GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

X'mas Eve in the Holy Land with not much Xmas spirit. Just as it has been every christmas since World War Two. Some four thousand christian pilgrims journeyed today from Israel to Jordan - from Jerusalem to Bethlehem - through areas full of soldiers. They were not allowed to take pictures - and Jordanian border guards turned back about seventy pilgrims, fro various reasons - like passport irregularities.

Those allowed through walked on to the little town where Christ was born. There they attended a midnight service in the famous cave under the church of the nativity.

Back in Israel, members of the diplomatic corps went to church in Nazareth, Israels only Christian city. Today, the city where Christ worked as a carpenter was

gayly decorated - and church bells echoed in the hills of Galilee. But not far away, soldiers were on guard - symbollic of the tension that grips the Middle East.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE WE HEAR THAT PRESIDENT AND MRS. EISENHOWER

SENT OUT THOUSANDS OF CHRISTMAS CARDS THIS YEAR. THREE TYPES OF

CARDS. THE FIRST - A COLOR PICTURE OF THE WHITE HOUSE GREEN ROOM.

THIS, SENT TO MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF, THE CABINET, AND A

FEW OTHERS. SECONDLY, A PERSONAL CARD FROM MR. & MRS. EISENHOWER TO

THEIR TERME CLOSE FRIENDS. AND THIRD, A FORMAL GREETING TO

DIPLOMATS ABROAD. INCIDENTALLY, THE PRESIDENT PAYS FOR ALL THIS

MAIL - EXCEPT CHRISTMAS CARDS CARRIED IN DIPLOMATIC POUCHES TO

EMBASSIES ABROAD.

DESPITE THE NUMBER OF HIS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, EISENHOWER

IS NOT THE CHAMPION SENDER IN WASHINGTON. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE

THIS TITLE GOES TO - SENATOR KEFAUVER. ONE ESTIMATE PUTS THE

NUMBER OF KEFAUVER CHRISTMAS GREETINGS - AT FOURTY THOUSAND. BUT

HIS OFFICE DENIES HE SENT OUT THAT MANY CARDS.

AT THE OTHER EXTREME - TWO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO SENT NO CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AT ALL - SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SAM RAYBURN AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE HOUSE, JOHN MCCORMACK. THEY BOTH SAY THEY'LL ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THE CARDS THEY RECEIVE AFTER NEW YEARS DAY. BUT

THEY RE NOT MAJLING ANY.

A SPECIAL CASE - THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL MAXWELL TAYLOR,

TELLING
OFFICERS IN THE PENTAGON REST TO MAIL HIM A

Sunt night. But It's unofficially said in administration

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distablisher will wait for cometning more definite.

CHRISTMAS CARD. GENERAL TAYLOR, FEELING HIS SUBORDINATES

BETTER WAY THEIR TIME - THAN SENDING CHRISTMAS

GREETINGS TO THEIR BOSS.

Government officials in Washington are cautious about the latest Khrushchev declaration. The boss of Soviet Communism saying - Russia is going to reduce the size of her armed forces. Khrushchev giving the reason - the development of scientific weapons.

Neither President Eisenhower nor Secretary Dulles

mentioned Khrushchev - when they reported to the nation

last night. But it's unofficially said in administration

circles - that the President is ready to deal with the

Kremlin - as soon as he feels the Reds are sincere.

Khrushchev was vague in his remarks. So, presumably Mr.

Eisenhower will wait for something more definite.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWERS SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE MIDDLE EAST - HAS JUST RESIGNED. JAMES RICHARDS, WHO HAD THE JOB OF EXPLAINING THE EISENHOWER DOCTRINE. THE FORMER DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN FROM SOUTH CAROLINA ORIGINALLY WAS APPOINTED FOR SIX MONTHS. HIS TENURE - EXTENDED TO ONE YEAR.

IN RESIGNING TODAY, RICHARDS HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR SECRETARY OF STATE DULLES. RICHARDS DECLARING, "IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE WITH JOHN FOSTER DULLES". ADDING, THIS PROVES HOW WELL BI-PARTISANSHIP CAN WORK IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

IN ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER THANKED
RICHARDS FOR A JOB WELL DONW. THE PRESIDENT SAYING, HE HOPES
TO HAVE MORE ASSIGNMENTS FOR RICHARDS IN THE FUTURE.

THE NEXT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON - IS ONE OF THE RISING

MEN BEHIND KHRUSHCHEV. HE'S M. A. MENSHIKOV - A "CANDIDATE

MEMBER" OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THAT

MAKES MENSHKOV ONE OF THE HIGHEST FIGURES IN THE RUSSIAN

HIERARCHY - JUST BEHIND THE LEADERS. THE NOMINATION OF MENSHIKOV

HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED BY SECRETARY OF STATE DULLES - WHO IS

EXPECTED TO GIVE IT HIS OKAY. MENSHIKOV, ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED

STATES - TO BECOME BOSS OF THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

TO REPLACED ZAROUBIN THE HAS NEVER BEEN IN MUCH FAVOR HERE.

