

L.T.-OLDS. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1961.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Reports out of Syria tonight indicate - that the new government has the people behind it. The Syrians appear to be supporting Mamoun Al Kuzbari - who led the anti-Nasser revolt, and is now - the strongman of Syria.

Joyful crowds are said to be surging - through the streets of Damascus; streets, from which all portraits of Nasser - have disappeared, and where thousands of Syrian flags - are waving. Spokesmen for the new regime were wildly cheered today - for declaring that the breakup of the United Arab Republic is permanent.

Furthermore, Gamal Abdul Nasser, father of the short lived United Arab Rep-, seems to agree with this verdict. He claims that he called off his army - to prevent an Arab civil war. Which indicates that he feared - a defeat that would have discredited him.

As it is, Nasser has suffered - a severe blow to his prestige. When he united Egypt and Syria - created the U A R - his express intention was to offer a model of Arab unity. The shattering of that dream leaves his status doubtful - even in Cairo. Especially since he was caught completely by surprise - when the Syrians rose against his rule, and against his philosophy of Arab nationalism.

All of which proves once again what T. E. Lawrence used to tell us during the war in Arabia, that the Arabs were a freedom loving people who could only be united by a major crisis.

DAMASCUS FOLLOW SYRIA

As to the
~~Tonight, we have some~~ details *regarding* the coup *in Damascus*
the "oldest city
An armored unit of tanks and infantry rolled into ~~Damascus~~

in the World,"

at daybreak, yesterday. Their orders - take over all

communications. Seize the strong points - throughout the city.

Which they did - evidently without opposition. Their success,

explaining why the first word about the revolt - came from

the radio. The broadcaster, identifying it as "radio

Damascus" instead of "the radio of the United Arab Republic."

From there - the rebellion snowballed. Syrian

forces, joining in - as the news reached them. Within a few

hours, Egyptian Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer - had lost almost

all of the Syrian units under his command. Hence, Amer's

failure - to put down the revolt.

REACTION FOLLOW DAMASCUS

What does this turnabout in Syria mean? London experts on the Middle East believe - its not a Communist coup. They think the motives behind the uprising - are mainly economic. They accept the Syrian charge - that Nasser has been ~~in~~ treating the Syrian's like poor relations. Building up Egypt - at the expense of Syria.

The London interpretation, supported by - other governments. Especially those in the Middle East, Led by King Hussein of Jordan - who has already recognized the new regime in Damascus. Hussein - an old enemy of Nasser. And, - Turkey has followed suit. Western nations, more cautious - until the dust settles in Syria. President Kennedy, maintaining a policy of "no comment" - for the time being.

Tomorrow's meeting between Dean Rusk and Andrei Gromyko - could be the crucial one; ~~Could~~ be the one that tells our Secretary of State - whether or not further negotiations make sense. If the answer is "no" - it might be the end of the line, for the current talks. If the answer is "yes" - Gromyko may be on his way to Washington, and a conference with President Kennedy.

Observers in New York think the situation so far - is this: ^{that} Gromyko hasn't conceded an inch - in conferring with Dean Rusk. But ^{that} the Soviet Foreign Minister now has a good idea - of the concessions we might make. For example, possible recognition of the Oder-Neisse boundary - ■■ between Poland and Germany.

In return for concessions, we would insist upon - unequivocal Soviet acknowledgement of - our rights in West Berlin. Emphasizing - our right to the access routes into the beleaguered city.

BIZERTE

Today's agreement on Bizerte - means that the French will be able to stay in the Tunisian naval base for the duration of the cold war. The actual words of the document signed in Tunis are - "while the current east - west tension lasts." A formula that agrees with - the fundamental demand of General DeGaulle.

In return, the French are moving all of their troops back within the perimeter - which they crossed in the recent fighting. The phrase "in Bizerte" - means exactly that.

~~Today~~ ^{today} Sweden held the first state funeral for a commoner - since Eighteen Ninety-Six. King Gustav the Sixth, ordering the highest final tribute - to the memory of Dag Hammarskjold, Starting with solemn funeral rites of the Lutheran Church - in the historic Cathedral at Uppsala. - ^{which many of you no doubt heard on the air, direct from Uppsala.} Presiding, eighty-one year old Bishop Eidem - who came out of retirement for the occasion. The cathedral packed to the doors - with ^{mourners} ~~visitors~~ Including King Gustav, America's Vice President Lyndon Johnson - and Mongi Slim, now head of the U N General Assembly. Thousands of Swedes were gathered outside - while the service was going on inside. Many of them, following in the procession - as the royal hearse drawn by four horses moved away from the steps, carrying the coffin to - the Hammarskjold family plot in the cemetery.

Today, ^{on} a new gravestone ^{are} ~~stands there on it,~~ simply these words - "Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary General of the United Nations. Born July Twenty-Ninth, Nineteen-Five. Died September seventeenth, Nineteen Sixty-One." A

modest epitaph for a modest man. The late Secretary
General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold.

MISSILE

If you were asked to hit a target fifty yards away, with a rifle bullet - you might be willing to try. But if the target was twelve miles away - you'd say its impossible.

All of which has a meaning for - our latest missile shoot. The Air Force, sending it's big "Titan" rocket thundering five thousand miles - down the Atlantic Range. Accuracy, so fine - they say its like hitting a bull's eye with a rifle, at twelve miles. "Right down the pickle barrel" - as one Air Force scientist put it.

NUNS

The best commentary on what's been happening in San Dona Di Piave, Italy - is from Saint Teresa. The great Mystic of the Catholic Church once remarked - "Heaven preserve me from a dissatisfied nun."

~~was~~ In that convent at San Dona Di Piave they had - seven dissatisfied nuns. Enough to make Saint Teresa - blanch.

All seven, resisting a transfer from the Franciscan order - to the order of Saint Claire. Result, the dissident nuns - breaking up the furniture. Throwing dishes - and rolling pins. Taking punches at - the Mother Superior. A lot of the sisters, accumulating - bruises and black eyes.

It took seven men to break up - the free-for-all. Three friars, two policemen - and two civilians. Today, the nunnery started to settle back to normal; When the Vatican quickly packed the rebellious nuns off to a convent in Venice.

What happened to the masculine peace makers - is more startling. They've been - excommunicated. The charge -

entering a nunnery without permission. They claim they ought to receive medals - for preventing murder. But Canon law prescribes - excommunication. However, we hear the defendants can get the ecclesiastical ban removed - by going to confession. And that sounds like an easy way out. Dick, wonder what will happen now to the battling Nuns of San Dona D. Piave.

BASEBALL

I suppose today's baseball story - was inevitable. When George Weiss left the Yankees to become General Manager of New York's new National League team - many of us wondered, would he tap his colorful pal for manager. He sure did. It happened - today. Manager of the New York Mets - Casey Stengel. The ancient wizard who won ten pennants with the Yanks will now take a whirl at giving New York another winner. Old Case - back in the majors; back in New York.