

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

January 13, 1955

(Charles Collingwood substituting)

C.C.: GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

COSTA\_RICA

Costa Rica's President, Jose Figueres, announces tonight that the rebel forces are in retreat, falling back on the Nicaraguan frontier. The rebels remain in control of only two towns now, Puerto Soley and Pena Blanca, close to the border with Nicaragua. Figueres promises that Costa Rica will be cleared of the rebels shortly. Other observers confirm that the government forces seem to be winning, although more fighting is still in prospect.

Meanwhile the Pan American Commission began its investigation at San Jose, Costa Rica, today, sent by the Organization of American States to look into

Costa Rican complaints against Nicaragua and Venezuela. The five members of the commission are beginning by questioning a prisoner, captured when government forces retook Villa Quesada yesterday. Carlos Lara Hein is described as the leader of a rebel column that marched across the Nicaraguan border and seized Villa Quesada, a center of communications in Costa Rica. Nineteen other rebels were captured; nine of them have been taken to San Jose to be questioned by the investigating commission. The Costa Rican Government now claims that insurgent weapons have been found, marked with the hammer and sickle of Soviet Russia. They say that when Villa Quesada was taken, government soldiers were strafed by an airplane which also dropped bundles of weapons to the rebels. The bundles were captured and found to contain rifles and

machine guns marked with the insignia of Communism.

### HAMMARSKJOLD

Dag Hammarskjold, the U.N. Secretary General, landed in New York tonight, back from a mission halfway around the world in behalf of the American airmen jailed in Communist China. Hammarskjold said the talks that he had with Communist Premier Chou-En-lai in China were definitely useful. "The door has been opened," he said. "It can be kept open, given restraint on all sides." He will have more to say at a news conference at U.N. headquarters tomorrow.

### EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower today presented his military program to Congress, asking for a four-year extension of the draft and the establishment of a

reserve training program. The plan is to give 17 and 18-year-olds six months of basic training, after which they'd be for nine and a half years in the reserve.

The program is called "voluntary". Youths to be called up to enlist; but if not enough of them did, there'd be a draft into the reserve training system.

The President also called for a raise of military pay, a hike of an average of 6.7%, which would be mostly for the benefit of career men and specialists.

The idea is to build up a professional service in the armed forces. These measures were proposed in a White House message to Congress. And at the same time the President comes out in favor of legislation to enable GIs now in the service to participate in educational benefits.

NATIONALIST CHINA

Nationalist China has given this country a pledge not to attack the Red mainland without American approval. The pledge is given in connection with the mutual defense treaty negotiated between the United States and Nationalist China. The treaty is now before Congress - and some Senators fear that it might commit us to an assault on the Chinese mainland whether we liked it or not. So now, to clarify, the Chiang Kai-shek regime agrees: no such assault without U.S. approval in advance.

GRAZIANI

In Rome the funeral of Marshal Graziani today was turned into a massive political demonstration; thousands of Neo-Fascists thronging at the last rites for the soldier who commanded in Mussolini's conquest

of Ethiopia. They shouted and sang Fascist songs and gave the Fascist salute. Some appeared in the black shirts of the Mussolini regime, in spite of the fact that this is forbidden by law in the Italy of today.

MCCARTHY

Senatory McCarthy today demanded that Private Marvin Belsky be given a dishonorable discharge from the Army. Belsky, a drafted physician, refused to say last March whether he was a Communist. The Senator also wants to know who the officer was, responsible for promoting the physician to the rank of corporal in September; also who reduced Belsky back to private this week, after McCarthy had protested the promotion. However, the Army has already announced that the promotion was ordered by Colonel Arthur Redland, commander at the hospital in Boston where Belsky has been serving.

CONGRESS

A Congressional committee under the new Democratic control fired a blast at the White House farm program today. The House Appropriations Committee, headed by Democratic Representative Cannon of Missouri, voted approval of a Government request for more than seven million dollars to help handle farm surpluses; but approval was given with serious reservations, the committee believing the problem of increasing agricultural surpluses held by the Government will not be cured by the Administration policy of reducing price supports and changing the formula for parity.

