this time is the weather. Workmen found that the dial of the great timepiece had a coating of ice several inches thick and the hands were imprisoned in the ice. Workmen knocked off the ice, freed the hands, and by 9:00 a.m. Big Ben was back on the hour. The accident was only one of many that are afflicting most of Europe as heavy winter storms hit western and the part of Europe behind the Iron Curtain, too.

BOY

Well, the city of Chicago is going to pay a little boy a dollar even though he made the claim for it sixty-seven years too late. What's the sense of the story? Well, nine-year-old David Pyle, of Muskegon, Michigan, fished a bottle out of Lake Michigan. Inside it he found a postcard from the Chicago Water Commission saying that it would pay a dollar to anyone who returned the card by January 1, 1887. The deadline had passed almost sixty years ago. Back in those days the bottle had been thrown into Lake Michigan when the currents of the lake were being studied back in the eighteen-eighties and now Chicago is still going to pay the dollar and, what's more, the city fathers, Hugh, say that they're going to give David a free trip to their city as part of his reward for finding that bottle sixty-seven years late.