

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

January 6, 1955

(Charles Collingwood substituting)

C.C. GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY!

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower's speech on the state of the nation today was of course a major address, but there was nothing very startling in his proposals, which covered everything from lower tariffs to highway building. On all points Mr. Eisenhower followed the policy which he calls "progressive moderate." One unusual point about today's speech was the time given to the question of good relations between Congress and the White House, this being the natural result of the fact that the Republican President will have to work with the Democratic

majority in both houses. Mr. Eisenhower pointed out that the political division puts both parties on trial before the American people. He promised to do what he could to keep relations with Congress friendly. And he added that the good of the country should be the aim of everybody connected with the government. Democratic leaders received the address favorably. There was some criticism of the President's proposal to introduce reductions in our military manpower, but otherwise Democratic members of Congress agreed enthusiastically about the need for cooperation. Naturally, the Republicans were even more favorable, and GOP Senate leader Knowland predicted that most of the President's program would be approved.

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HAMMARSKJOLD

The Secretary-General of the United Nations conferred with the Premier of Red China for more than three hours today in Peiping. Dag Hammarskjold and Chou-en-Lai meeting for the first big conference on the ~~seven~~ American airmen now in Chinese prisons. There's no word about how the talks went today. A communique issued shortly afterward merely says that the conference was held and that Hammarskjold and his advisers were all present as were Chou-En-Lai and his advisers. Another full-scale conference is scheduled for tomorrow. It's believed at the United Nations that Hammarskjold wants to complete his mission as quickly as possible; and a report from Hong Kong states that he's booked a plane to Tokyo for next Thursday. Apparently, he believes that the issue will be decided by then, that

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he will either have taken a step toward liberating the prisoners, or else he'll know that Red China has no intention of coming to any agreement with him.

### RESCUE

A dispatch from Hamilton, Bermuda telling of a daring rescue in the Atlantic near that famous holiday island. Yesterday a fishing boat, the Student Prince, sent out an SOS. The last message from the ship reported the engine room flooded, the vessel breaking up and the crew taking to the lifeboats. A luxury liner answered the SOS, the Queen of Bermuda, on a vacation cruise. It changed course and sped to the scene. The great liner found ten crewmen, some clinging to a capsized lifeboat, others on the sinking Student Prince. The rescue wasn't easy because of waves thirty feet high. But the Queen of Bermuda managed to get one of its lifeboats out which took the ten fishermen aboard.

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MENDES-FRANCE

The Premier of France arrives in Italy for a holiday; Mendes-France flying to Naples in a private plane of President Coty. The Premier will rest for a few days then he'll travel up to Rome for a conference with Italian Premier Scelba. Mendes-France wants an arms pool with France, Italy and Germany all participating. That's what he'll discuss with Scelba before he goes on to talk with Chancellor Adenauer.

VASSILY STALIN

A dispatch from Washington mentions the question that's been going around diplomatic circles for some time: what has become of Stalin's son? - young Vassily Stalin, who was a prominent figure in Moscow when his

father was boss of Russia. But after the dictator's death Vassily just dropped out of sight. His last public appearance was as a pallbearer at the funeral. There're many theories: one, that he was purged when Beria fell; one recent report states that Vassily Stalin died in a Siberian prison camp. All we know is that he's disappeared, fallen from the high estate he enjoyed when his father was giving orders from the Kremlin.

From Lowell Thomas tonight, we have an account of a trip that was a thriller. Here's the recorded report.

L.T.: I have just returned from what I presume you could still call the edge of the unknown, or until recently it was the unknown. I have also just come back from a country in Arabia, which not many

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Westerners have visited, and from the most remote part of that country, where its eastern border is somewhere in (the sands of the Rub'al Khali, that's the empty quarter. Aside from Tibet, this journey was as far off the beaten path as I have ever been, or as I can ever hope to be without <sup>making a space voyage</sup> ~~journeying~~ to some other planet. "Two bronzed airmen were waiting for me at Aden airport, at dawn, ready to fly me into a region where they also had never been. Both ex-RAF fliers, one from New Zealand, the other from West Australia. After the take-off Robertson, the Australian, gave me his place in the cockpit so I would have a better view of the country over which we were to pass. Then for three hours we made our ~~one-way~~ flight, in their Dakota, (that's another of Don Douglas's DC-3's) over