ZAROUBIN CAME TO WASHINGTON WITH A REPUTATION FOR UNDERCOVER

ESPIONAGE - IN LONDON AND OTTAWA.

THE LATEST ON SOVIET SCIENCE IS A THE RUSSIANS ARE SENDING DOGS INTO OUTER SPACE - ON ROUND-TRIP VOYAGES. THE DOGS, CARRIED BY ROCKETS MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILES UP - THEN PARACHUTING BACK TO EARTH, SAFELY. THE SOVIETS DECLARE, THE DOGS RETURN COMPLETELY UNHARMED - PROVING THAT SPACE TRAVEL FOR HUMAN BEINGS IS POSSIBLE. NO DANGER THAT THE HUMAN BODY COULD NOT STAND THE BLAST OF THE ROCKET.

THOSE RUSSIAN EXPERIMENTS ARE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL
GEOPHYSICAL YEAR. MOSCOW CLAIMS THAT BEFORE THE I.G.Y. ENDS.
A HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE ROCKETS WILL BE FIRED - WITH CANINE
PASSENGERS.

NAME AS A PROPERTY OF THE CONTRACTOR AS A SECRETARIES. THE PARTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA, THERE WERE SOME TRAGIC SCENES TODAY. DUTCH
FAMILIES BROKEN UP, TEMPORARILY - AS THE EVACUATION OF INDONESIA
CONTINUED. TODAY NEARLY A THOUSAND DUTCH WOMEN AND CHILDREN, FOR
SINGAPORE. HUSBANDS AND FATHERS, STAYING BEHIND UNTIL THE TROUBLE
BETWEEN INDONISIA AND HOLLAND IS DECIDED. SO FAR, SEVEN THOUSAND
OF THE DUTCH HAVE GONE - NEARLY ALL OF THEM WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

MEANWHILE, THE NATIONALISTS ARE DEMANDING A SIMILAR CAMPAIGN
AGAINST ALL FOREIGN BUSINESS MEN. THEY SAY EVERY FIRM CONTROLLED
FROM OUTSIDE INDONESIA - SHOULD BE SEIZED AT ONCE.

BUT THE INDONESIANS ARE STILL FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES.

MOSLEMS AGAINST THE NON-MOSLEMS.

ARMY - FIGHTING TO SET UP A MOHAMMEDAN STATE ON THE ISLAND OF

CELEBES.

ISRAEL, TRYING TO GET SUBMARINES FROM WEST GERMANY. SO INDICATED BY PRIME MINISTER BEN-GURION - DURING A DEBATE OVER THE ISRAELI MISSION TO BONN. HIS COMMUNIST OPPONENTS ACCUSED HIM OF WANTING SUBMARINES MORE THAN PEACE. IN REPLY, BEN-GURION DECLARED THAT FORMERLY ISRAEL WAS UNDER PRESSURE BY LAND AND IN THE AIR. THEN HE WENT ON, "NOW THERE IS A THIRD FRONT - THE SEA." HE WANTS WEST GERMAN SUBMARINES - TO KEEP OPEN THE SEA LANES TO COMMERCE AND IMMIGRATION.

AROUND HAWAJI - A BIG AIR AND SEA SEARCH. THIS, FOLLOWING THE

RESCUE OF FOUR MEN BY A MARINE CORPS RESCUE BOAT. THE FOUR,

MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THAT SUPERCONSTALLATION - THAT

DISAPPEARED BURNES A ROUTINE PRACTICE FLIGHT. THE PLANE,

DITCHED IN THE OCEAN - WITH TWENTY-THREE MEN ABOARD.

RESCUE OPERATIONS ARE HAMPERED BY POOR VISIBILITY AND HIGH SEAS.

BUT THE SEARCH IS BEING PUSHED, NOW THAT THE FIRST FOUR

SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP.

AN ALLEGED SICK CALL WORK STOPPAGE ON NEW YORK'S LONG ISLAND
RAILROAD DEVELOPED INTO A FULL SCALE STRIKE TONIGHT, THREATENING
A COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF THE LINE. THRONGS OF COMMUTERS LEFT
STRANDED IN NEW YORK CITY ON CHRISTMAS EVE. THE LONG ISLAND
IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMMUTER LINE.

HAROLD PRYOR, OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SAID
THE UNION HAD CALLED ITS ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OFF THEIR JOBS ON THE
RAILROAD.

Committee of the State of the Committee of the Committee

A DISPATCH FROM LAS VEGAS IS REVIVING A LOT OF MEMORIES - FOR

OLD TIME MOVIE FANS. MORMA TALMADGE DIED TODAY. NORMA,

ONCE THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN HOLLYWOOD.

