

L. T. OLDS, FISHER. TUESDAY, 22nd OCTOBER 1963

An American-owned freighter - flying the Liberian flag - was attacked by an unidentified plane today near the coast of Cuba. The State Department launched an immediate investigation, and declared "it's presumed the plane was Cuban". The strafing was called a flagrant violation of the freedom of the seas ... and a State Department spokesman said the United States is trying to determine whether a formal protest is in order. The ship - the S. S. J. Louis - reported no casualties in the hour-long attack, but her superstructure and hull were damaged.

Havana radio reports that Cuban Air Force planes intercepted and attacked two pirate boats last night off Pinar Del Rio Province - said they were unloading smaller boats to land men and arms.

Today, incidentally, is the first anniversary of the peak of Cuban missile crisis.

OPERATION

Just suppose for a moment that a crisis was looming in Europe, that relations between NATO and an aggressor bloc has worsened and there had been border incidents. This is the assumption under which Operation "Big Lift" is being carried out - the mass movement of an entire American armored division from the United States to bases in France and Germany. It's a 20 - million dollar operation ... designed to be completed in 72 hours by using 235 transport planes. The division - the famed "Hell on Wheels" Second Armored - is supposed to be operational and engaged in war maneuvers with the third armored division in less than a week. Both of them tough old world war two outfits which fought over that terrain nearly 20 years ago. 16 thousand troops are being carried from bases in Texas, and the exercise is reported moving well ahead of schedule. But

OPERATION

the operation has raised fears in Germany that the success of "Big Lift" could bring about a reduction in the number of American troops stationed in Europe. The Germans have criticised the maneuver for that reason, while expressing elation over its success.

TITO

Abusive demonstrators continued to plague Yugoslavia's President Tito in New York City today ... to the extent that he canceled a reception for 11 hundred guests at the Waldorf-Astoria and charged that city police could not adequately protect him. The move was taken following a series of incidents in which he was roundly booed, his bodyguards clashed with demonstrators, and two of his critics turned up outside his hotel room. Before the angry outburst against New York City policemen, Tito had addressed the U.N. General Assembly making a plea for peaceful coexistence and an end to the cold war. As for the ability of New York policemen, they say they had no particular problem protecting Premier Khrushchev and Prime Minister Castro.

INTRODUCTION TO TAPE

**Tonight Lowell Thomas tells us about the
purchase of a huge ranch in Australia.**

DARWIN - III

VOICE: This is Eight D R Darwin, Australia's northern capital broadcasting station. We are out this evening at Darwin airport to meet a guest -- a very unusual guest. But then nearly all our guests who venture to the shores of the Timor Sea have been unusual ever since Captain Bligh and his men from the Bounty came this way in their long boat after the Mutiny. Our guest this evening is a world-famed traveller, explorer, author, father of Cinerama, radio-TV personality, Mr. Lowell Thomas. Lowell, we know you by your first name because of your High Adventure series, what brings you back to Darwin, to Capricornia

L.T. Thanks first of all for inviting me, Banjo. Why this time I'm coming through from the Antarctic. When we crossed the Antarctic continent recently the temperature at the South Pole was seventy two degrees below zero. So I'm going to say that I came here to hunt Buffalo and crocodile in Arnhem Land, but actually I'm sure that I'm really here to thaw out. At Nourlangie today it was nearly a hundred in the shade - around

DARWIN III - 2

one hundred and thirty above in the sun. This means that in ten days I've encountered a difference in temperature of two hundred degrees. So I'm not only thawed out by now, maybe your Arnhem Land heat has actually knocked me out. I'm not quite sure. We drove today in a rugged Holden car - that's the General Motors car that you Australian blokes seem to go for in a big way - and no wonder. Our Holden took us over some three hundred miles of sand, across that hard pan of Arnhem Land, the plain that has been taken over by your wild buffalo, and it even took us through a billabong or two.

Coming back to Darwin in the dark tonight, here to this air strip we had a great time watching the kangaroo and wallaby leaping across the lights of the car. We came within inches of colliding with a wild boar. Alas, we did hit an owl and I suppose that we stopped a hundred times for buffalo to get out of the way. I'm told that your bull wild buffalo with its huge horns can flip a three ton truck over so we gave the buffal

the right of way.

On the final stretch from Noonamah into Darwin, I hear that is the only hard-surfaced stretch in this northern frontier part of your continent - we were warned to look out for the kangaroo asleep on the bitumen, the road surface that holds the warmth. The kangaroos seem to like that.

VOICE: True, Lowell, the kangaroo and wild buffalo are the number one traffic hazard on that Darwin-Alice Springs Road. Did you know that one of your radio and TV stars who is probably known to you, from America, has recently bought a cattle station out here in the territory?

L.T. "Banjo" that I do. In fact, I've just taken one over myself. The name of it - Victoria River Downs, and the chap you refer to, well, he seems to be encroaching on my boundary. And that's one of the reasons why I'm here. I may even start proceedings against him.

END OF TAPE

Sounds just a little like that North

**Australian heat has affected Lowell Thomas. We'll
hear more about this new style politics in Australia
tomorrow.**

CIVIL RIGHTS

The Kennedy administration received a jolt today when supporters of a strong civil rights bill blocked any moves for a weaker, compromise version in the House Judiciary Committee. The measure before the Committee is far beyond what the President requested. In particular, it grants such broad authority to the government to intervene in civil rights cases that Attorney-General Robert Kennedy has said it would lead to a national police force if enacted. Backers of the stronger bill are confident they have the votes necessary to send it toward House action. But Committee Chairman Emanuel Celler, says he will continue to fight for a compromise bill right up to roll call tomorrow, on the theory that this would be more acceptable to Congress.

