

LEBANON

October 27, 1969  
Dallas Townsend

*Good evening, everybody.*

*The crisis appears far from over in Lebanon - in the bitter dispute between the Lebanese government and Palestinian guerillas. Even though the commander-in-chief of the Lebanese armed forces says he'll fly to Cairo within twenty-four hours to negotiate with the guerillas - a guerilla spokesman says they will NOT, at the moment, accept the Beirut proposal for coordination between them. However, both sides for the most part are observing a sort of unofficial ceasefire - and curfews have been relaxed in all of Lebanon's major cities except Tripoli - large parts of which are still held by Arab commandoes.*

CONTRACTS

TEL AVIV FOLLOW TRIPOLI

Israel put into effect today a series of tight security precautions. Attempting to ensure the safety of Israeli voters - who will be going to the polls in tomorrow's general elections; ~~the~~ first in that country - since Nineteen-Sixty-Five.

There's little suspense though. Political observers saying that Golda Meir's ruling Labor Party - is almost certain to stay in power. Mrs. Meir basing her campaign - on a pledge that Israel must retain most, if not all, of the Arab lands it now occupies.

## CONTRACTS

*Senator William Proxmire tonight charges that a presidential panel designed to investigate Defense Department contracts is a "pentagon pet" - as he calls it - dominated by military contractors. The Wisconsin Democrat asserting that eight of the panel members - a majority - have business interests linked with defense to the tune of one hundred MILLION dollars apiece. All told, he says, a combined total of over one BILLION dollars worth of interests in defense contracts or defense industries. Obviously, says Proxmire, this panel is caught in the embrace of the very bureaucracy it is supposed to evaluate and constructively criticize.*

PENTAGON

From the Pentagon / an announcement today telling of plans to cut back or close down completely / some three hundred U.S. military bases at home and abroad. / Defense Secretary Melvin Laird saying the move will eliminate nearly sixty-five thousand jobs / civilian and military / at an annual saving of more than Six Hundred Million <sup>dollars</sup>. This in keeping with the Three Billion-Dollar economy program / which he originally instituted last August ~~s~~ said Laird.

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "CONNELLAN 3")

Next up - Lowell Thomas; reporting again tonight  
from the giant Connellan cattle station - in ~~the~~ heart of  
the Great Australian Desert. Lowell...

245

Good Evening Everybody:

When my host Eddie Connellan was growing up out here in the heart of Australia his father hit on hard times and Eddie said "don't worry Dad I'll make it on my own." After several starts and failures, by then deep in debt, but refusing to go bankrupt, with an obsolete plane he bought for a thousand dollars he took up flying. Today he's the head of a great airline. Connellan Airways that services an area of some seven hundred thousand square miles. And he also owns a million acres of land and a lot of cattle. He has two tall handsome sons who much admire their father and are getting ready to succeed him. One has a degree from the University of Melbourne and is one of the airline's crack pilots. The other age twenty already handles many of the problems on their big cattle station. And will return to it when he gets his university of

*Melbourne degree. Both sons find life exciting, full of challenge. And they are wondering why any young people anywhere are frustrated when there is still so much of our planet to be explored and developed.*

*Later I'll tell more about how they hope to open up the interior of Australia to millions and millions of people who everyone seems to believe will be coming here before long.*

*At sunset the kangaroo come out of the bush to feed on the lush mulga and other springtime grasses that you find in the heart of Australia. And now I guess I'll rejoin the kangaroo.*

*Solong.....*

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "CONNELLAN 3")

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...

250

## WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW PENTAGON

*President Nixon conferred today with former Secretary of State Dean Acheson. The White House later saying they engaged in a "general discussion" of foreign affairs - including Vietnam. This in the midst of preparations - for the President's scheduled broadcast report to the nation a week from tonight; a broadcast in which he is expected to spell out his plans for ending the war in Vietnam.*

MOSCOW

At the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses / Moscow - a mammoth "friendship" rally today in honor of visiting Czech officials. / This after the signing of a joint statement - following week-long talks. / Russia's Chairman Brezhnev telling an audience of thousands - / that Moscow and Prague have achieved a "full identity of views." And he added: "We have marched - are marching - and will march together." / However, the possibility of recalling Russian troops from Czech soil - that wasn't even mentioned.

## MEETING FOLLOW MOSCOW

*Elsewhere in Moscow - another "cold war" first; with a delegation of American legislators meeting for the first time - with a like number of Soviet Parliamentarians.*

*According to Senator Sparkman of Alabama - who served as a spokesman for our side - the two groups exchanging opinions "on a variety of subjects;" with results perhaps predictable - said he - in that "neither side convinced the other."*

*Even so - Sparkman called the meeting an important event - if only for the fact we're "talking" at last. The Senator further quoted from Astronaut Neil Armstrong - saying: "This is a small step for a man - but a giant leap for mankind."*

## VATICAN

*At the Vatican - Pope Paul has rung down the curtain on that World Synod of Bishops. In his closing remarks - pledging to give greater powers to the bishops; while at the same time - reaffirming Papal supremacy. The Pontiff also said he would give "utmost consideration" - to the bishops' request to write their own agenda at future synods.*

*Later - when it was all over - a capsule summary of the present state of the church; from Belgium's Cardinal Suenens - a leader of Catholic liberals - who observed that the Church is "like an elevator." Reason - said he: "If you look at it from the ground floor - it's already on the third floor; but if you look at it from the tenth floor - it's still only at the third floor." Which we suppose means that it still has a long way to go. Dallas Townsend saying goodnight.*