

LT-Deleo. Thurs, Mar. 19-59

LEAD

This was a great news day--in the world of science. With the disclosure of man's first contact with another planet. Radar signals--bounced off Venus. Radar impulses going through space to the bright ~~planet~~ planet. Then, reflected by Venus--and coming back to this earth.

The news--released at six p.m. eastern Standard Time. The experiment--actually conducted more than a year ago. More than twelve months needed--for the scientists to determine if they had actually made contact with Venus.

Near ~~Marx~~ Westport, Massachusetts, installed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology--a giant radar antenna. With computer--and a newly developed instrument of ~~it~~ science, which--actually was the key to the whole thing.

Signals beamed at Venus--on February 10th and

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12th last year. That was the easy part of it--and then came the real job.

All sorts of radio "noises" come from out in space. Was the return signal from Venus among them? That's where the newly developed gadget came in, a kind of "sifter". The scientist^s having to pick out the reply from Venus, from among the cosmic "noises".

Radar signals have been bounced off the moon more than once. The moon--our near neighbor. ^{But} Venus--^{That} meaning^s a round trip of fifty-six million miles for a radar impulse. Making it--ten million times as faint as a signal reflected by the moon.

And now, at last, the scientists have checked, verified and re-verified, and ~~xx~~ say it's definite. They got the signal from Venus. They picked them out and turned them into sounds. The voice of Venus--harsh and rasping, like static on a worn out radio. Not the

sweet sentimental tone you'd expect - from say the goddess of love, or one of the stunning young women in stretch pants here at Aspen the high Rockies winter sports center here on the western slope of these Colorado mountains.

Tonight, President Eisenhower sent a message to the scientists. Reading: "Congratulations to all involved - for this notable achievement in our peaceful ventures into outer space."

ATOMIC

Today/^{'s} atomic headlines discloses--one of the best kept secrets on record. Three high altitude atomic explosions, ~~from~~ six months ago, of such vital importance--information was withheld until now.

~~Spkx~~ Deputy Secretary of Defense, Donald Quarles and Research Director Dr. Herbert York-- discussing the experiment in a news conference today. Saying--they were doing so, only because the story broke in the New York Times this morning.

Project ARGUS as it's called. Three atomic bombs--hurled skyward on three different days, in the South Atlantic. Exploding--at an altitude of three hundred miles, out beyond the atmosphere.

The result--valuable information for defense against intercontinental missiles. Data--necessary in the development of our anti-missile missile. The

ATOMIC--2

Nike-Zeus--intended to knock down enemy rockets.

The atomic blasts above the atmosphere--
creating a zone of radiation, extending around the
world. One angle--a disruption of radar signals.

If this doesn't give you any clear notion
about the meaning of project ARGUS--don't blame your
commentator. At the news interview, today, large
amounts of information were withheld. Vital points--
still kept secret.

However, I can tell you one thing about
project ARGUS. In ancient Greek legend--Argus had
a hundred eyes.

World wide interest--in this atomic news.
French scientists intimating--that they spotted the
American experiment. Picking up--a green light at high
altitude, at the time of the explosion.

MacMILLAN

British Prime Minister MacMillan⁻¹² in Washington tonight. Ready to begin conferences with President Eisenhower tomorrow, at the Catoclin Mountain retreat in Maryland.

Today the Prime Minister said that his talks with Khrushchev in Moscow convinced him--the Soviet and the West have a common interest in avoiding an atomic war.

Which would seem to be confirmed by the Soviet acceptance of a conference of the foreign ministers. To precede--a summit meeting.

At the State Department, the tone of the Khrushchev reply is called--"Encouraging." However, Press Officer Lincoln White remarked: "We cannot always be sure that words mean the same to the Soviet--as they do to us."

KHRUSHCHEV

Khrushchev held a news conference today--and called for a meeting of all the belligerents in World War II. To frame--a final peace treaty with Germany.

The Soviet Premier reiterating his own intentions--of signing a peace treaty with Communist East Germany no matter what. And--turn all Russian control over to the East German Reds.

Khrushchev also made remarks about President Eisenhower's radio television address on Monday, with its acceptance of the idea of a summit conference. Khrushchev saying that President Eisenhower emphasized the importance of the problem of Germany and Berlin.

Today's meeting with newsmen--^{war}held in a statdy hall in the Kremlin. With Khrushchev in jovial form. Laughing--and kidding around, with funny remarks.

KHRUSCHEV--2.

One of his jokes--will make you blink your eyes. Reporters--asking him about that May 27th deadline. Which created a state of nerves around the world. The deadline--for an end of the occupation of Berlin.

How did he arrive at that particular date? May 27th? Which represented a timespan of six months.

"We looked at the ceiling" replied Nikita "and decided that six months would be enough."

Well, I suppose we can only look at the ceiling and think--Nikita sure is a card.

KIDNAP

In the news tonight one of the most frightening of kidnap stories. An ex-convict--abducting a mother and three children. ~~Today, making a wild, insane demand for their release.~~ Appearing in the story--a game of chess. ~~As if to make it altogether crazy.~~

Last week, Richard Payne was released from the West Virginia Penitentiary. Yesterday, he kidnapped Mrs. Elma Baldwin and her three children from their home in South Charleston.

Today, Governor Cecil Underwood of West Virginia received a letter from the fugitive. A long, rambling, demented sort of communication--in which Richard Payne threatened to kill his captives. Unless-- a convict in the West Virginia Penitentiary is turned over to him. Burton Junior Post--who was a cell mate of Payne's.

KIDNAP--2.

The kidnapper--expressing frantic hatred against Post. The letter stating: "My purpose is to kill, and take the head--of my worst enemy."

But why the maniac animosity against his former cell mate? Today, Post was questioned, and was--utterly puzzled. "I thought Payne and I were good friends," he says. "We were cell mates for years."

He adds that
~~He says~~ in all that time the two convicts had only one quarrel. "We squabbled," says Post, "over a game of chess."

Sounds like something out of a wierd shocker--the notion that such an insane grudge could have grown out of that most rational game, chess.

- is on -
Tonight, a huge manhunt--seeking the crazed fugitive and the kidnapped mother and children.

KIDNAP--3

But here's the latest in the wierd thriller.

The mother and three children--found unharmed. The abductor, Richard Payne--taken into custody. The kidnapper and his captives were found by the West Virginia State Police at the Town of Logan. The suspense all day--ending in a sudden release.

SWANEE RIVER

Now let's all sing "Way down upon the Swanee River." But--in a mournful tune. Things not going so well--for "The old folks at home."

Floods--along the Swanee River. The romantic *Swanee* stream--swollen by a week of heavy rains. ~~The endless~~ gurgle--~~continuing today~~. Highways--under water. Farm families--driven from their houses. The Swanee River--washing out the old folks at home.

But here's the worst of it. The deluge--threatening the Stephen Foster Memorial. The monument--celebrating the fame of the man who wrote the song--and made the Swanee River immortal. The ingratitude--of that misbehaving stream!