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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I wonder is any American asking today whether we have reason to be thankful. President Johnson says:-
"yes, many reasons." This time a rather intimate chat with his countrymen, which you no doubt just heard.

Later, a session on national security with Secretary of State Rush and Presidential advisor McGeorge Bundy. After which our own Chief Executive began work - on his message to the people of America. The message delivered - only a few minutes ago, which you probably heard. The President spoke solemnly of the events that have cast a pall over the holiday. But at the same time urging us to be thankful for the blessings of this great land. Remember - that and even a national tragedy can eclipse.

The President of the United States is never off duty - even on Thanksgiving. So President Lyndon Johnson had little chance to relax today. For one thing he conferred with - John McCone of the C.I.A. The President, getting a first hand report on how the international situation looks - to our intelligence agency people.

Later, a session on national security - with Secretary of State Rusk and Presidential advisor McGeorge Bundy. After which our new Chief Executive began work - on his message to the people of America, the message delivered - only a few minutes ago, which you probably heard. The President speaking solemnly of the events that have cast a pall over the holiday. But at the same time urging us to be thankful - for the blessings of this great land. Blessings - that not even a national tragedy can eclipse.

We heard a new name - in the Presidential address -- the name - Cape Kennedy. Cape Canavarel to be called after the late President -- by order of the President now in the White House. Our space missiles to go roaring up from -- the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. A Monument to the man who was so concerned about - American exploration of the solar system.

With this point settled, Khrushchen can go back to -- his most pressing problem, the ideological split. -- with Red China. The word from Moscow tonight is that a conference of the world's Communist parties will be held in Moscow, and that Khrushchev will have enough support to make things tough for Mao Tse Tung so far as the world Communist movement is concerned. The Soviets are also warning Mao - not to

SOVIETS

The man who represented the Soviet Union at President Kennedy's funeral - is satisfied with President Johnson. That's what Mikoyan told newsmen in Moscow - on his return from Washington. He repeated the words to - American Ambassador Foy Kohler. The Mikoyan attitude is important because it may well be the official attitude of the Soviets. The principle Khrushchev will follow - in the next weeks and months.

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The Soviets are also warning Mao - not to

start any trouble in Central Asia. The Red Army, reporting a strong build up of Soviet forces - facing Red China. Troops armed with giant tanks, jet planes - and rockets. We wonder what Mao will say about all this.

date - not yet decided upon. But we are told by Paris and Washington - that it will be early next year.

This could be - the most dramatic conference of nineteen sixty-four. President DeGaulle has been a problem so far as the American concept of the Atlantic Alliance is concerned. If he and President Johnson can reach a real agreement - the West may enter a new phase of history. A phase of greater unity - for the free world.

DE GAULLE

The format meeting between President Johnson and General DeGaulle - probably will take place in Washington. The French leader owes us a visit - he having played host to President Kennedy - the date - not yet decided upon. But we are 'told by Paris and Washington - that it will be early next year.

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ADMINISTRATION

Thanksgiving is always a day of memories and resolutions. Some Americans taking a look back - to see where the year has brought us. Some look forward - to see where we may be going. And this has never been more true in all of our history - than it is tonight.

Moreover, we are being watched closely - from abroad. Others wanting to know what we are likely to do. Their statesmen and political scientists trying to give them a judgement on that. The leading journalists of Britain, France, Italy and West Germany - are writing as much as our own pundits.

Most appear to agree that we have lost a strong President, but that the man now in the White House - may be even stronger. Lyndon Johnson is called a master strategist of politics. Also, for the moment benefiting from the traditional "political honeymoon" when a new President takes office. More likely to get co-operation from Capitol Hill.

HIJACKING

The leader of those Venezuelan hijackers is -
Commandante Olga. That's right - the boss of the
Venezuelan pro-Castro terrorists, a woman. At least
Commandante Olga gave the orders - when her men
pulled revolvers while the plane was in the air. They
held up the pilot - and forced him to fly to port of
Spain in Trinidad. The plane - landing safely. The
passengers - unharmed.

This, the second pro-Castro demonstration in
Venezuela - in two days. Yesterday it was the kidnapping
of - Colonel James Chenault, of the American Military
Mission to Caracas.

Tonight the government of Venezuela is
asking the organization of American States - to take
action against the bearded Dictator of Cuba. Presumably
beginning with the henchwoman - if that's the word -
Commandante Olga.

PRISONERS

The state of the world being what it is - not all Americans were able to celebrate today. We might spare a thought tonight - for four men still in prison in Red China: - Bishop James Walsh - of Cumberland, Maryland, Hugh Redmond - of Yonkers, New York, Richard Fecteau - of Lynn, Massachusetts, and John Downey - of New Britain, Connecticut.

Then there are other prisoners in the hands of the North Koreans, the Laotian Reds - and the guerrillas of North Viet Nam. None of them - can be in a festive mood tonight.

But where possible the armed services, as always, served Thanksgiving Dinner.

Let's see, where was I a year ago? Oh yes, I was with the U.S. Navy on the South Island of New Zealand, at an airfield near the city of Christchurch, from where our Navy and Air Force planes take off for that long flight across the Antarctic Ocean to McMurdo

PRISONERS - 2

MRS. KENNEDY

on the Ross Sea. We had just returned from the South Pole. Can you imagine our scientists and our Navy and Air Force men having Thanksgiving Dinner down there in the ice today - having their turkey dinner? I can, but maybe difficult for you Dick.

Thousands of other Americans must have been late for dinner for the same reason. For they poured into Arlington Cemetery today - and gathered in great crowds around the final resting place of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

The lovely lady who was our First Lady is reported to have missed her plane to Hyannisport today because she was again at the grave of her husband. Her fifth visit to Arlington Cemetery - rather than catch the family plane. But she made it - later.

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... who emerged from the White House to tell newsmen he is enthusiastic about the President as a supporter of Civil Rights.