a jumble of barren mountains and then out into the great Arabian desert. <sup>HP</sup> During the first hour we flew fairly low, five-to-eight thousand feet, so we could almost touch the jagged mountains of the Sultan of Zinzinbar, not Zanzibar, northwest of Aden, ~~and~~ Then over a number of other sultanates, passing scores of mountain towns, fortresses and villages, most of them perched on lofty peaks or knife-edge ridges. <sup>HP</sup> Evidently from the dawn of time these people have raided each other and waged endless wars. Every man carries a rifle and a curved sword, ~~a jambes (?)~~. In the narrow valleys below their fortress homes, we could see the small fields where they raise grain and grow the wild fig, the tamarisk, ~~the ilb (?) trees and the gold (indistinct)~~, and where troops of wild baboons raid the fields and then hurl insults as they flee



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to their distant cliffs. ~~And then~~<sup>By 11</sup> On the second hour of our flight we were over an even more forbidding region, farther inland, less rainfall, fewer villages, until we came out over a wide valley that ~~seemed to~~ extend to the horizon. This, we hoped, was the Wadi Beyhan, ruled over by the Sherif Hussein, most important of the Arab rulers along the border between the Aden Sultanate and the Yemen, ~~that's a country to the west that is still a closed land.~~ The Sherif had been advised by courier that we were going to descend upon him. ~~But~~<sup>By 11</sup> my two desert pilots were uncertain about our destination; and we flew on north until we left the mountains and entered the desert, still not sure. Captain Adams, <sup>the</sup> a New Zealander, took a wide swing to the west in search of a landmark that might coincide with something on his inaccurate map,

of the wonders of this eastern world.

Then, this must have been a thickly populated region, not the desert it is now, large, rich cities then, with floruous temples of marble and alabaster, of which the one below us, dedicated to the moon god, may have been the most magnificent.

That was before the ancient trade routes were changed from overland to the sea, which caused so many cities of this South Arabian interior to decline. That was their great depression two thousand years ago. And cities, most of them, disappeared beneath the sands.

The first Westerners ever to see this region were members of a Danish expedition led by Neibur, a German, in Seventeen Sixty-Two. They all perished, but Neibur. Two others, a Frenchman and an Austrian, penetrated here twice in disguise in 1870 and 1889. They came Saint John Philby, foremost Arabian explorer of our time. And in 1951, the Wendell Phillips expedition, which was caught right in the middle of a Yemen

the only map of this region, just west of Yemen and south of Saudi Arabia. We flew half an hour or so above the sand dunes that seemed to go on and on forever.

With us in the plane was Bill Terry, veteran of several South Arabian expeditions, and he pointed excitedly off to the left. There we saw the remains of a tremendous ancient dam. Terry said it was over in forbidden Yemen - the legendary Marib Dam, the bursting of which is described in the Koran. A moment later this was confirmed because Terry recognized a double series of columns rising out of the desert, also the outlines of a great circular wall below us.

A couple of years ago an expedition led by Wendell Phillips of California and Professor Albright of Johns Hopkins excavated there for a short time and then they were forced to flee. They were captured for a while.

At any rate, there was Marib, said to have been the capital of the fabled Queen of Sheba, who may have ruled here some 3,000 years ago. The great Marib Dam in those days was one

royal blood feud and forced to flee after abandoning several hundred dollars worth of equipment that is down there in that sand somewhere I guess.

After circling this lost kingdom of Saba, the half-excavated Moon Temple in the sands below us and the remains of the Marib Dam, the greatest dam of antiquity, we skirted the edge of the empty quarter, the Rub al Khali. Then we went on with our search for the desert palace of the ruler of Wadi Beihan. How we found it, well that's the tale that I'll have to tell tomorrow night, a story right out of the pages of the Arabian Nights.

C.C.: Let's hope that Lowell Thomas finds that palace of the desert he's looking for. But we'll have to wait for that until tomorrow.

TELEPHONE

In the town of Slagelse in Denmark, the telephone company has asked one woman to stop laughing over the phone. They say she has a peculiar giggle that interferes with the dial system; the giggle is described as "just like the automatic cut-off tone" and breaks the connection on lines that carry forty-eight conversations at the same time. They're gentlemen there in Denmark, Hugh, the company is chivalrous enough not to give the subscriber's name. They just say they're asking her to "stop laughing over the phone, please or else stop using it."