ALASKA TO SIBERIA No. 1

June 7, 1970 6 10st

Good evening everybody:

The first commerical passenger flight from the United States, in fact from anywhere in America, to Siberia, is now an accomplished fact. Another important milestone in the history of aviation. It took Nine years for Charles Willis, head of Alaska Air Lines to get permission from Moscow - and an okay from Washington to do this. And then less then Eight: hours to make the flight. Now to be followed by a series of similar flights each year.

There were One-Hundred-Thirty of us on board the Boeing 707, including government officials, press, radio and television people, my own Capital Cities crew headed by crack cameraman Dick Durrance, the top people of Alaska Airlines headed by Board Chairman Willis; and a crew of five in the cockpit - veteran Captain Bill Lund and two other Americans, plus two Russians sent to see to it we would not fly over any of their military installations on the peninsula of Kamachatka or anywhere along the Siberian Coast washed by the waters

of the Sea of Akhotsk.

For that matter our works government would not allow the plane to fly over our own military and naval-bases in Alaska - as we made our way through the skies south along the One-Thousand mile long Aleutian chain. Nor would the Russians permit us to enter Siberia by way of Vladivostok, the important city we think of as the Siberian Pacific port of entry. We were ordered to take a circuitons route which unexpectedly involved a Five-Thousand-Three-Hundred-Mile flight; landing deep in far Eastern Siberia at the comparatively little known city of Khabarovak on the Amur River, within a few miles of China.

In my next I'll give you a few details about Khabarovak or "Habar'ovsk" as the people there call their city. Until then solong from Habar'ovsk!

## SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "ALASKA TO SIBERIA

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news ...

The University of Miami's Marine Institute - one of the nation's finest in the field of oceanography - added still further to its luster today - with the announced discovery of a remarkable new substance. It's an extract from a primitive grape-like creature - called the sea squirt; an extract that has already proved more than fifty per cent effective in halting leukemia - in mice, at least. Researchers who are testing the substance - also report encouraging results in treating ulcers and heart disease. Dr. Michael Siegel - who heads the sea squirt project observes that we could be "on the verge" of a major medical breakthough. And now as Lowell would say: "So long until tomorrow!"