STUDENTS

The Chinese Red radio issued a blast of propaganda today - and it reminds one of Shakespeare. It concerns Chinese students now detained in the

United States. And the Red radio says they number five thousand. Back in December, the figure given by the Communists was thirty-five. But they've upped the ante and now it's five thousand. It certainly beats the famous Shakespearian "men in buckram", the memorable scene in which Sir John Falstaff ups the number in every other sentence.

And speaking of memorable scenes, tonight Lowell Thomas, by recording, takes us on what seems like a trip from this modern world back to the Arabian Middle Ages.

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L.T.: Saudi Arabia, as we all know, is a member of the United Nations. And there are more Americans in the Saudi oil capital, Dhahran, than in any other

civilian center that I know of in Asia, Europe or Africa. The strikingly handsome Prince Feisal, brother of the King and now his Prime Minister, is a frequent visitor to our country, attending the U.N. Nevertheless, this is a part of the world that not many travelers have seen. "The map that is half unrolled" would be a good way to describe it. Although men have crossed it by camel and car and plane, too, in every direction, much of it is still unexplored; and its capital, Riyadh, is still something of a city of mystery. Getting into Saudi Arabia turned out to be a doubly pleasant experience for me because the pilot who flew me across the stretch of the Persian Gulf from Bahrein Island was my son. He's working out here and happens to have his own plane on the job. We

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were quickly whisked into another world. Consul General Kerrigan told me that I should right away pay my respects to the local Arab Governor. So we drove ten miles to the one hundred percent Arabian town of Dhammam (?). Squatting or standing outside were maybe a hundred men of the desert, all armed to the teeth, many with strong faces and flashing eyes. They looked us over rather coldly; no smiles of greeting. And then along a corridor lined with guards some with rifles, others with scimitars and sidearms. Ushered inside, we found ourselves in a room about the size of the average small hotel ballroom; high ceilinged, rather dim, Oriental rugs on the floor, low, overstuffed, heavy chairs and divans all the

way round the wall, maybe half of them occupied by more bearded sheikhs. At one end, only one person - the largest man in the room, huge. He rose as we entered. We strode across and were introduced to the Emir Saud Bin Djului (?), the most powerful man in this part of Arabia, Governor of El Hasa, which contains most of the oil - face like a full moon, only dark, and with a massive black beard.

And for the first time since we had landed we saw an Arab smile. He greeted us warmly, asked for our health, about our long journey, and motioned for a slave to bring coffee. This was served to us in tiny cups - and magician John Mulholland couldn't have gone through this ceremony with greater dexterity. This giant black, with tribal slashes on his cheek, a pistol on his hip and a rifle across his back, whipped

the spiced coffee out of the long, delicately-curving spout in a two-foot stream, hitting the little cup right on the button. And he was holding it over my lap at the time and looking me in the eye without a flicker of expression. I thought surely it would go all over me - but not a drop! You drink it bottoms up. He kept pouring them, until the Emir Saud Bin Djului waggled his cup slightly, a signal for us to do likewise. Whereupon the slave vanished.

The young sheikhs who interpreted remained on one knee at the feet of the Emir throughout the audience. The conversation for the most part was just jovial banter. Bin Djului evidently likes to kid his guests. He certainly did me. He asked about Lowell, Junior, who's working on a project in Asia and Africa and flying his plane around on it, and

when I replied that I had only one son, he said he would like to supply me with another wife for my stay, no matter how brief that might be. That's just true desert hospitality. When I told him that my wife was just a short distance across the Gulf, on the Thornberg island of Ooma Saban, he laughed and said, well, that was just far enough away to fit in with his plan - that is, according to Arabian ideas, for the Emir has many, many wives and children by the dozen.

John Kerrigan told me that our jovial host is regarded by some as one of the strong men of modern Arabia. His father was a companion-in-arms with the late King Abdul Assiz Ibn Saud. He was with Ibn Saud on that historic night when they went over

the wall and captured Riyadh, the city that is now the Saudi capital. And he told me that Bin Djului is the right arm of the present monarch of the sands, King Saud.

From Dhammam, now back to Dharan and then into central Arabia to visit the richest man in the world. That is my plan now, as I return you to Sheikh bin Collingwood.

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C.C.: Why, thank you, Sharif Thomas!

Well, Lowell, we'll keep our heads until tomorrow and hear more of your adventures in Arabia.

Now speaking of keeping our heads, here is a man who always keeps his head, Hugn Holder!