

MON. JULY 22, 1968
(Dallas Townsend)

KREMLIN

Good evening everybody.

Concession at the Kremlin. Top echelon Soviet leaders - agreeing to meet with rebellious Czech leaders - in Czechoslovakia. This in a last-ditch effort to resolve the gravest crisis in Eastern Europe - since the revolt in Hungary in Nineteen-Fifty-Six.

Czech reform leader Alexander Dubcek had earlier refused to meet with the Russians on Russian soil - so this is a remarkable triumph for Dubcek. To mark the first time in Soviet history - that the entire Kremlin hierarchy has ever left the country en masse. Underscoring the importance that Russia attaches - to keeping the Czechs firmly in the Communist camp. Also, underscoring Soviet fears - of a possible chain reaction throughout Eastern Europe.

Expected site of the meeting: The city of Kosice - in Eastern Slovakia. Date - perhaps as early as Wednesday.

MEMPHIS

James Earl Ray pleads not guilty. The setting - a fortress-like Memphis courtroom. With the defendant - all but hidden by burly guards. As he heard for the first time today - the reading of an indictment charging that he "did kill and murder Martin Luther King Junior." Also, a second indictment - charging him with "carrying a dangerous weapon."

Ray himself - remaining silent throughout. Leaving it to his attorney - to answer the charges. Former Birmingham Mayor Arthur Hanes saying both times: "The defendant wishes to enter a plea of not guilty." With trial - later set for November. And twelve minutes after it all began - James Earl Ray was back again in his special armor-plated cell.

JUDICIARY FOLLOW SENATE

The Senate Judiciary Committee has abruptly ended its questioning of Supreme Court nominee Homer Thornberry. After the Texas jurist followed the earlier example of the Abe Fortas - refusing to answer questions dealing with his legal rulings. Same as before - Thornberry citing the Constitutional separation of powers - between the judicial and legislative branches of government.

Next up - the so-called "Liberty Lobby." Opposing Fortas' nomination as Chief Justice - because of his alleged "permissive" attitude toward communism, crime and corruption. Committee Chairman Eastland of Mississippi thereupon raising the possibility - that Fortas may yet be called back for still more interrogation.

SAIGON

War news from Vietnam tells of thirteen Viet Cong terror raids this past weekend - in and around the great city of Saigon. The enemy's way of marking the anniversary of those Nineteen-Fifty-Four Geneva agreements - giving half the country to the Communists.

On the political front - South Vietnamese President Thieu returned today from his Honolulu meeting with President Johnson. Telling reporters that he and Mr. Johnson agreed - they "would not allow the Communists to take advantage of their policy of fighting while negotiating." Thieu adding, in fact, that the Allies "will take the initiative" - while the Paris talks go on.

Underscoring the President's remarks - the arrival today of fifteen hundred fresh combat troops. These - the vanguard of Thailand's famed Black Panther Division. Scheduled to replace a Thai outfit called the Queen's Cobra Regiment - which has been fighting in Vietnam for a year now.

PENTAGON FOLLOW SAIGON

More on the war - from the Pentagon. The Defense Department today issued a September draft call - for only twelve thousand, two hundred men. Lowest monthly quota - April, 1967. Reason - said a Defense spokesman: Because of an approaching "low point - on the replacement cycle" for U.S. troops.

political future.

HYANNIS PORT

At the Kennedy family compound in Hyannis Port -
a meeting today of some twenty long-time Kennedy aides
and advisers. With Kennedy confidants - saying the meeting
has a two-fold purpose. One - to determine a fitting
memorial for the late Senator Robert Kennedy. And two -
to determine what one source called - "Ted Kennedy's
political future."

CINCINNATI FOLLOW HYANNIS PORT

The youngest Kennedy brother - a subject for growing speculation today - at that National Governors Conference in Cincinnati. With a number of top Democrats - pushing again for a Humphrey-Kennedy "dream ticket." Asserting that Hubert Humphrey's chances in November would be greatly advanced - with Edward Kennedy as his running mate.

LA PAZ

Another political crisis - in our own hemisphere. With the government of Bolivia today suspending constitutional guarantees - throughout that country. Also declaring a state of siege - or semi-martial law. The reason: A series of weekend riots in La Paz - said to border on "open rebellion."

Congress for all the...
Kathon...
Congress could...
order. An order...
slower processing of...
a mainstream of our...

What he wants...
sort of hint from...
Department from the...
we would do our best...

And now - an...
Garron Moran.

SENATE

Barring a change in present plans - Saturday mail service in the U.S. will end in the fall. With a cutback in home deliveries to four days a week - perhaps soon to follow. This the dismal picture painted today - by Postmaster General Marvin Watson; trying to win a special exemption for the Post Office - from job ceilings recently ordered by Congress for all but a very few Federal agencies.

Watson further telling a Senate committee - that surely Congress could not have been "aware of the effect" of its order. An order - said he - that "can only result in a slower processing of the river of mail which is truly such a mainstream of our economic and social life."

What he wants - said the Postmaster General - is some sort of hint from congress - that it will exempt his department from the manpower ceilings. Then, said Watson, we would do our best not to curtail anything we didn't have to

And now - on another subject - here's a hint from Warren Moran.

RUTGERS

Ask any school child - and he can tell you that rubbish decays - metals rust away - and chicken feathers turn to dust. The process known to scientists - as "degradation." Which accounts, in part, for the fact that we haven't been buried yet - under piles of old rubbish, used metals or the discarded ~~chicken~~ chicken feathers.

Now comes the question though: What do you do with discarded polymers? Synthetic products like plastics, nylons and so on - that so far have defied degradation.

Enter Dr. Walter Nickerson - of the Rutgers Institute of Microbiology. Warning that microbiologist must come up with some kind of organism that will attack and degrade these polymers. If not - said he - the world of the future could well be "a polymer - covered world."

And that's a grim prospect. Speaking synthetically, of course. Good night.