ANNIVERSARY

Earlier in the program we mentioned this first anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis. President Kennedy had broken off a campaign trip, ostensibly because of a "cold" which then cleared up fast. Jets brought Congressmen back to Washington in response to a Presidential summons. The National Security Council and the Cabinet held emergency meetings and reports circulated of a massive military buildup in Florida. Then the President's message to the people that night one year ago . . . an address which shocked the nation and the world. The revelation that Russia had set up missiles in Cuba, threatening the Americas. As the world knows . . . more Soviet missile ships headed toward Cuba turned back, faced with an American blockade. The crisis passed.

As for this first anniversary . . . news secretary Pierre Salinger said . . . "it's quieter".

ANNIVERSARY - 2

*No comment from President Kennedy he
was busy with daily White House problems.*

A United Nations fact-finding team - invited to South Viet Nam by the Diem government - hasn't started working yet, but it became obvious today the eight-member mission will get little help from its hosts. The official Viet Nam news agency quoted "administrative circles" as saying today that the U.N. team is "only an information mission" - not in any case to be "considered an investigation mission". The Diem government making it very clear it does not want an investigation of the Buddhist crisis which came to a head during the summer. If Saigon stands by this view, the Buddhist problem may still explode in the U.N. General Assembly.

Our Ambassador in South Viet Nam - Henry Cabot Lodge - arrived in Saigon just after the Diem government made a series of raids on Buddhist pagodas

in August. He's returning to Washington within the next few weeks for conferences with President Kennedy.

CUBA

The United States issued two statements on Cuban affairs today - both of them blunt. One rejected Fidel Castro's request to lift the economic embargo. The State Department saying of this - the policies of the United States toward the Cuban regime have been determined by its communist character, its hostility toward this country, and its efforts to overthrow other governments in this hemisphere. The statement went on to say that as long as Cuba follows this course, we have no choice but to maintain our present economic controls.

Statement number two concerned yesterday's attack on that American owned freighter as it steamed off the coast of Cuba. Of this incident, the state department declared the vessel was fired on by not one, but several planes - "most probably jets". It said 16 strafing attacks came at intervals of three to

CUBA - 2

*five minutes ... and that rounds of 20 millemeter
ammunition were found imbedded in the ship.*

EXPORT

United States and Soviet officials were discussing the sale of some of our surplus wheat today, when another surplus farm products transaction was announced by the Commerce Department. One million two hundred thousand bushels of yellow corn to be shipped to communist Hungary - the export license issued to a Minneapolis trading firm. Those 30 thousand long tons will cost the Soviet Satellite nation close to two-million dollars. This was the first export license issued since President Kennedy approved the sale of surplus farm products to the Soviet bloc two weeks ago.

INTRODUCTION TO TAPE

Tonight we have a tape recording from Darwin, Australia. In a way, it explains the changes in temperature our Traveling Lowell Thomas has experienced in the last few days.

DARWIN IV

Well, the name of that American radio-TV personality who came out here to Arnhem Land the other day and bought a cattle station - Art Link -- Link -- I don't remember the other letters in his name. But he has a program for kiddies of some sort on what you people call the wireless. The place he bought - it's called Fitzroy, on the Victoria River that flows into the Indian Ocean. His place covers about a hundred square miles: six hundred and forty thousand acres. The price he paid? Oh, about what it would cost for a hundred foot lot in that residential section of that town where he comes from - a place called Hollywood. But what has me bothered is that today I bought the place just south of this Art Link -- Link, place. I bought Victoria River Downs which is about the size of Belgium or Connecticut. You see I've always wanted a little place about the size of Connecticut.

We were checking the boundaries today in a single engine Cessna. And between Fitzroy and Victoria River Downs,

we saw a lot of cattle moving over onto my side of the line. Evidently their herders were driving them across to our side because the grass is much heavier there at this dry season.

So down we came for a closer look. And then we camped beside a billabong, and we broke out a bottle of Swans, and we had a billy of tea and some kangaroo tail soup, and talked the matter over. It looks like this tycoon from Hollywood is about to get himself into a feud with us out here in Arnhem Land.

Say, that heat is getting me. How about reviving me with a glass of that Australian nectar, your fruit with the fifty flavors, all in one -- that Monsterio Delicioso or whatever it is.

Suggestion for Dick -- "It does sound as though the heat had done something to L.T, but he's a rather rugged fellow. We feel pretty sure that he'll be okay and we'll be hearing from him again."

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TITO

It was a mere day ago that Yugoslav President Tito complained so bitterly about how the New York City police department had failed to protect him from demonstrators and incidents. But today, Tito decided he wanted to drive out into the country - - a spur of the moment decision. Along with the complement of State Department agents and his own Yugoslav security force ... eight motorcycle policemen and three carloads of city detectives - courtesy of the New York City police department.

Now a word from Dick Noel.

BRITAIN

Britain's new Prime Minister changed his name with the stroke of a pen today, and at the same time became a Prime Minister without a Parliamentary seat. It is now Sir Alexander Frederick Douglas-Home ... a commoner, who likes to be called "Sir Alec". By renouncing his 359-year-old Scottish title, he paved the way for his election to the House of Commons, where the real business of the British government is done.

But Lady Elizabeth Douglas-Home said today she regretted her husband had to renounce his title ... saying she regrets losing Not the title itself, but the history behind it. However, she feels there was some advantage for the family. Lady Elizabeth isn't sure what her name is yet, and she's afraid to sign any checks.