A MILLION DOLLARS, - AND BECOME A HOUSEHOLD WORD, THAT WAS WHEN SHE
PLAYED IN "A TALE OF TWO CITIES", WITH MAURICE COSTELLO. THEN

CAME PERHAPS HER BIGGEST HIT CHEET. - "CAMILLE", WITH GILBERT

ROLAND, WAS HER LEADING DANC.

ONE FILM \_ IN WHICH HER SPEAKING VOICE WAS HEARD. THEN SHE WENT

INTO RETIREMENT - AND REFUSED MANY AND HAVE HER MAKE A

END BACK. SHE USED TO SAY SHE SPENT A GENERATION - WORKING BEFORE

THE CAMERAS. AND THAT ENTITLED HER TO STAY IN RETIREMENT - AND

ENJOY LIFE. During the Winter she shied - with

Rev should husband Marty Garrigi.

SE TONIGHT THE WORLD OF MOTION PICTURES IS PAYING TRIBUTE TO

ONE OF ITS FIRST, AND ONE OF ITS THE STARS - THE ONE AND

COLY NORMA TALMADGE.

Last night I started to tell you whether we had

on one expedition into
found Lassiter's gold reef in the great Australian desert,

Everybody has been asking me, did you find it?

One of the aborigines lead us across the desert to where he said Lassiter the American-Australian explorer, was buried by their fathers twenty-seven years ago.

Where he pointed looked just like any other empty spot in the desert. But - we found Lassiter!

They also took us to the cave in one of the red sandstone mountains, that he had made his base during a considerable part of the six months that he was the only white man in that vast and still comparatively unknown wilderness.

Then, some miles from the cave, they took us to a reef of red sandstone, that ran like a dinosaur's backbone across the desert.

In this reef we found outcroppings of quartz and other minerals, some exceedingly heavy. These specimens have been turned over to geologists in Sydney, for analysis; and, I brought a few back to America. We'll have to wait until we get reports to know whether we found the reef which passiter claimed was the richest gold to Australia, a continent which has had some of the targett richest gold strikes in the world.

The aborigines told us that they had taken Lassiter's stakes, datum pegs, the Australians call them, out of the reef, because it was sacred tribal ground. They said that was done in the days when Lassiter was still alive and when he was firing the text last bullets in his revolver at the aborigines.

They showed us a water wait hole near the base of this reef where Lassiter brought his camels to water.

Australia as you may or may not recall was anather not originally a land of camels but approximately one hundred years

ago when they wanted to build a telegraph line from parwi on the South coast to delaide on the south, the only means of transportation they figured would be and successful, would be the camel. So, they imported camels from Asia together with Afghan camel drivers. For many dank decades camel caravans and camel trans teams were a familiar sight on the fringes of the great Australian desert and Fight across some sections of it. Eventually, with the coming of the train and the automobile the need for camels decreased, Some escaped. Others were turned loose and today there are more wild camels in Australia than anywhere in the world. 2 All the original Afghan camel drivers have died exert one, a lone Afghan in his turban who mopes about the streets of the little town called Alice, deep in Central Australia.

At any rate, the aborigines showed us not only the water hole that Lassiter and his camels used, but they want 27 year all showed us the path they had beaten down, which is still

LASSITER'S REEF - 14

visible in the sanda and clay, deep in the Petermann Ranges,

pegged some other reefs. So, our expedition, after Christmas, expects to return to that region, hoping to also solve that part of the mystery.

Whether we find the gold reef or not, doesn't matter too much. What is important is that Lee Robinson and his Australian companions who were with me on this expedition, will call further attention to the fact that the first vast interior of that island continent is not pure desert. It seems waterless. But water is not far below the surface.

American oil geophysicists and geologists were working in another section of the Australian interior at the same time when we were exploring that to the South West of Alice Springs. They returned me home on the same plane with me, and they believe that a maxxel sea of oil may be found

## LASSITER'S REEF - 45

in the heart of that continent. If it is, well, I'll leave to you to guess what will happen. The day will come when millions of people will live in the empty spaces where we found only the emu and the kangaroo.

JERICKO IS BACK IN HIS CELL. WILLIE JERICKO, WHO HAS BEEN THERE
TWENTY-TWO OF THE PAST TWENTY-THREE CHRISTMASES. WHEN HE WAS
RELEASED LAST THURSDAY - THE GUARDS SAID THEY BEET A HUNDRED
TO ONE - ON WILLIE BEING BACK FOR CHRISTMAS. HE TOLD THEM - THIS INC.
ONE CHRISTMAS HE WOULD SPEND AT HOME.

BUT THIS MORNING, WILLIE SERIES WAS PICKED UP ON A CHARGE OF VAGRANCY. THE JUDGE SENTENCE HIM TO NINETY DAYS.

SO, AS USUAL, WILLIE JERICKO OF PITTSBURGH, WILL SING HIS
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND HAVE HIS CHRISTMAS DINNER - IN JAIL.

OCCUPANT BE THERE FOR NEW YEAR'S, LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY, AND, ST. PATRICKS DAY.