

L.T.-OLDS. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1962

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

GOOD EVENING :

The United States was reported tonight to have proposed the cancellation of the Anglo-American skybolt missile project, despite British warnings that this would mean an "agonizing re-appraisal" of Britain's military alliance with the United States. British sources said Defense Minister Peter Thorneycroft flatly warned U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara today in London that the cancellation of the Skybolt would adversely affect Britain's present agreements ~~with us~~ which permit U.S. Air Force and Polaris submarine bases in Britain.

The British alarmed over the prospect of dropping the Skybolt program because they had counted on the air-launched rocket as a nuclear power deterrent to be used by the Royal Air Force. The missiles were to have been equipped with British nuclear warheads.

RUSSIA

In Moscow, the Soviet government today announced the arrest of a Russian scientific worker on a charge of spying for the United States and British Intelligence Services for the past year. The accused Russian was identified as O.V.Penkovsky.

BONN

In Bonn, West German Chancellor Adenauer appointed a new coalition cabinet today, ending a political crisis that has rocked his government for seven weeks.

INTRO. TO L.T.

Our far-ranging traveler, Lowell Thomas, last night extended a cordial invitation to join in a ski run down the Tasman Glacier of New Zealand. Lowell, is there anything else to tell us about that gliding-and-sliding invitation?

TASMAN GLACIER

Hello Everybody : Some day, when you want to get away from it all, come out to New Zealand, to the mountains of the South Island. I have just come in from skiing down one of the longest glaciers in the world. That is, outside the polar regions. Tasman Glacier, bears the name of the early Dutch explorer who was the first European to see these islands. A Veteran Kiwi pilot - all New Zealanders are called Kiwis - and the Kiwi is the bird that doesn't fly. But John Evans sure does! In a small single engine plane Evans landed me high up on Mount Cook, the head of Tasman Glacier. A U.S. Navy Commander, Don Miller who is out here with our Antarctic Deep Freeze Project, is with me. The pilot suggested a route we should take to avoid crevasses. Then off he went with the word that he would be waiting for us, miles away at

the foot of the glacier. I understand the first person to do any skiing on Mount Cook and the Tasman Glacier was a Captain Head, in Nineteen Nine. By an odd coincidence, I have brought my own metal skis from America, made by a man with the same name.

In a way, these New Zealand Alps are even more spectacular than our Rockies and Sierras, because they are precipitous. They are jagged and sharp because they are so young. Only about two hundred thousand years old. "Aorangi" - the "cloud piercer", the Maoris call Mount Cook.

Tasman Glacier down which we skied in great sweeping turns, has a plastic flow of more than a foot a day. Ice a thousand feet deep on its way to the sea.

Although a treeless region, these mountains are the home of the inquisitive mountain parrot, the Kea.

As for the Kiwi, it's a night bird so you seldom see one. In fact, the Kiwi dates back to the prehistoric times, and survives only because there are no predatory animals in New Zealand. Quite small, about the size of a pheasant, it lays an egg as big as an ostrich egg. Quite a trick.

Also that rare, flightless bird, the notornis, which ornithologists long thought extinct.

As for the wild animals in these mountains, nearly all were imported: - several varieties of deer, the wapiti that looks like the American elk, and a Himalayan Mountain goat with long flowing black horns, a goat weighing up to two hundred pounds, herd of up to sixty or seventy of them. And the chamois, brought here from the high alps from Europe. So numerous that hunters are allowed to shoot them at all seasons, without a license. The government even hires hunters and pays a Pound Sterling for every

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deer tail brought in. They even have a school for hunters, attended by boys - - so, if you like an outdoor life, don't miss New Zealand. I wish you could have been along with us, on skis, for our five mile run down Tasman Glacier this afternoon! So long.

WEATHER

Now - about that thing we talk about and do nothing about.

Weather is bringing miseries to more than half of the nation's population. Two feet of snow on upper New York, parts of Ohio and Pennsylvania -- and lesser amounts over a band of mountains in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. Also - the same kind of thing in the upper mid-west. The weather. Forget it -- if you can.

CHILEAN PRESIDENT

This is the kind of thing that happens anywhere --

The gentleman affectionately embraced a woman friend of long standing, whom he encountered among a group of spectators. It happened in Washington this afternoon -- cast of characters -- the President of Chile, Mr. Allesandri, while being welcomed in Washington by President Kennedy -- at Blair House, the official guest residence.

There were not many spectators -- it was one of Washington's colder days -- but they were noisy and enthusiastic.

The President of the United States went along as President Allesandri said hello, and shook hands. Then, the Chilean President suddenly embraced the woman in a blue coat, who turned out to be an old friend of Chile's chief -- nothing more. But it was a heart-warming thing for a cold day, Dick.

MARRIAGE

Well, Dick, here are a couple of items about love and marriage -- and divorce. The wife of a Hollywood movie producer won a divorce after she told a court in Los Angeles that her husband was so engrossed in making money that he had no time for her. She told Superior Judge Burnett Wolfson, she would have preferred less money -- and more husband.

And in Austin, the capital of Texas, the director of the State Library says he won't be able to supply a list of names requested by a Mr. Lang of Sidney, Australia. It seems that Mr. Lang asked the library to supply him with a list of Texas widows who are also, millionaires. Now you know, a request like that could only come to the State Library of Texas.

Good night. I'll be back tomorrow.