

L.T. Broadcast - Monday, August 26, 1957.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I hope you have been listening to Walter Cronkite. If so then you know that I have been on a journey as strange as any I ever made, a journey back to the Stone Age. If there is any time, after I have given you the highlights of the news, I will talk for a moment~~x~~ about my journey home.

But first, a salute to Ned Calmer who was on for me when I first took off for New Guinea, and many thanks not only to him, but to Walter Cronkite who I hear handled things in grand style during most of my absence.

Now the news? Here's an interesting item: -

SUB SOVIET ROCKET

Soviet Russia, tonight, announced the successful testing - of what is called the "ultimate weapon".

The official statement is as follows: "A super long-distance intercontinental multi-stage ~~of~~ ballistic rocket was launched a few days ago. The tests of the rocket were successful. The rocket," the announcement goes on, "flew at a very high altitude - covering a huge distance in a brief time. The rocket landed in the target area. The results obtained," the statement continues, "show that it is possible to direct rockets into any part of the world."

The reactions in Washington are tentative. Officials declaring - the announcement does not give enough information to make it clear exactly what the Russians tested. ^{And} ~~it~~ it may not be any more advanced than the ballistic missile experiments in this country. We have not yet launched, successfully, a true intercontinental ballistic missile. But we have fired an experimental type, which traveled more than three thousand miles from the testing ground in Florida.

SOVIET JET PLANES

Russian jet planes will appear in this country, next month. Two jet airliners - bringing members of the Mosoow delegation to the United Nations. The first time, apparently - ^{for} ~~that~~ a Soviet airliner ~~has~~ ^{to} ever come to this country.

Last week, the State Department received a message ~~up~~ - requesting permission. And the answer was - yes. Approval granted - because American planes have been permitted to land in Moscow, on official visits.

STATE DEPARTMENT

The State Department is highly indignant - and you can't blame our diplomatic officials. Last week the State Department relaxed its ban on travel to Red China - ~~is~~ allowing twenty-four news reporters to go to the Communist mainland. Then look what happened over the weekend? The Reds put out a propaganda blast - intimating that the American reporters were being sent as spies. The Chinese Communists had invited them in. But now what are the Peking Reds saying? They are making preposterous allegations - that our news reporters will "collect intelligence" - and carry out "subversive activities."

The Reds are miffed, because we are not inviting Chinese Reds to this country as news reporters. And, today, Press Officer Lincoln White reemphasized - that we won't let them in. Also he added that "The State Department bitterly resents the implication - that it has selected spies to go to Red China." Addressing a

news conference, he said: - "All of you know how fantastic that charge is."

Yes, the reporters knew.

GIRARD

The Girard trial in Japan - seems to be fair and correct. According to the opinion of American observers - who attended the first day, ~~of the proceedings. They are~~ Critical observers, ~~too,~~ like Colonel Alvin Owsley, representing the American Legion, which opposed - letting the Japanese try the American soldier. Today, Colonel Owsley said: "I admire the proceedings to the highest extent."

He praised, for example, the declaration of the Japanese court -informing Girard that he could make any statement he wishes. It was also noted that the G I was not handcuffed, when taken to the court room. The Japanese explaining it was not customary in Japan to handcuff prisoners.

The prosecution, beginning the case, introduced a surprise. Charging - that Girard had fired empty shell cases at four other Japanese who were ~~XXXX~~ seeking scrap metal. Before he killed Mrs. ~~NAME~~ Sakai: Which, the soldier told the court - was ~~an~~ an accident.

~~The prosecution intimates that it was a "game"~~

The Girard trial will be a long one. Next session - September Six.

EISENHOWER FLU

President Eisenhower was given a shot of the anti-flu vaccine - today. Last week, the President told a White House news conference that he ~~was~~ would wait until the vaccine became available for ^{all of us,} "ordinary" people. But ~~now~~ the word was ~~is~~ that he ^shad been exposed, several times, ~~was~~ to the malady. With a chance - of catching it.)

(On Tuesday, last week, Presidential Economic adviser Gabriel Hauge returned from a conference in Buenos Aires where the Asiatic flu is raging. Argentina - hit hard by an epidemic. On Wednesday, the economic adviser had a talk with President Eisenhower at the White House. Less than twenty-four hours later, Hauge fell ill with the flu.

