

DISARMAMENT

L.T.-DELCO. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1957

(Given by W.Cronkhite - L.T. in
New Guinea)

The western powers have made, what the news
dispatch^{ed} calls - "a major concession" to Soviet Russia.
They have offered
~~offering~~ to stop atomic tests for two years - if Moscow will
accept a series of other measures in a general plan for
disarmament. These other measures are centered around previous
western proposals - for open skies and ground inspection, and
cuts in military manpower.

Today's offer was presented at the London disarmament
conference by French delegate Jules Moch, and represents an
expansion of a previous offer - for a ten months suspension
of atomic tests. Now - two years.

The response of Moscow delegate Zorin was--unfriendly.
He assailed the conditions pertaining to inspection, but said
he'd study the new offer.

Today President Eisenhower stated the new disarmament
proposal, if accepted by the Soviets, could bring about what
he called - "a sound and safeguarded first step, arms control
agreement."

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Republicans propose / a compromise on civil rights. The G O P leaders in the House - advising a modified form of jury trial amendment. They suggest a proviso for jury trials only in cases involving voting rights, ^{AND} ~~cases~~ - that would call for penalties of more than a fine of three hundred dollars and ninety days in jail. Jury trials, that is - only in the more important voting rights cases. President Eisenhower, today, declared / this Republican compromise would be acceptable to him.

What about the Democrats? Well, Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas calls the proposal "very deep stuff". And says - he'll have to take time to study it.

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18:15

SYRIA

The new leftist regime in Syria states / that Army officers have been arrested on a charge of plotting against the pro-Communists. The conspiracy, they claim, was directed by the United States.

Those arrested are not named, but a report in Jerusalem is - that five brigade commanders have been taken into custody, and replaced by Communist officers.

Damascus denies that Syrian President Kuwatly has resigned, Explaining that he's in Egypt merely for medical reasons.

In Beirut, a Lebanese newspaper says that President Kuwatly left a letter of resignation in Damascus before flying to Egypt last weekend. But - that Egyptian President Nasser has arranged a compromise between President Kuwatly, a moderate, and the leftist military officers. So that, now, Kuwatly has instructed people in Damascus to tear up his letter of resignation.

Today, President Eisenhower told his news conference that Soviet Russia is trying to take over Syria - through the usual tactics of Red subversion. He dismissed the charge that the United States has plotted against the Syrian government, Calling this - "obviously a smokescreen."

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He added that he is "tremendously disappointed" over

the failure of Congress to take action on "so many" of his

legislative proposals.

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President Eisenhower, today, called on the Senate - to restore the eight hundred and nine million dollars the House cut from the new Foreign Aid Appropriation. The President said - "put back every cent." At a White House news conference, he Repeated his threat to ~~indicated that he might~~ call a special session of Congress, if the legislators fail to provide enough money for Foreign Aid. But - only if the world situation seems to demand it.

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49:50

EISENHOWER - INFLATION

The White House has asked the Labor Department - to make a study of a proposal put forward by Walter Reuther. The President of the Auto Workers Union, who is also a Vice President of the AFL-CIO, suggested that the automobile industry declare a one hundred dollar reduction in the prices of motor cars. In which case - the Union would make ^A ~~some sort of~~ concession in the matter of labor costs.

~~At his news conference today, President Eisenhower was asked about the Reuther proposal, and said - he has referred it to the Labor Department for study.~~

RACKETS

At the Senate Racketeering Investigation today, James Hoffa, called "crown prince of the Teamsters Union" listened to a wire tap recording. Hoffa in a telephone conversation with alleged ~~racketeer~~ racketeer Johnny Dio. When it was through, Hoffa admitted that he "could have been interested in bringing Johnny Dio into the Teamsters Union.

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The Asiatic flu spread across the Andes from Chile - mild, but it's a national crisis, because so many people are sick.

In Washington, President Eisenhower, today, said he'll get a shot of the anti-flu vaccine, as soon as it becomes generally available in the campaign against an epidemic in this country.

Argentina reports an increasing sweep of the epidemic of Asiatic flu. A million people stricken - the whole economic life of the nation affected. Schools - closed. A newspaper - suspending publication, because the entire staff is ill. The Argentine soccer team, halting preparations for international matches. Too many players - ill. Fifty newspaper correspondents covering an inter-American economic conference at Buenos Aires - stricken.

