

L.T.-OLDS., THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 1961.

(Given by Richard C. Hottelet,  
CBS wrote script)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The MacMillan-Kennedy meeting in Bermuda is being influenced by a third man, who isn't there. President Kennedy, compelled to leave for his Bermuda rendezvous with Prime Minister MacMillan; looking grave - when his plane landed in Bermuda. No sign of that famous Kennedy smile. Ready to leave - at a moment's notice, if his father takes a turn for the worse.

Meanwhile, the world situation won't wait. MacMillan and Kennedy, plunging into crisis from West Berlin - to West New Guinea; from the intransigence of Khrushchev to the intransigence of DeGaulle. The leaders of Britain and America, striving for what President Kennedy calls - "an exchange of views, a coordination of policies."

## NEW GUINEA

With the Indian conquest of Goa an accomplished fact - the international spotlight has moved over to New Guinea; the western half of that vast island off the northern coast of Australia; the half controlled by the Dutch.

Sukarno of Indonesia, demanding more loudly than ever - that the Dutch surrender, today closed the air space over the Molucca Islands; which would seem to indicate a coming invasion of Dutch New Guinea.

But Australia thinks it has a promise from Indonesian Prime Minister Menzies, telling a news conference that Surkano gave him a solemn pledge - not to use force. Says Menzies: "I have no information that President Sukarno is going back on that promise."

Cynics in Canberra, and around the free world, are making the retort that Nehru repeatedly declared that he would never use force over Goa. Then, suddenly, we know what happened.

## MISSILE

A dispatch from the Pentagon sounds like - Greek mythology. Zeus defeats Hercules. Which is as it should be - according to the divine hierarchy on Mount Olympus. Zeus, the monarch of the gods. Hercules, only a demi-god. And in Greek mythology, demi-gods do - what the gods tell them to do. The story also okay - for our missile program. Nike-Zeus, blowing up Nike-Hercules. In other words, the anti-missile missile - caught up with the missile; knocking it down - before it could land on target. One more step in the defense of America.

# FIRE

That catastrophic circus fire in a suburb of Rio De Janerio turns out to be one of the worst crimes ever committed. A case of arson causing over three hundred deaths. Many of them young children.

The arsonist says he had a run-in with some circus employees, and decided to get back at them by burning up their livelihood; by setting fire to the Big Top. Which he did, at the height of the performance; the tent going up in flames. Causing the panic-stricken stampede - in which three hundred were either burned or trampled to death.

The toll - more than thirty dead, more than a hundred injured; scores missing.

## EARTH QUAKE

That earth quake in Columbia was caused by what geologists called - "the Andes Fault," an unstable seam of rocks under the Andes - which shifts from time to time, in gigantic subterranean catyclisms. Shaking the entire mountain chain the vast cordillera.

That's what happened this time - in Caldas province; Columbias coffee belt. The earth, splitting open - with a tremendous roar. Forty four towns tumbling into ruins within a few seconds. In one a church collapsed - during mass. The worshippers - buried in the debris. Most of the buildings that remained standing were so badly damaged they had to be demolished.

The toll - more than thirty dead, more than a hundred injured; scores missing.

## SEPPALA

I wonder how many recall the name Seppala. Seppala probably the greatest dog-team driver of all times? Many of you will remember how back in 1925, Nome, Alaska, was threatened with a diptheria epidemic, because Nome was without any anti-toxin.

This was just before the era of the airplane. Mid-winter, Nome cut off from the outside world, except by telegraph, and dog-team. All winter arctic transportation by sled. They had some memorable dog-team races up here in the north where I am tonight. Forty or more dog-teams competing in the annual all-Alaska sweepstakes. Bets of a total of more than a quarter of a million dollars rode on the outcome. Champions of them all were two men whose names are still a legend, Scotty Allen, long since dead I believe, and, a little man who originally came from Norway, Leonhard Seppala.

