

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Nose to nose -- almost eyeball to eyeball -- those four American astronauts were girdling the globe today. Their historic rendezvous high above the earth -- man's greatest cosmic adventure to date. As you no doubt know, the hard luck Gemini-Six -- hard luck no more. Achieving a successful launch -- on its third try. Bartling a hundred thousand miles through space -- and then -- the miracle -- pulling within six feet of the long-lasting Gemini-Seven.

Chase pilot Wally Shirra -- and his buddy, Tom Stafford -- so close they could examine the faces of space endurance champs Frank Borman and Jim Lovell. A voice from Gemini-Six cracking -- "You've sure got big beards." The reply from Gemini Seven -- "for once we're in style."

The space date -- a truly astounding feat in itself.

More than that it is called a giant stride to the moon and ~~and~~ ^{beyond.}

VIET NAM

The industrial heart of North Viet Nam - completely blacked out/tonight, ~~in~~ the wake of a massive U S fighter-bomber assault - on a vital power plant near the major seaport of Haiphong.

The surprise attack - through a hail of anti-aircraft fire -- knocking out about ~~for~~ fifteen percent of total power in the Communist North. Thus disrupting the manufacture of ~~ammunition~~ ammunition -- petroleum products, military uniforms and other equipment -- all vital to the Communist war effort.

The raid is seen by some^e - as another major ~~escalation~~ ^{stepping up} of the war in Viet Nam. U S Intelligence sources insisting, however, that it is merely retaliation - for the recent terrorist bombing of a U S enlisted men's billet in Saigon.

The U S determined to give as good as it gets - said one American officer. Adding - "we have a helluva lot more hotels - than they have cities."

MCNAMARA

A grim picture of the Chinese menace ^{was expressed}

~~in~~ detailed today by ~~U-S~~ Defense Secretary Robert McNamara,

At that continuing Paris meeting - of foreign and defense ministers of the Nato Alliance.

It is possible - said McNamara - that the Chinese will have developed medium range missiles - as early as Nineteen Sixty-Seven. It is further possible - said he - that China ~~is~~ can produce enough fissionable material between now and then - to begin a small stockpile of atomic arms, ~~with~~ which to threaten - its immediate neighbors.

Looking further into the future - it is ^{even} possible, he went on, that China will have long-range missiles within ten years, Missiles capable of delivering a nuclear attack - on targets in the United States or Europe - ~~or~~ anywhere.

The question ~~then~~ ^{is} - said ^{is} McNamara: "What can Nato do to block Chinese blackmail" -- and, meanwhile, ^{That is} prevent the spread of Chinese Communism? ~~That~~ one question

said he - that Nato must decide now -- before it's too late.

RHODESIA

The governments of Guinea and Tanzania announced today - that they will break relations with Britain as of midnight tonight. ^{This} In line with that recent ultimatum by the Organization of African Unity - demanding that Britain ^{end} ~~end~~ the Rhodesian rebellion by ~~Dec~~ December Fifteenth.

Be that as it may - some twenty other members of the O A U - have apparently decided to wait and see what happens; ~~In~~ view of the fact that a second meeting on the Rhodesian issue - is now set to take place within the week.

DEGAULLE

President DeGaulle ~~of France~~ took the offensive today - ~~as~~ in his campaign for re-election. Accusing his leftist opponent of seeking the ~~national~~ rebirth of what he called ^S - the "mess" of weak French governments of the recent past. If he's successful - said DeGaulle - the result will be a "national catastrophe."

This the first time DeGaulle has mentioned his rival - in Sunday's run-off election. Marking another step-up in his newly intensified campaign - to win a landslide victory.

The strategy - apparently beginning to pay off. Latest polls - said to show that DeGaulle is fast pulling ahead.

SWIDLER

Chairman Joseph Swidler of the Federal Power Commission first to testify today - at the opening of that Congressional investigation into the recent northeast power failure. The witness urging prompt enactment of federal laws - to set minimum standards for the design and operation of regional electrical systems.

Swidler adding, however, that inter-connected power networks - are still the country's best bet for reliable, inexpensive electrical service. The lesson we have learned - said he - is simply this: That "we must strengthen our power grids - so that they can hold together and continue service - in any foreseeable emergency."

QUEEN

Queen Salote of Tonga -- dead today in a hospital at Auckland, New Zealand -- at the age of sixty-five. The ruler of a hundred ~~and~~ romantic exotic islands in the South Pacific -- victim of a variety of ailments, the seriousness of which she concealed from her subjects -- right up to the very end.

Queen Salote -- a friendly woman with a warm smile -- perhaps best remembered for her regal appearance -- at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth of Britain in Nineteen Fifty Three. At the time -- she stood six feet three -- and weighed nearly three hundred pounds.

Her successor -- a son -- Crown Prince Tungi. Who now becomes -- King Tupou of Tonga.

DIVORCE

A celebrated May and December marriage of just two and a half years ago -- came to an abrupt end today at Yakima, Washington. Mrs. Joan Douglas -- twenty-five year old wife of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas -- filing suit for divorce on grounds of extreme cruelty. Justice Douglas -- age sixty-seven -- married twice before.

WEDLOCK

A novel approach to wedlock was attempted today by a southern gentleman. In search of a "bonnie highland lass" -- to share his bed and board.

James "Sandy" McLeod of Augusta, Georgia -- recently divorced -- dispatching a letter to the Aberdeen Press -- and -- Journal in gray and rather dour city of Aberdeen, Scotland; a letter in which he said he was seeking a new bride -- from the Highlands of Scotland. Why so, Warren" Because says the Georgia "Sandy" McLeod -- "the people in those Scottish Highlands are still unspoiled -- by the lunacy that passes for sophistication in parts of America and England."

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas story to end all Christmas stories -- of a certain kind -- comes today from Springfield, Ohio. Where a gentleman named Robert Fraley -- was hauled into court for soliciting money from children.

It seems the defendant had put on a Santa Claus outfit -- and wandered through the streets of Springfield -- stopping children along the way. To each little child -- he said: "How about a dime for old Santa -- so he can have a good Christmas?"

Whereupon Santa soon found himself in jail -- as a pan handler.