

October 28, 1969  
Dallas Townsend

**BEIRUT**

*For the second day in a row - the sound of gunfire was heard today in Beirut - also, a number of explosions. Unconfirmed reports further telling of an attempted pre-dawn attack - in the U. S. Embassy; an attack supposedly turned back - by Lebanese security guards. At the same time - fresh fighting between Lebanese Army troops and Arab guerillas - near the border with Israel.*

*All in all - a return to the near-civil war conditions - that prevailed for much of last week. But even so - Lebanon's Commander-in-Chief - Major General Emile Gustani - flying to Cairo. There to attend talks - aimed at appeasing the guerillas; while, perhaps, safeguarding Lebanon - against the threat of Israeli reprisals.*

*Speaking of which - Israeli jets attacked guerilla bases in Jordan today. And they also blasted Egyptian targets - in the Suez area.*

**SAIGON**

**In Vietnam, the Saigon government announced plans to release twenty-four Communist prisoners of war - as of tomorrow. This following by two days a Viet Cong broadcast - pledging to free three captured Americans.**

The State Department - later voicing official disapproval of this sort of arrangement. A spokesman added, however, that "we would welcome information - through whatever channel."

**PARIS**

**In Paris - North Vietnamese diplomats confirmed an earlier report; saying they will divulge to a militant U.S. anti-war organization - certain information regarding American prisoners of war.**

**The State Department - later voicing official displeasure at this sort of arrangement. A spokesman adding, however, that "we would welcome information - through whatever channel."**

**WHITE HOUSE**

Turning to domestic affairs - President Nixon again applied the needle to Capitol Hill. Urging the Democratic-controlled Congress - to speed the approval of a number of current spending bills. Badly needed - said he - so the Administration can draw up a new budget for next year.

With that - President getting ready for a little politicking. His schedule including an appearance tonight at Roanoke - in behalf of the Republican candidate for Governor of Virginia - Linwood Holton. The Democratic candidate - William Battle. President Nixon will also make two appearances tomorrow in New Jersey - in behalf of that state's Republican gubernatorial candidate congressman - William Cahill. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONNELLAN  
L. J. Lipe  
(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "CONNELIAN  
4")

And now - another "time out" for Lowell Thomas;  
reporting again tonight - from the Great Australian Desert.

Lowell...

And maybe the same is true of the immense Australian  
Desert where I am at the moment. Outside my window here at  
Hardwood trees from whose branches a flock of many colored  
birds keep swooping and circling me whenever I try to read  
Alexander Kendrick's superb biography of Ed Murray that I  
brought along. And by the way, don't miss it.

As for the future of most of Australia which has been  
thought a waterless desert, my host Eddie Connelian and his

*L.S. Tape insert  
unedited*

Good Evening Everybody:

Living in retirement in New Zealand is an Englishman who I supposed is the world's number one authority on forests. He's called The Man of The Trees. St. Barbe Baker has told me many times about an ocean of water under the Sahara in North Africa and how some day when this is tapped the vast Sahara Desert, will be transformed into a region so productive it will feed half the inhabitants of the earth.

And maybe the same is true of the immense Australian Desert where I am at the moment. Outside my window here at Narwietooma cattle station are mulga, supplejack and bloodwood trees from whose branches a flock of many colored parrots keep screaming and scolding me whenever I try to read Alexander Kendrick's superb biography of Ed Murrow that I brought along. And by the way, don't miss it.

As for the future of most of Australia which had been thought a waterless desert, my host Eddie Connellan and his

*two sons, expect to turn their million acres or so into lush green fields. They have tapped an inland lake of water at a depth of from one hundred to two hundred feet. So far they have driven thirty four of these so-called bores, deep wells.*

*Scientists now say that this under-the-desert-sea of water or lake is not affected by the arid climate of Australia. They believe that this water comes from the glaciers and the mountains of the great island of New Guinea, a distance of from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred miles to the North. New Guinea always has all the year round heavy tropical rains.*

*So you can see that this may mean that the big empty continent of Australia before too long will be inhabited by millions of people. Solong.....*

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "CONNELLAN 4")

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...



## YOUNGSTOWN

*Showdown at Youngstown. Some fifty carloads of Teamster union members - attempting to break through a picket line manned by a hundred-and-forty independent steelhaulers. In the resulting confusion - one person shot to death - two others wounded - and several more injured by flying bricks and bottles. The battle raging for half-an-hour - till police using tear gas finally broke it up.*

WASHINGTON  
**CAPE KENNEDY**

**On the space front - America's Apollo-Twelve spacecraft successfully completed a mock countdown at Cape Kennedy. Last major test - before the start of a real countdown later on. America's second moon-landing expedition - scheduled for blast-off November Fourteenth.**

## WASHINGTON

*Reverse side - an announcement in Washington - extending for another three years America's "inner space" program. This - an exploration of the ocean depths - officially titled the U.S. Deep Sea Drilling Project. One that has already disclosed the presence of great oil deposits - deep beneath the sea. One that will yield eventually - we hope - the secrets of the earth's evolution down through the ages.*

## HOUSE

*The cost of hospital care in this country - a prime example of runaway inflation. With the figure expected to reach an average of a Hundred Dollars a day by Nineteen-Seventy-Three - an increase of some Thirty Bucks over the present.*

*This according to Dr. George Graham of the American Hospital Association - in testimony before a House committee.*

*Elsewhere in Washington - the nation's top health officer, Dr. Roger Egeberg, observing that a compulsory national health insurance program - now seems inevitable.*

BONN

At Bonn, West Germany - Chancellor Willy Brandt today delivered his first major policy statement to a packed Bundestag. The new leader - pledging a two-pronged approach to foreign affairs; an approach aimed at ~~achieving~~ achieving "coordination with the West - understanding with the East. He also pledged a number of domestic reform - among them: A lowering of the voting age - from twenty-one to eighteen; and a cutback in the age of eligibility for public office - from twenty-five to twenty-one. Brandt calling this a reflection of the new regime's determination - "to instill more democracy" in West Germany.

## PARIS

A story reminiscent of "The Arabian Nights" - comes today from Paris; where Prince Karim - the Aga Khan - was married in a Moslem ceremony - to the former Lady Sarah Crichton-Stuart.

The setting - the island St. Louis in the Seine River near the Cathedral of Notre Dame - where the Prince maintains a five-story mansion. The guest-list numbering eight hundred - the so-called "beautiful people" including Britain's ~~Princess~~ Princess Margaret - also, Henry Ford the Second.

For the ceremony itself - a total of five imams - or holy men. A fragrance of incense filling the air - as the couple pledged in Arabic their undying love and devotion. When they were finally, officially wed - a shower of pearls instead of rice. And then, of course - a champagne reception.