

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

December 28, 1954

(CHARLES COLLINGWOOD SUBSTITUTING)

C.C.: GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY!

HAMMARSKJOLD

The Secretary General of the United Nations announces that he will leave for Peiping on Thursday, Dag Hammarskjold to leave from Idlewild Airport in an American Army plane. First stop, London. From there a British plane will fly him to New Delhi, India. The Indian Government will provide him with a plane to take him to Canton, China, and at Canton a Red Chinese aircraft will pick him up and take him on to Peiping. The Secretary General should be in the Chinese capital by the fourth of January. He hopes to get down to work at once, conferring with Chou En-lai about ~~those~~ those Americans now being held in Red Chinese jails.

L.T. - 12/28/54

AIRLINER

A dispatch from London reveals that the Red Chinese Government has paid compensation for the British ~~airline~~ airliner shot down by Communist fighters last July. Ten persons were killed in that incident. Britain lodged a strong protest with Peiping. The Chinese Government apologized and promised to pay the compensation. According to the London dispatch, the check has arrived, amounting to more than a million dollars; full amount that the British regard as satisfactory. It's not been decided yet how payment should be made to the next-of-kin because several nationalities were represented among the passengers.

MENDES-FRANCE

In Paris diplomats declare that Premier Mendes-France is confident as he faces two critical votes in the Chamber of Deputies tomorrow. Those votes concern German entry into NATO and the West European Union. Last night the Chamber approved of adding West Germany to NATO, but they'll have to give their final approval tomorrow. The issue of West European Union ~~is~~ is more

crucial because that was the one that was defeated last week-end. It's up for final approval tomorrow, too. Will the Deputies reverse their stand against it? Mendes-France thinks they will so he's described as confident of getting what he wants, an OK for each of his proposals. One reason for the Premier's optimism is that his opponents cannot vote it in a single block except for the Communist Party and the fellow-travelers. The Reds voted against him right down the line, but he got some support among the representatives of each of the other Parties and he believes that he'll command enough votes to win tomorrow.

### AMERICANS

Today, a group of repatriated Austrians arrived in Vienna from the Soviet Union, bringing word of three Americans still held captive behind the Iron Curtain. The prisoners are John Noble, of Detroit; William Verdine, of Starks, Louisiana, and William Marchuk, of Breckenridge, Pennsylvania. These three Americans were already known to be in Communist jails somewhere in the east. At least six notes passed from Washington to Moscow, demanding to know whether the men were in Russia. All of the notes were ignored by the

Kremlin. So, the whereabouts of Noble, Verdine, and Marchuk remained a mystery until today. One of the Austrians, Johan Schick, told reporters that the three men are in a prison about three hundred miles from Moscow. Johan Schick declares that all three were in good physical condition when he saw them. They told him that they had just been transferred from a slave labor camp in the Arctic and that they had been promised their freedom. That's the first information to come from behind the Iron Curtain about those three Americans who have been prisoners of the Soviets for over five years. According to the Austrian repatriates, the new development is part of a change on the part of the Russians, who are now treating prisoners from the West much better than they had been doing in the past.

Tonight Lowell Thomas comes in with another travel story, this one featuring a mother and her baby - the human touch, on a long air journey.

L.T.: Hello, everybody! Here we are, still up in the air over Europe, altitude about twenty thousand feet, flying through the night a non-stop journey right across Europe, then over the Mediterranean to Egypt. Last night I introduced you to one of my fellow-

passengers. Now, let's continue down the aisle and chat with another one.

Madam, where are you and your smiling baby going? (Baby crying)

SPEAKER: We're going on to Aden, but it isn't our first visit there because we spent last winter in Aden.

THOMAS: It has the reputation of being one of the hottest spots on earth. How about that?

SPEAKER: Well, it is. I think it is in the summer. It's really . . . it's just about the end and I think the summer is worse than we've had anywhere, far worse than Calcutta or Bombay, because you get the sand blowing as well as the humidity.

THOMAS: And what is it like during the rest of the year?

SPEAKER: The winter is absolutely delightful. It's like the most brilliant English summer day all the . . . all the winter round and in the evening you can sit out in the middle of the winter and enjoy an outdoor cinema on the edge of the sea and really just sit in a coffee bar and feel comfortable. It's absolutely ~~perfect~~ perfect in the winter. Very friendly and very gay and lots of social life. A very friendly little place although it looks most barren and forbidding if

you just pass by.

THOMAS: Are there very many different nationalities living in Aden?

SPEAKER: Oh, yes, a great deal. There are a lot of Italian people and (indistinct) and there's a tremendous Orient station, and there's a lot of Americans from the oil refinery at Little Aden. In fact, they outnumber the Britishers at some times, I think they do.