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CHANNEL

The winner of the swimming race ~~is~~ across the English Channel - is Greta Andersen, the Danish wife of an American physical culture expert of Long Beach, California. Mrs. Andersen - swimming from the French coast across the treacherous water to a point near Dover in thirteen hours, fifty-three minutes. Her nearest competitor - Brenda Fisher, the British woman champion. The male swimmers - far behind the ladies. The nearest man - two miles ^{back} ~~to the rear~~ of the winner.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovak Red radip reports the conviction of a Roman Catholic Priest. Sentence - nine years in prison. The churchman was charged with directing an organization that collected espionage information for the Vatican and the United States.

INTRO TO L.T.

And now once again, the Sepik River - for a
dateline. That river through the jungles of New Guinea -
on which Lowell Thomas has been voyaging.

SEPIK RIVER

L.T.:-

Hello Everybody:

This time my voice is coming to you from mid-stream on the Sepik River up which we are making our way to "uncontrolled territory", the region District Officer Kaad was talking about when he warned us that we were heading for an area where the tribesmen are still headhunters, and still eat each other. It's early morning and the birds in the jungle on the bank a few yards away, are making a lot of noise. I wonder if you can hear them? The Sepik is navigable as far as 300 miles from its mouth, where it empties into the Bismarck Sea - on some maps called the Melanesian Ocean. Navigable that far up for vessels drawing as much as 12 or 13 ft. We can go even farther because none of ours draws over 7ft.

Unless there is unexpected trouble from the natives, days from where we are now, our chief problem will be dodging the countless trees that come drifting

down, and floating islands of vegetation. For this reason we tie up to the bank, usually at a native village, each night.

After we have been out for a week or so, and reach the part of the Sepik that flows through "uncontrolled territory", we are told that our little flotilla is sure to startle the River people who seldom, if ever, see more than one motor driven craft at a time - a lone crocodile hunter going by. We have five, with 25 Europeans - all Australians except Gil Ralston and myself - and 20 natives of the New Guinea River police and the boys who man our flotilla - 45 of us aboard.

Our flagship is a 60 ft. cabin cruiser, the "Tangalooma", with a single 60 hpr. Diesel engine. The captain, and owner, Eric "Spook" Snook, of Tasmania, veteran of many years prospecting for gold in the mountains of New Guinea. Also the "Tayanna", a 60 ft.

two masted center board pearling lugger, that has been in the New Guinea-Torris Strait-Thursaday Island trade for many years under her veteran skipper, Jack Pert. The "Winbirra", also an ex-pearl lugger, from Thursaday Island, captioned by "Blue" Dockery. Called "Blue" I suppose because he is a fiery red head. Blue spent the entire war in Japanese prison camps - after he was captured in Malaya at the fall of Singapore.

The two other units of our flotilla are a little hard to describe. They are found only on the Sepik. Each thatch roofed but on a platform supported by two long dugout canoes. Each propelled by a single 12 hpr. outboard at the stern of one canoe. Each dugout 40 ft. long, and each with a prow carved to look like a crocodile

On the platform in front of one of these thatched structures, in a comfortable rattan chair, with a rifle across his lap, sits veteran crocodile hunter, Tom Davidson. He tells me that he and several other crocodile

hunter, Tom Davidson. He tells me that he and several other crocodile hunters took 7,000 crocs out of the Sepik last year. These croc skins bring from 5 to 12 pounds apiece. They are shipped from New Guinea to Sydney, from there to Singapore, and then eventually made into leather goods mainly for New York and Paris.

Just to give you an idea how crocodile leather is prized, one croc hunter, with one of his own skins and a pair of shoes made up, in Australia, at a cost to him of \$45.00.

Crocodile hunters have been known to make as much as twenty to thirty thousand dollars in a couple of years. All clear profit, because there are no taxes in New Guinea.

The climate is just about as tough for the white man as you will find anywhere in the world. You are thousands of miles from nowhere, on an island with several million stone age natives. So those who come here

and eventually pull out with a small fortune, made in gold, or raising coffee in the mountains, or in cocoanuts and cocoa in the lowlands, or in shooting crocodiles, they more than earn all they make.

San Francisco reports ^A profitable business deal.

Which has to do - with a flock of blackbirds.

For a long time the city government has been putting up nine dollars a year - to provide grain for hundreds of blackbirds. Which, in their migration, make an annual stop at the San Francisco waterworks. So, this year, the usual nine dollars worth of grain was ready - when the flock of blackbirds arrived.

But what did they see? Swarms of grasshoppers. The grounds at the waterworks - infested with a plague of insects. Devouring - the leaves of the walnut trees.

So the hungry blackbirds began devouring - the grasshoppers.

The city fathers had planned an expenditure of a thousand bucks - for insecticides to get rid of the plague. But the blackbirds have saved them - that expense.