

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

December 23, 1954

(Charles Collingwood substituting)

C.C.: GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

COMMUNIST PARTY

The United States Court of Appeals has decided that the McCarran internal security law is constitutional. That's the law named after the late Senator Pat McCarran, of Nevada, which demands the registration of the Communist Party, registration as an agent of Moscow. The law was passed in 1950. The Communist Party protested, but in 1953 the Control Board upheld the law so the Party took it to the Court of Appeals, claiming in general and particular that the McCarran Law is unconstitutional. Now, we have a ruling by the Court. The court says that the law is OK, but the judges split over the issue, 2-1. The dissenter, who was Judge David Bazelon, who argued that to make the Communist Party register would conflict with the 5th Amendment. Judges Barrett Prettyman, and John Danaher took the opposite line. In their words, the right to free expression ceases at the point where it leads to harm to the Government, so the Court of Appeals has ruled by a 2-1 vote that the

Communist Party of America must officially identify itself for what the Court agrees that it is - an agent of the Kremlin. An attorney for the Party says that the decision is all wrong and adds that an appeal will be made to the Supreme Court.

### ITALY

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has ratified the Paris accords on the rearmament of West Germany. Premier Mario Scelba won one of the biggest parliamentary victories in the history of the Italian Republic. The Deputies voted for him and for the West German accords by a majority of a hundred and twenty in a total vote of less than six hundred, which, if you've been following Italian politics at all, is a handsome margin of victory in that country. Premier Scelba came out so well because both the Monarchists and the neo-Fascists went along with his coalition government on the issue. The Communists were the losers because they got virtually no one to vote with them, so, the Italians beat the French in the race to ratify the plan for German rearmament. Premier Mendes-France wants a big victory in the Paris Chamber of Deputies, but Premier Scelba has already won a big victory in

the Italian Chamber of Deputies. The French Premier is having a bitter struggle with his Deputies. Today, he warned the Chamber that if the French turn down the Paris accords then America will rearm Germany anyhow, with or without France. Mendes-France added that the isolation of France almost happened last September, after France had killed EDC, because Washington was ready to go ahead on its own. In spite of the warning, the debate in the French National Assembly continued and continues bitterly and there's no hint that Mendes-France will win anything more than a very close victory.

### STORM

That storm in the North Sea <sup>has</sup> caused three Dutch ~~dykes~~ dikes to collapse and the sea poured inland over part of Rotterdam. More than sixty acres are under two-and-a-half feet of water; seventeen hundred persons are homeless, and the rising tide is threatening to inundate many places in other parts of Holland and Belgium, the Low countries as they call them. So far, the death toll from the storm has mounted to scores. Most of those have been lost in ships at sea. And the storm is still going on,

pounding the coast from Denmark all the way around to the east coast of Britain.

### CRASH

~~xxxxx~~ In this country a detachment of soldiers is still searching the waters of the Monongahela River for the bodies of servicemen who were killed when their plane crashed last night. The airliner came down about twelve miles upstream from Pittsburgh, near McKeesport. All the men managed to get out before the plane sank and no bodies were discovered in the fuselage. The deaths were caused apparently by the icy waters, the Monongahela frigid this time of year. Eighteen of the men swam to shore and were rescued. Ten either drowned or died of exposure. The tragic end for soldiers on their way home for Christmas.

### INDO-CHINA

Our Embassy in Saigon, Indo-China, today warned Americans to stay within the city limits. The warning follows a number of attacks on foreigners in South Viet-Nam. The British Embassy is said to be considering a similar warning to British nationals and the French authorities have already ordered their

soldiers not to travel in single vehicles. This order, the result of the murder of two French officers who were ambushed in their jeep. Violence is breaking out in Saigon itself. Last night a grenade was thrown into a theater crowd, wounding two persons. It was the fourth such attack within a week; South Viet Nam closer to complete chaos than it has been since the nation was partitioned and the Reds got the North.

Several years ago, Lowell Thomas turned out a book, "Back to Mandalay," about one of the most extraordinary exploits of World War II, an all-air invasion by gliders of a jungle area behind the Japanese lines in Burma. Two young American airmen, Colonel Phil Cochran and Colonel Johnny Alison, collaborating with a legended British Commander of guerrilla war. Wingate of Burma. That's the background for the recorded report we have from Lowell tonight.

- 0 -

L.T.: I'm at London airport. We're about to take off for North Africa on board a British plane this time, called an Argonaut, and out here at the flying field I just encountered a young Englishman who served with Phil Cochran and Johnny Alison in Burma during World

War II, He was with ~~them~~ their British outfit, a gunner, I think, in mortars.

Did you ever actually see anything of Wingate?

SPEAKER: Oh, yes, Wingate was over there (unintelligible-voice fades-telescopes words) training time in (?), in India, and he'd look in on everyone during the expedition itself because he actually (unintelligible and interference) expedition.

