

**First - a salute to CBS Radio affiliate W-S-O-Y
in Decatur, Illinois - today celebrating its forty-fifth
anniversary on the air. Now - the news.**

[The following text is extremely faint and illegible, appearing to be a news report or broadcast script.]

SPACE

46 1/2
On the space front - the home stretch, at last.

The crippled ~~but~~ patched-up Apollo-Thirteen - heading into the final hours of its return flight from the moon.

Thanks to its lunar lander "lifeboat" - the Aquarius - ~~they~~
say it all set -
in near-perfect position for a Pacific splashdown tomorrow afternoon. Chief Astronaut Deke Slayton, ~~saying~~ ^{saying} "If things keep going the way they are - we're in beautiful shape."

Meanwhile, literally thousands of men - the entire space agency-industry team - were working out the details of the ship's new landing procedure. Checking and double-checking each and every move - using space simulators, wherever possible - to make sure the instructions ~~are right before they are~~ ^{were absolutely right; and then -- they were} relayed to space.

Deke Slayton observing: "There's nothing really difficult" here - "it's the time it takes - and time is limited."

As for the men of Apollo-Thirteen - Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert - they are said to be cold

and weary - ~~and yet~~ ^{but} ~~supremely~~ confident. Command Pilot
Lovell summing it up ^{by} saying: "It's going a lot better
- than we ever expected."

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - here in New York - a hint today at a possible breakthrough in the Soviet attitude on Southeast Asia. Soviet U.N. Ambassador Jacob Malik asserting that "it appears" only a new Geneva Conference - can bring peace to that part of the world. This in marked contrast to the previous Russian stand - which has steadfastly blocked a reconvening of the Geneva parley. Malik refused to amplify his remarks - turning down all questions with a statement that they were "impossible to answer at the moment."

PARIS FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

~~Meanwhile,~~ In Paris - U.S. and Communist
negotiators ^{were} trading ^{ing} charge and counter-charge, ~~today,~~ with
recent developments in Laos and Cambodia - the chief bone
of contention. America's Philip Habib finally breaking
off the discussion - telling the Communist side: "The
plain truth is - that you do not respect the sovereignty,
independence, neutrality or territorial integrity - of
Cambodia or Laos."

CHOLON FOLLOW PARIS

In Vietnam itself - another attempted terrorist attack ~~today~~ in Saigon's suburban Cholon District. The driver of a three-wheel motorcycle - apparently a Viet Cong - attempting to transport a homemade bomb across town; when suddenly - it went off. The driver - and also a woman passer-by - both killed instantly

POSTAL

49

The White House - President Nixon today unveiled a new postal plan - one that apparently satisfies all parties to that recent postal strike. The President's proposition - calling for the establishment of a patronage-free postal service. It would also give postal workers an eight per cent pay increase - along with the mechanism they've been seeking to resolve future disputes.

However, the President has scaled down - in the face of Congressional opposition - his earlier request for a postal rate increase. He'll settle now for eight cents a first class letter - instead of the previous ten cents. The President ~~asserting that~~^{says} this would place the new postal system - at least, "on the road to a sound, pay-as-you-go operation."

MOSCOW

Coincident with the start of SALT talks in Vienna - a massive display of Soviet naval strength today right around the globe. The Soviets launching simultaneous and coordinated naval exercises - in the Atlantic, the Pacific and also the various "seas adjacent to Soviet territory."

Russia's top naval commander - Fleet Admiral Sergei Gorshkov - observing that up until "quite recently - certain areas were subject to the unlimited rule of imperialist navies." But "now" - he added - "such areas exist no longer."

PASSY

**The death toll in that avalanche at Passy, France -
now expected to hit seventy or more. ~~As you know,~~**

**The slide engulfing a children's tuberculosis sanitorium;
burying alive some fifty children - also, twenty or more
of the medical staff. Officials calling this - the worst
disaster in French Alpine history.**

TAIPEI

~~At~~ Taipei, ~~on~~ the Island of Formosa - Nationalist
China's Vice Premier - Chiang Ching-Kuo - held a press
conference ~~today~~, on the eve of his departure for ^{America,} ~~the U.S.~~
~~He says they~~ ^{He says they} ~~plan~~ ^{plans} for a drastic cutback in the Free
Chinese Army; a reduction ~~expected to be~~ ^{of} about twenty-five
per cent - ~~in a force generally~~ ^{of an} estimated ~~at some~~ six
hundred thousand men.

50 1/2
This a move that Washington has urged - for years;
on the grounds the Chinese Army was too big - ~~it~~ cost too
much to maintain. However, ^{Vice Premier} Chiang - who is ~~also~~ the son
of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek - emphasized there will
be no change in "basic national policy." "We will under no
circumstances" - said he - "give up our goal of recovering
the China Mainland from the Communists."

CHICAGO

From Chicago - the story today of a new development in flight; the founding of a rent-a-plane business - actually, Lease-A-Plane International - which rents planes the same as other companies rent cars. The firm's founders basing their prospects - on figures showing more than half-a-million prospective customers; which represents the number of licensed pilots here in the U.S. - who do ^{not} ~~not~~ have planes of their own.

~~In any event,~~ The company has already opened several rent-a-plane branches ^{and they say - Warren -} ~~on both the East and West Coasts.~~
~~Company head Burt Greenfold noting - if nothing else,~~
they're off to a "flying start."

KATHMANDU

In the far off

~~half a world away~~ in the High Himalayas - a

combination of heavy snows and high winds - triggered a whole series of avalanches today; ~~thereby~~ threatening no less than twelve international mountaineering teams - currently mounting spring expeditions up near "the roof of the world." Earlier this month

~~For may recall~~, seven Sherpa guides were killed.

This in the lofty mts where I was ~~here in two separate accidents earlier this month,~~ only a few weeks ago, - those spec. mts - ~~Exactly though - reports reaching Kathmandu were~~ you can see from Hat & Pokara indicating no additional casualties - at least, up to now.