

June 25, 1970
Dallas Townsend

Good evening everybody.

By land and air today, the Israelis fought the Arabs - clashing along the Syrian, Jordanian and Egyptian fronts in tank and artillery duels - Israeli planes striking at three army bases in Syria - two of them on the outskirts of Damascus the Syrian capital. Damascus radio says the Israelis threw almost two hundred aircraft into the battle. And Syria reports officially that its forces suffered more casualties than the Israelis - a unique admission by an Arab state. The ground action on the occupied Golan Heights is described as the heaviest since the June - Nineteen-Sixty-Seven war.

Secretary of State William Rogers held a news conference today in Washington - Chief topic - the Middle East. Rogers confirming that the U.S. has launched a new peace initiative - in an effort finally to get the Arab-Israeli impasse off dead center. He declined to discuss specific details, on the grounds that it might jeopardize our chances for success.

Rogers adding simply the main objective of the U.S. plan - is to encourage the Arabs and Israelis to "to stop shooting and start talking." This in hopes of attaining "a just and lasting peace" - under the auspices of the U. N. ; one that "takes fully into account" - said he - "the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all governments and peoples of the area."

But chances that the proposal will get anywhere are slim indeed. Egypt's President Nasser - addressing a mass rally today in Libya - sharply attacked it. Nasser promising "No concessions regarding one inch of Arab territory."

SAIGON

The number of American combat deaths in Southeast Asia last week was the lowest since the start of Cambodian operations - in fact, the lowest since the end of March. This - according to figures announced in Saigon; showing that South Vietnamese battle deaths - were also down sharply. An Allied spokesman explaining that the "level of enemy activity - was extremely low compared to other weeks."

PHNOM PENH FOLLOW SAIGON

The government of Cambodia - ordering a general mobilization; in theory, at least, requiring that all men and women between the ages of eighteen and sixty--must join either the armed forces or some supporting organizations. Perhaps more to the point though - the order also placing practically all civilians under military control; subject to military laws and regulations - administered by military tribunals; as the Phnom Penh regime - attempts to strengthen its hand.

ST. LOUIS

For President Nixon - a tumultuous, triumphant visit today to St. Louis. The President asserting: "There are things wrong with this country - but we in American have the capacity to make things right." And he added: "This is a good country - and don't you ever forget it."

The President expanding on this theme - in an address to some twenty thousand enthusiastic delegates attending the U.S. Jaycees Convention. The President observing that U.S. population - has doubled in the last fifty years. But during the same period - said he - "income has gone up ten-fold - the number of Americans in high school has gone up ten times - the number in college has gone up twenty-fold. And never in human history" - he went on - "have more people shared more wealth and had more opportunity with better jobs - than in the United States of America at this time."

The President's cross-country journey - carrying him next to San Clemente; where he will probably stay - at least through the Fourth of July holiday; and probably next Tuesday

ST. LOUIS - 2

**he will present his final report on that U.S. offensive
in Cambodia.**

More news in a moment..

***And now - it's time for Lowell Thomas; again
tonight - "our man in Siberia." Lowell...***

Good evening everybody! From Siberia! What are the thoughts that go through your mind when you see or hear the word Siberia? Men and women in exile? Clanking chains? Bitter cold? Starvation? Wolves? Russians and others sent to Siberia to end their days at hard labor? Even in the heart of Siberia there is no sign of any of that, not at Irkutsk, and this is the capitol of Siberia - a booming, bustling city of a half a million people, a city of wide streets, massive buildings, and for the most part smiling people who seem to prefer Siberia.

In a way this shouldn't be a surprise. Australia in its early day had a population made up largely of people in exile. Now their grandsons wouldn't trade it for any other land. And one of your first impressions when you find yourself right in the center of Siberia is that its an exciting frontier land with a future similar to our own West not so many years ago.

No, I wouldn't want to be in a hard labor camp

anywhere. But if I were simply to be sent into exile - as so many of these people and their parents were - maybe, maybe I would mind being sent to Siberia! This is the impression I seem to share with most of the others who are along on this Alaska Airlines inaugural - this first direct America-to-Siberia passenger flight. The world is changing fast - even Siberia!

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "SIBERIA V"

Thank you, Lowell. And now - a final item -

from Moscow -

... - wage raises, bonuses and so on - aimed at covering a full harvest this year. According to

Kremliologists - another clear concession in the direction of a capitalist-style economy.

Coincidentally, the Kremlin unveiled - a giant bust of Josef Stalin, apparently ending once and for all - the so-called

"de-Stalinization" program begun by Nikita Khrushchev back in Nineteen-Fifty-Six. Stalin's bust marking his grave -

standing directly behind Lenin's Tomb, its eyes so designed that they give the appearance of staring directly at visitors

below. His Brother, in short, is still watching.

Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.

MOSCOW

The Kremlin announces a new program of farm incentives - wage raises, bonuses and so on - aimed at assuring a full harvest this year. According to Kremlinologists - another clear concession in the direction of a capitalist-style economy.

Coincidentally, the Kremlin unveiled - a giant bust of Josef Stalin; apparently ending once and for all - the so-called "de-Stalinization" program begun by Nikita Khrushchev back in Nineteen-Fifty-Six. Stalin's bust marking his grave - standing directly behind Lenin's Tomb; its eyes so designed - that they give the appearance of staring directly at viewers below. Big Brother, in short, is still watching.

Dallas Townsend saying Good Night.