

NEW YORK

For Richard Nixon - back in New York today - another busy round of meetings, consultations, appointments.

Including a courtesy call this afternoon - on United Nations Secretary General U Thant. Although Nixon will wait until later this week - before naming his new Ambassador to the U.N.

Along the way - the president elect also conferring with the Emir of Kuwait - the ruler of that oil rich kingdom on the Persian Gulf; who said later the Arab world was hoping for a "fine" relationship - with the new Nixon Administration. Said the fabulously wealthy Sheik of Kuwait: "The Arabs are traditionally a peaceful people - and want to live in peace and co-exist with everybody."

## STOCKHOLM

It has been said - maybe true - that Sweden the least prejudiced country. Turns out though - the Swedes may have one prejudice. At least, that's the charge today - from Swedish best selling author Vilhelm Moberg.

This in connection with a storm of protest - over the 1968 Nobel Prize Awards; most especially, the prize for literature - which went to Japan's Yasunari Kawabata. Proof - says Vilhelm Moberg - that the prize-awarding Swedish Academy of Letters - is "discriminating against the Nordic race."

There's a first time for everything, it seems.

## CONTACT

Sixty-five years ago as of this date - the Wright Brothers that first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk - North Carolina. Now - a stunning new book - "Contact! The Story of the Early Birds" - by Henry Serrano Villard; a colorful, thrilling, often humorous, sometimes tragic account of man's first decade of flight - from Kitty Hawk to World War I.

It's all there in words and pictures - the races, the endurance flights, the aerial circuses; the reckless derring-do of those magnificent men - in their early flying machines. As epitomized perhaps best in a reported conversation - between aviation pioneer Cliffo Harmon and a fledgling British pilot: - "I learned to fly in a week" - said Harmon - "How long did it take you?" "Oh, 9 or 10" - said the Briton. "What" - said Harmon - not nine or ten weeks!" "No airplanes!" - said the Briton. "Contact! The Story of the Early Birds" - by Henry Serrano Villard - just in time for Christmas.

DAYTON FOLLOW CONTACT

Another remembrance of flyers past - in a moving ceremony today at Dayton, Ohio; with the enshrinement of four greats of American flying - in the Aviation Hall of Fame. I was invited to preside at this event - but had a previous commitment to speak here in Cleveland. At Dayton, the group taken into the Hall of Fame includes Colonel John Macready - first to fly coast to coast across the U.S.; Admiral Byrd - with Floyd Bennett, first to fly over the North Pole; Amelia Earhart - first woman to fly the Atlantic non stop; Igor Sikorsky - one of the greatest of aerial innovators, pioneering in multi-engined aircraft - trans-oceanic flying boats - and, of course, helicopters. All four were my friends, years ago. Too bad I can't be in Dayton and Cleveland at the same time.

As for the Inter-Platform Association Annual banquet here at the Statler - this is an organization of some good people of the platform - "talent" they are often called - speakers, singers and entertainers - with Glen Seaborg of the Atomic-Energy Commission - presiding.



MAX CONRAD

Last night I told how Max Conrad - round-the-world-over-both-Poles Flier, had taken off from Puenta Aerenas, farthest south town in the world. During the night a ham operator, Dave Porter said he had the Antarctic on via short wave. So he patched me thru and I talked to Bruce Maner at a remote island off the Antarctic Coast. He said Conrad had flown south for seven hours and within an hour of his destination had encountered bad weather - forcing him to fly all the way back to South America. He hopes to try again - tomorrow.

## NEWCASTLE

At New Castle England - verdict a last today - in one of the most bizarre murder cases in British history. Thirteen year old Norma Bell - found innocent in the thrill killing of two little boys. However, her neighbor and playmate - eleven year old Mary Bell - found guilty of manslaughter. And her sentence - detention for life.

During the course of her trial - both girls blaming each other. Both bursting into tears at today's verdict - along with most of the courtroom. Before she was lead away - Mary Bell turning to her former friend, Warren, and mouthing the words: "I hate you."

LONDON

London - the house of commons strikes a blow for freedom, would you say? Anyway, the British Parliament voting a greenlight today - for a controversial divorce reform bill.

Under the new set up the sole condition to be met would be that of an "irretrievable breakdown" of marriage.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Here's one - food for thought, maybe. Doctor Sydney

Mittler of Northern Illinois University - reporting a series

of experiments with fruit flies; including one - calling for

a special caffeine-enriched diet, which results in chromosome

changes, of a type which in humans, could produce morphism -

also, effeminate, underdeveloped-males - also, so called

super-females." A pleasant thought on which to say

so-long until tomorrow, from WERE Cleveland.