THOMAS: What impression did you get of Wingate as a personality because he was supposed to be a little bit eccentric?

SPEAKER: He was a little eccentric and he was inspired I think is the word you could use in . . . in connection with Wingate. He had peculiar eyes that infected everyone as soon as you looked at him. He got (unintelligible) every time. He was one of those people that if he came into a room crowded with people automatically everyone looks up and at him. One of those characters that it's impossible to sum up in a few words.

THOMAS: Did you ever notice the curious way in which he turned his head?

SPEAKER: Yes! Yes! He had a peculiar . . . that was a habit of his.

THOMAS: Do you know why?

SPEAKER: No.

THOMAS: Well, he had his throat slit once.

SPEAKER: Did he know?

THOMAS: Yes! And as a result of that his head was in a set position and whenever he wanted to turn his head he had to turn his whole body. . . (interruption)

SPEAKER: (unintelligible) had a stiff neck.

THOMAS: ~~xxx~~ Actually it was.

SPEAKER: Yes!

THOMAS: Well, actually, his neck . . . his throat was not slit by someone else, he slit it himself.

SPEAKER: Did he?

THOMAS: In anger, he was so mad on one occasion, before you were in contact with him. He was displeased with the way things were going against him, the way the Government was running the show, and he decided to commit suicide and cut his own throat.

SPEAKER: Hmm! That's the sort of thing I can imagine him doing (unintelligible).

THOMAS: In protest. But an extraordinary man, of course.

SPEAKER: ~~Hummm!~~

THOMAS: Well, Henry Chezlitt, did you ever see anything of the American airmen who did come out and serve with you?

CHEZLITT: Oh, yes! Yes! We had a lot . . . we had everything (unintelligible), absolutely everything.

THOMAS: Cochran's young ladies, you called them?

CHEZLITT: Yes!

THOMAS: Well, where did that term come from? I never heard it before.

CHEZLITT: Well, there x used to be a great impresario, theatrical impresario in London, Charles Bennett Cochran, and he was famous for his chorus girls, and that's . . . such the same as Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has been in the film industry, and his choruses and the actresses that he brought forward (unintelligible) in the profession were known as Cochran's young ladies and a flock of American airmen coming along with (unintelligible) all over their back (unintelligible) Cochran was just too much so they were obviously Cochran's young ladies (drowned out by laughter).

THOMAS: Well, Mr. Chezlitt, you were involved in one of the most spectacular operations of World War II, that is, you were landed by glider behind the Japanese lines at night. Do you remember anything about it?



CHEZLITT: It's all very confusing, of course, (unintelligible) we were snatched up by the Italian aircraft and . . .

THOMAS: Cochran's men?

CHEZLITT: Cochran's men, and (unintelligible) glider that I was in very luckfly came down quite early in the proceedings, but as the night wore on some . . . so many gliders were trying to get in at once and there were several crashes and entanglements with the trees and at one time they tried to stop the whole operation.

THOMAS: What did you think of the glider ~~operation~~ operation?

CHEZLITT: ~~It's~~ I think it was a wonderfully conceived (unintelligible), wonderfully conceived.

COLLINGWOOD: Thank you, Lowell! that was a fascinating discussion.

- 0 -

C.C.:

### THE HOLY LAND

A dispatch from Bethlehem describes Christian pilgrims receiving a friendly welcome in Jordan tonight. Since the end of the war with Israel, Jordan has generally shown a cold toleration at best to the pilgrims visiting the Holy Land, but this year it's different.

According to the Bethlehem dispatch, guides are now posted at the border to receive them; tourist offices remaining open eighteen hours a day and the Arab press is urging the Moslems of the area to be helpful to the Christian visitors. The first group passed from Israel into Jordan today through the famous Mendelbaum Gate, which divides the Jewish part of Jerusalem from the Arab. The vanguard was made up of a hundred and twenty pilgrims most of them from the United States, Canada, and Latin America. It's expected that there will be at least six thousand before the Christmas holidays end.

### EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower and the First Lady are spending Christmas and New Year's at the Little White House, the cottage by the golf course, in Augusta, Georgia. The President will hold conferences with his top advisors. They'll work on the three major messages that the President sends to the new Congress - the State of the Union, the budget, and the annual economic report.

Today, a West Point cadet hitched a plane ride from Washington to Augusta, Georgia, which doesn't sound remarkable because cadet William Peters lives in Albany, Georgia. He wanted to get home for the Christmas holidays, but Peters was invited to share a plane by

Colonel William Draper and the story is this. When Peters got aboard he found that it was the Columbine III, President Eisenhower's personal plane, and Colonel Draper is Mr. Eisenhower's pilot. The astonished cadet flew with the presidential party down to Augusta and then went on to his home in Albany, Georgia. That should give him a pretty good start for the Christmas holidays, don't you think, Hugh?