A driver attached to the White House garage, Sergeant Jack Cliff - has been stricken. So has Tom Craven, a CBS news film cameraman - who took photographs of the President in his office. Falling ill- shortly afterward.)

→ The U S Surgeon General, Leroy Burney, points out that,

in dispensing the vaccine, priority is given to people who have had lung ailments. Also heart cases. President Eisenhower having had that heart ~~ata~~ attack a couple of years ago.

The Surgeon General says that a full scale epidemic in the United States is possible, and that everyone - should be inoculated.

Writing in the magazine, U S News and World Report, he says this Asiatic flu, so far, is milder than the influenza in the Nineteen Eighteen epidemic. Not being accompanied - by ~~the~~ pneumonia and streptococci infections - Which caused - most of the millions of deaths in Nineteen Eighteen.

(In the present epidemic, the death rate has been two-tenths of one percent. Or - one in every five hundred patients with Asiatic flu.

But that pertains to other countries - where health conditions are less favorable than here. Out of twenty to twenty-five thousand cases in this country, so far, there have been only three fatalities.)

People stricken, declares the Surgeon General,
will be ill from four to five days, perhaps a week. But ^{even} that
could produce ^{(an industrial} ~~taxonomic~~ crisis, if thirty-four million
Americans should fall ill - as might be the case, if we have
a major epidemic this autumn. →

ADD EISENHOWER FLU

On the other hand Some local health officers do not agree - that the vaccine is needed. In Sonoma County, California, health officer James Harrison argues ^{*that this*} ~~the~~ Asiatic flu is so mild, there is no real need for precautions. Moreover, says he, the new vaccine is "unproved." Although government health officials declare - it will be ~~seven~~ seventy percent effective.

FOREIGN AID

The Senate Appropriations Committee, today, voted to restore more than half of the huge cut in Foreign Aid. The House decreed a slash of eight-hundred-and-nine million dollars. The Senate Committee - putting back five-hundred millions. A partial victory for President Eisenhower - though the total Foreign Aid figure voted by the Senate is less than the President urgently requested.

F B I FILES

The Senate, tonight, passed a bill - to protect the F B I files. A measure, however - not as strong as the White House and the F B I want. The bill provides that certain kinds of F B I information cannot be produced at a trial unless the material relates, directly, to the testimony of a witness, and the judge would have broad authority to ~~xxxx~~ decide - what F B I documents could be made available to the defendant.

ICE

In the Far North, today, the polar ice gave a terrifying demonstration of its power. Crushing a ship, a freighter - as if it were a walnut in a nut cracker.

The vessel, the Polar Bear - out of Norway, bound for Danish weather stations on the coast of Greenland. Weather stations that had radioed that their food supplies were running low. Navigating along the Greenland coast, the Polar Bear, with its shipload of supplies got trapped in the ice. The floes - closing in. The crew - staying aboard. Not unusual - for a ship to be caught in the ice. Sometimes - nothing disastrous. This was several days ago.

Then - yesterday, the ice began to shift - pushing and thrusting. The skipper of the Polar Bear - sending a message that things were looking bad. Whereupon the U S Air Force, from our big base at Thule, in northern Greenland - sent a plane and two helicopters. But these were forced back - by a blinding snowstorm. Today, once again - shifting ice. This time -

~~thrusting~~ with enormous pressure. The port side of the wooden freighter caved in. The Polar Bear - almost cut in two.

The skipper reports by radio - that he and his crew have abandoned ship. Taking refuge on the ice floe. The U S Air Force announces - that helicopters will try to take them out, tomorrow. The Norweⁱgians - not in any immediate danger. They took from their stricken ship - food supplies and shelter. Enabling them to survive - on the ice.

GAMBLING

Stories from France are telling of Hollywood big shots in a whirl of frenzied finance in a gambling casino at Cannes. Winning hugely - then losing hugely.

They say that, a couple of weeks ago, Jack Warner, of Warner Brothers, Darryl Zanuck, former wizard of Twentieth Century Fox, and three others - broke the bank at the Casino. Winning - three-hundred-and-fifty-million francs, a million dollars. Forcing the casino -- to close for three days. Jack Warner pocketing - forty-million francs, one-hundred-and-fourteen thousand dollars.

