

L.T.-DELCO. THURSDAY, DEC. 25, 1958.
(Given by Allan Jackson, L.T. in Zanzibar)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Most important news, this Christmas Day, comes from Soviet Russia - that arch enemy of all that Christmas represents. Which is quite natural, in a way - since, in Moscow it was business as usual, today. The Supreme Soviet - in session.

The meeting was featured by a declaration on international policy. Foreign Minister Gromyko stating - that Soviet Russia is willing to sign an agreement to ban atomic testing. Do it right away - without reservations or conditions - but also without any inspection system to enforce such a ban. } The East-West conference on a nuclear test ban - in Geneva adjourned indefinitely. Today, Gromyko blamed the West for this - declaring that the Western powers are in no hurry to abolish test explosions. Yet, of course, the deadlock at Geneva came about because the Russians wouldn't consider measures of precaution

against violations. The West insisting - that there must be a method of inspection, to guard against bad faith.

So it remains to be seen how the Western powers will take Gromyko's declaration, today.

At the very end of the session of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, a question ~~of~~ was answered - who would succeed Serov as head of the security system? The all-important post, which includes - the command of the Secret Police.

On December eighth General Ivan Serov resigned. Serov - an old-time friend of Khrushchev. Nobody could guess what it meant.

His successor is Alexander Mikhailovich Shelepin, only forty years old. Former Secretary of the Komsomol, the Soviet youth organization. ^P Today's Moscow dispatch points out that the new head of the Soviet Secret Police is an official of the Communist Party - he's a member of the Central Committee. While General Serov - is a professional military man. All of which is in line with Khrushchev's recent policy - of putting Communist Party officials in all Number One posts in the government.

SOVIET LAW

Soviet Russia has revised its law code - liberalizing it in some degree. One crime has been abolished - and that's the striking part of the change. The crime of being - an "enemy of the people."

It was hard to think of anything more inhuman - than a person condemned merely because he belonged to what the Communists considered a hostile class. But Bolshevism began with a doctrine of liquidating the bourgeoisie, the middle class - the members of which were, by law, convicted of the crime of being enemies of the people. That law - remaining on the statute books until now.

Today, at the session of the Supreme Soviet, the announcement was made - that the criminal code has been revised. The explanation was ~~made~~ ^{that} in Russia, the bourgeoisie no longer exists. The middle class - eliminated so there was no longer any need of retaining the crime of being - an "enemy of the people."

FRANCE

Tonight, Paris is sure - the franc will be devalued.

The rumor's been going around for some time - that General de
Gaulle ~~will~~^{would} reduce the value of French currency. Right now
there's nothing official about it, but the newspapers of Paris,
today, said it in headlines. Predicting - that the devaluation
of the franc would be decided in a cabinet meeting, tomorrow.

This measure of currency reform in France, they say,
will be part of a general change of money policies in the
countries of Western Europe.

CHRISTMAS

From around the world come tidings of Christmas - all pretty much the same, full of good cheer. A little disappointing in this country - in areas where people hoped for a white Christmas, but not a flake of white appeared. For example, at Mobile, Alabama. ^{But} /~~th~~at was no disappointment. The folks in Mobile had no hope whatever of a white Christmas. The local weather bureau says that - it never has snowed in the Mobile area at any time. Not since they began keeping records - in Eighteen Seventy. So they had a green Christmas, as usual.

CRASH

The Christmas Eve air crash at Vienna was caused by some freakish weather condition. So says the pilot of the French airliner. He declares that, as the plane approached the Vienna airport, visibility was good. But then - a sudden change.

"We started to prepare for a landing," he relates.

"Then, suddenly we could see nothing at all. Apparently, we had entered a cloud of fog. Then," he continues, "the plane abruptly started to fall. The co-pilot and I tried to steady the engines, but that did not help."

As a result of the freak weather condition the airliner, with thirty-six persons aboard, ripped through a telegraph pole, hit a barn, and crashed in a muddy field.

Then, immediately afterwards the plane exploded with such violence that ponderous fragments were hurled for two hundred yards. The four engines - thrown in different directions

But there was what seems like a Christmas miracle.

CRASH - 2

In the brief interval between the crash and the explosion - all thirty-six aboard were able to get out safely. No lives lost - and only minor injuries.

INTRODUCTION TO RECORDING

In a remote part of the Orient, Lowell Thomas reports on another of those curious cases of Americans in exotic lands.

NOTE: THE TAPE RUNS 2 MINUTES 40 SECONDS

If anyone ever writes a modern Arabian Nights - tales of 1001 nights in the Arabia of our era - and it could be just as enthralling as the original - he should include the incredible story of Wendy Day.

This American girl is the only daughter of Clarence Day; famous author of "Life With Father." As a play it also brought fame and fortune to Russell Crouse, and Howard Lindsay - and wife.

Wendy Day for two years now has lived in a real Arabian Nights city, on the Frankincense Coast. Mukullah - is the white, and blue, all-Moslem seaport, port to the Hadhramout with its still mysterious skyscraper cities of Shibam, Seium and Tarim. Mukullah is a city where virtually all women are veiled. The region, of which it is the capital, is ruled by a sultan and his Moslem council of state, with British advisors.

I first heard of Wendy Day when I was in Aden this

past summer. I told a little about her then. On my present journey, gathering material for a TV High Adventure story of the sailing dhows that still ply the Indian Ocean between the Persian Gulf and Zanzibar, I went to Mukullah to find her.

Wendy left Radcliffe College in '53, to take part in an expedition to Africa. There she met a young bearded Englishman, Mark Veevers-Carter, who is now one of the advisors to the Sultan. Today, they live in what was the summer palace of the present Sultan's father.

Mulullah is one of the few cities in Asia where Western civilization has had almost no effect. The Sultan's government doesn't even allow motion pictures to be shown.

Wendy, as an unveiled woman, can't even do her own marketing. Life here revolves around the mosque. And no woman ever is allowed tin a Mukullah mosque. But she has

become accustomed to the unusual life - and likes it.

You will meet her when you see our Arabian Nights
TV film a little later in the season.

So long.

LONDON

53:10

Over in London, it was an embarrassed Christmas -
for the British Broadcasting Company. Which, today - fouled up
the Queen's Christmas address. Somebody blundered, and the
first eight words spoken by Her Majesty - were drowned out.

The royal proceedings began with God Save The Queen -
and the music was still going on, when the sovereign began.
The final majestic chords were blaring, while Queen Elizabeth
the Second was uttering her first eight words. Which couldn't
be heard at all.

So what did she say, which the radio audience couldn't
hear? Well, nothing startling or surprising. The eight words
were: "Happy Christmas to you all. Every year . . ."

Then the music stopped, and Her Majesty's words were
audible. (A most embarrassing Christmas - for the B.B.C.)

54:00