THOMAS: Another question I'd like to ask you is - what do you do for fun there?

SPEAKER: Well, there's sports, one of the biggest items in Aden. There's a lot of swimming and a lot of swimming clubs with shark nets so that you can bathe quite safely in the sea, and then there's a golf course, if you like playing on the desert, with a sort of (indistinct) and sand green, and then there's a polo club where they have Arab ponies and they have races in the season and camel races and children's driving clubs and even a donkey for the babies to ride, and then there's sailing, a very flourishing yacht club, a lot of dancing, a lot of open-air cinemas, and I believe there's fishing. A lot of people do underwater spear fishing, diving, and goggle fishing, and all

that sort of thing.

THOMAS: Well, what is the camel race like?

SPEAKER: They're great fun and it's the (indistinct) of living if you ride the camel and they race them on the desert in the big open courts where the ponies are, out at the Union Club Comaxa (?), and it's really like a fair. They have bandstands and brass bands and pretty well everything but ice cream and (faded out).

THOMAS: Is this your husband sitting over here?

SPEAKER: That's right!

THOMAS: By the way, sir, I forgot to . . . I became so interested in what your wife was saying that I didn't even bother to ask what her name was. Would you be good enough to tell us?

NICHOLAS: Well, my name is Nicholas, and she was born in South Africa and I myself was born in Dublin. You know, we're quite a mixture. Our children, one was born in England and the other was born in Rhodesia.  
(laughter)

THOMAS: Thank you very much Mr. Quiggan.

C.C.: That corner of Arabia that Lowell told about in his recorded report sounds like quite a place. Maybe somebody should write a limerick - there was a young maiden ~~frx~~ of Aden.

"TIME"

Here's a story. "Time" Magazine reveals its man-of-the-year, the individual chosen by the editors as most influential in 1954. The man - John Foster Dulles, our Secretary of State. So honored because, in the words of the magazine, in the decisive areas of international politics he played the year's most effective role. Among the Dulles triumphs of 1954, according to "Time", his influence on the Manila Conference, which set up a common defense for southeast Asia, and on the Caracas Conference, which pushed through an anti-Communist resolution before the overthrow of the Arbenz regime in Guatemala.

STAPP

The fastest man on earth almost went off the track before his rocket sled came to a stop. Colonel John Stapp, telling a news conference in Los Angeles that he had only thirty-two feet left of a track that is



thirty-five hundred feet long, less than 1% left. In other words, the rocket sled stopped just in time to prevent a smash-up. During the run, Colonel Stapp reached a speed of more than six hundred miles an hour. He told his news conference that the difficulty was not the speed, but the slowing down. He came to a dead stop in a second-and-a-half from six hundred and thirty-two miles an hour and the shock was so great that his eyesight was affected. "I couldn't see anything then," he said, "except red and salmon colors and shimmering movements like a person looking into an open fire," but after a while his eyes came back to normal. Army medical men say that no permanent damage was done to them, judgment which is a great relief to Colonel Stapp who holds the speed record for travel on the surface of the earth and wants to break his own record if he can.

LUCE

The situation in Italy is much more hopeful than it was a year ago, so says our Ambassador to Rome, Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce. Mrs. Luce took off for home today from Rome. At the airport she spoke to newsmen who wanted to know whether she would bring back an

optimistic report to Washington. Mrs. Luce replied that she was very optimistic. A year ago she said she was afraid that Italy might go Communist. Then the Rome Government was unstable, Italy's position in European defense was up in the air, and the problem of Trieste was causing an acute crisis. Mrs. Luce thinks that these difficulties have vanished during the past twelve months, remarking: "Italy has clarified its whole situation," and she went on to say "the outlook for the future is very hopeful, indeed." Mrs. Luce admitted that Italy is still facing difficult economic problems, but our Ambassador feels that the worst political problems have already been solved and that's what she'll tell President Eisenhower when she visits the White House early next month.

### OCTOPUS

Here's an oddity in the news. A question ~~was~~ for the citizens of West Virginia. How did an octopus get into one of their streams, two hundred and sixty miles from the sea? There's no question about the octopus. Four boys found it yesterday in a stream near the town of Grafton, West Virginia. The boys didn't know what to do so they killed the strange

creature. They'd never seen anything like it, they didn't know what it was, and there was just one person that they could think of in Grafton who might be able to identify it - the dog catcher. They were right! The dog catcher did know. He told them that it was an octopus. And, Hugh that's the first octopus ever found in that stream near Grafton, West Virginia.