But you know how the luck changes. The word being - that, this weekend, Jack Warner tried it again, and lost forty-two million francs. However, in the meantime, the franc had been "partially devalued." So, in terms of francs, he lost more than his previous winnings. But less - in terms of dollars.

There's another report that he lost even more -
at Monte Carlo. Reminds ^{me} ~~one~~ of the ~~an~~ man who came out of
a gambling house with a small fortune - but he ^{had gone} ~~went~~ in with
a big one.

NEW GUINEA

And now back to New Guinea for a moment. Leaving our jet propelled twentieth century civilization - America of the Atomic era - I flew half way across the world, and then journeyed by dug-out canoe into the New Guinea jungle. There ~~was~~ as I reported to you I found people still in the Stone Age - still chopping down great trees with stone axes.

Incredible as it may seem, they have not yet discovered the wheel, and ^{they} ~~the~~ make their boats with stone tools. From America to that is quite a shock.

Then, it's another shock to come back from that Stone Age world - home to America. New Guinea hot, humid, steamy, with no relief, except maybe an hour or two before dawn. Insects? I'm fairly thin and they don't bother me -- much. But, my heavy set companion - they devoured him.

I made the journey home at a speed I would not recommend to other travellers. The ~~river~~ current in the Sepik River is fast, and in one night we travelled as far in our

dug out canoes, as we had travelled on our way up stream in five days. To a jungle air strip where a small plane flew us out to the coast.

Wewak is the capital of New Guinea under the U N Mandate. There we stayed at the home of Frederick Kaad, the official who had arranged our expedition for us. His home, by the way, is built over a cave where the Japanese made their last stand at Wewak. General Adachi, after the Japanese installations above ground were blasted by MacArthur and George Kenny's airmen, took refuge under ground there on that Wewak promontory. And there they surrendered.

From Wewak we flew home by way of Dutch New Guinea, the Philippines, Bangkok, Thailand; across the Burmese jungle, the Gulf of Martaban, and the Bay of Bengal, to India; Pakistan, Persia, Arabia, Egypt, the Eastern Mediterranean, Italy, Germany, France, Holland, England, and Ireland. All in a few days.

If you find it difficult to picture a part of this planet still inhabited by Stone Age people - and I find it ~~difficult~~ difficult - here's an item I picked up on the homeward journey. When we came down at Hollandia, capital of Dutch New Guinea, we met a Scottish airman, Tom Hope, who had just been into the Balien Valley, deep in Dutch New Guinea, a valley recently opened up. To say opened up is an exaggeration. Several missionaries went into the valley recently - among ~~the~~ people who had never until now, ~~had~~ heard of the ~~outside~~ outside world. They and their ancestors living there for thousands of years, without developing anything even resembling a civilization. One missionary, known as Brother Bromley, from the University of Oklahoma, by the way, had been speared by one of the cannibals. But not killed. Reverend Tom Bozeman had been felled by a stone; and, Reverend Sunda had a poison arrow go through his shirt - missing him by a hair. These dedicated ~~missionaries~~ men plan

to stay there, and bring some enlightenment to these primitive people. Two who preceded them were devoured by the cannibals.

But, New Guinea, in spite of its climate, is so rich in natural resources that I suspect the Stone Age there will soon make the transition to the Atomic Age.

Joe, you'll never know, unless you go to New Guinea, how wonderful it is here at home!

END

Announcer: And now Lowell Thomas recalls.

— and I am sure you do too —
L.T. Well, I recall Nina Ponomareva. It was about

a year ago that Nina, the Russian discus thrower, was arrested in London - on ^{that} charge of shoplifting. Much to the embarrassment - of the team of Soviet women athletes in Britain. Nina, the discus thrower - accused of swiping five cheap hats.

Today, that headline was recalled - by twenty Russian women athletes, appearing in Britain. Nina the discus thrower - not on the team ~~at~~ this time. They went shopping in a large London department store. Buying shoes, nylon stockings, dresses. But - staying away from the hat counter.

One of the Russian girls was admiring a dress - near a display of hats. A photographer asked her to pose for a picture. But she stepped aside, and laughed.

"No, no, not near the hats!" said she.

And, solong until tomorrow.