Seppala, now in his eighties, makes his home in Seattle, with his lively and charming Belgian wife, who

was once the winter queen, in Nome. In fact she was the toast of all the saloons and dance halls, one of the years when her man, Seppala, won the grand prize.

I wish I had time to tell the Seppala story. It's one of the epics of the arctic. At any rate, he and his team of Siberians, led by his famous lead-dog Togo, won everything. But the dramatic climax came when Nome was threatened with that diphtheria epidemic, in Nineteen twenty five.

Fresh serum was rushed north, and taken across the Alaska range via the new Anchorage to Fairbanks railroad. Dog-teams from the Fairbanks end started out with the serum, heading west toward Nome, six hundred and sixty miles away, over wild Arctic country, through blizzards, and across the ice of one arm of Bering Sea - Norden Sound. Other dog-teams - from Nome - headed East, to pick up the serum, halfway. The most rugged assignment in the series of relays was given to Seppala and his team,

the worst section of the tough journey, the part across the Bering Sea ice.

Finally, when the serum did get to Nome, due to some mistake a newspaper reporter flashed out to the waiting, breathless world, the news that the serum had come, and the wrong man, also the wrong lead-dog got most of the credit, much of which should have gone to Seppala and Togo. They even erected a statue in Central Park, New York, to the wrong dog, Balto. It's still there. However, Togo is mounted, and you can see him at the Peabody museum, Yale University.

There isn't time now to tell all the tale. But my wife and I thought it would be a thrill for us, and we hoped for Seppala, also for the people of Alaska, if we could bring the greatest dog-team driver of all time, back to the north, to revisit scenes of his many triumphs, and meet again any of his friends who are still her in the North. He and his wife have been with us for the past few



days, and I wish you could have seen the receptions, and the ovations given to them in Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Now, today, they are heading back to Nome, where they haven't been for more than thirty years.

I wish you could hear the stories Seppala has been telling us during the days we have been living and flying together.

It looked like the making of a typical not-bled Italian vendetta. Especially when Antonio and Vincente - and ended up with Francesca. But - it's not a case of more at all. Vincente didn't mind - losing his wife. In fact, he made a deal with Antonio. Handing over Francesca - for fifty thousand. That is Antonio agreeing to pay off the debt - in installments.

The case of the vendetta - there was Vincente. Antonio, meeting the installments of Francesca - for the first five months. Then, defaulting. Vincente, demanding the rest of his fifty thousand - otherwise Antonio would

## TRIANGLE

They say that Italy is the land of romance, Amore, the eternal triangle. But romance never took a more prosaic turn than in the triangle of - Francesca, Vincenzo, and Antonio.

The place - Reggio. Francesca, married to Vincenzo Marino - for ten years. Then she caught the eye of Antonio Raffa. It looked like the making of a typical hot-blooded Italian vendetta. Especially when Antonio shot Vincenzo - and ended up with Francesca.

But - it's not a case of amore at all. Vincenzo didn't mind - losing his wife. In fact, he made a deal with Antonio. Handing over Francesca - for fifty thousand lira. That is Antonio agreeing to pay off the debt - in installments.

The cause of the vendetta - those cash payments. Antonio, meeting the installments of Francesca - for the first five months. Then, defaulting. Vincenzo, demanding the rest of his fifty thousand - whereupon Antonio whipped

out a gun and shot him.

I wonder what Francesca thinks about two men fighting over her - I mean, over the price tag they put on her? Italy, land of love - and lira.

The West will go ahead and prepare for nuclear tests in the atmosphere. This announcement from President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Macmillan - at the end of their two day meeting in Bermuda. A joint communique saying the West must prepare to test in the atmosphere - as a matter of "prudence" - in view of the "massive series of Soviet blasts" in the atmosphere.

The two leaders also announced that the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow - will contact the Russians about resuming exploratory talks on Berlin. The British ambassador in Moscow - said Macmillan - will stand-by to "play whatever part might be found helpful in the talks with the Russians." The communique said that the West is still pledged to promote disarmament.