

MON. JULY 15, 1968
(DALLAS TOWNSEND)

Good evening everybody.

After seven years of negotiations, the long-awaited direct airlink between the U.S. and the Soviet Union at last a reality. Late this afternoon, an Ilyushin sixty-two jet-liner of Aeroflot - the government-owned Soviet airline - landed at New York's Kennedy airport. On board - one hundred and four passengers, more than half of them Soviet officials. The flight from Moscow took thirteen hours, thirty-seven minutes, including a stopover at Montreal. At that, the plane was almost an hour late in landing, because of congested air traffic over Kennedy. The inaugural westbound flight being followed - tonight - by an inaugural eastbound flight - a Pan American jetliner heading for Moscow by way of Copenhagen.

MOSCOW

Moscow - a long-awaited renewal today - of the waning Soviet-American cultural exchange program. With U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson signing a formal agreement - extending the program through Nineteen-Sixty-Nine. Here at home - the White House promptly voicing official pleasure - at the start of a second decade of cultural exchanges with Russia. Adding that this program - "ememplifies our continuing effort to build understanding between our peoples; and to share increasingly - the fruit of our exploration on the frontiers of knowledge."

PRAGUE FOLLOW TRAILS

Reports from Prague tell of an apparent "war of nerves" behind the Iron Curtain. Raising fears that the Russians may yet renege - on a promise to withdraw all Red Army troops from Czechoslovakia.

For a time today - it appeared that the on-again, off-again withdrawal was, indeed, in progress once more. However, Prague radio - telling tonight of another slowdown. Effectively cancelling out an earlier prediction - that all Soviet troops would be out of the country by tomorrow. This same report adding that Red Army forces will now probably remain in Czechoslovakia - at least, until next week.

At the same time - Prague newspapers taking note of that just-concluded Warsaw Pact meeting. Expressing fears that Russia and her satellites - may still be planning repressive measures against the newly liberalized Czech regime.

WARSAW FOLLOW PRAGUE

Adding fuel to the fire - a Warsaw Pact communique issued today in the Polish capital. Warning that "agressive imperialist forces" - so called , are trying to undermine the Communist world through subversion.

This obviously aimed at Czechoslovakia - also, at Romania. Both countries recently charted - their own independent "road to socialism."

SAIGON

On the war front - another full-scale alert today in Saigon; second - in less than a week. Ordered by South Vietnamese national police - on the strength of intelligence reports foretelling a noon-hour terror raid.

Luckily - perhaps because of the alert - the raid never developed. The city remains extremely tense, even though the possibility of a full-scale enemy assault appears to be diminishing.

CLIFFORD FOLLOW SAIGON

But there's an extra heavy security gurard - for U.S. Defense Secretary Clark Clifford. He held daylong strategy talks today in Saigon - with General Abrams; also - U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. This being Clifford's first visit to Vietnam - as Secretary of Defense - which means - we are told - that he will be briefed on every aspect of the war.

Earlier, Clifford telling reporters - he hopes soon to equip all South Vietnamese troops with the new M-Sixteen rifle. If necessary - said he - "even at the expense of our own troops."

DENVER

Turning to politics - a boost today for Governor Rockefeller of New Yor. Winning the endorsement of Colorado's Governor Love - in his bid for the Republican Presidential nomination. In Denver - Governor Love explaining simply: "I think it is the right thing to do."

CHICAGO

On the Democratic side - a Chicago visit today for Democratic National Chairman John Bailey. Checking on efforts to achieve a settlement - in ~~that~~ continuing strike by electrical workers against Illinois Bell. A strike that may make it impossible to install the needed equipment - in time for the Democratic National Convention.

Later - from Washington - Bailey quoted as saying that if the strike is not settled by the end of the week - "we'll have to take another look." Meaning perhaps - an alternate site. With the logical choice - Miami Beach - where the Republicans already are well advanced - in preparations for their national convention.

UPPSALA

A call for revolutionary change - to reshape the world's social, political and economic structures.

Presented in the form of a resolution today - at the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Uppsala, Sweden.

The proposed statement of church policy asserting, in part - that "revolution is not to be identified with violence." Adding, though, that it "may take the form of violence" - in countries "where the ruling groups are oppressive or indifferent to the aspirations of the people."

Indeed, the document going so far as to say that measures of restraint taken by the so-called "establishment" - including the maintenance of "law and order" - may themselves be a form of violence.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House, another bill-signing ceremony. With President Johnson enacting into law - a new conservation measure; providing some Two Hundred Million dollars over the next five years - to finance new Federal parks and recreation land.

This - exactly double the previous spending rate. Enough - said the President - that now, "at least, we are saving important land - faster than the bulldozer can plow it under."

Warren

HONG KONG

From Hong Kong - a newspaper charge today that the Miss Universe beauty contest - is rigged by the U.S. government. The Hong Kong Standard notes the selection of a number of Asian beauties - as recent Miss Universe winners. Among them, Miss Japan, Miss India and Miss Thailand - at a time "when - it says - anti-American feelings needed some cooling down" in those countries. The Standard further noting ^{the} weekend selection of Miss Brazil - in this year's finals at Miami Beach. Asking rhetorically: "Was it mere coincidence - that only recently President Johnson made a friendship-winning tour to Latin America.

Following the thought a step further - the article concluding that "perhaps there should have been a Miss North Vietnam at Miami;" on the theory that a "Miss Universe in their midst - could well take North Vietnamese minds off the war."

Ah, but what if she lost? There's the rub.
Good night. . . .

TUES. JULY 16, 1968
(Dallas Townsend)

Good evening everybody.

Will the Democratic National convention meet in Chicago - or won't it? That question still being asked - more loudly than ever - as the electrical workers strike against Illinois Bell telephone company remains deadlocked. The walkout has delayed installation of vitally needed communications equipment in the International amphitheater - where the convention is scheduled to open August twenty-sixth. This afternoon the company ⁵tuned down a union proposal for binding arbitration of the dispute - Illinois Bell president James Cook saying "It's our best legal opinion that the union offer would not be binding on the union - but only on us."

The union, at the same time, scoffing at a company proposal that the communications work be farmed out to independent installers. So the stalemate continues - and there's increasing talk of moving the convention to Miami Beach - where the Republicans will open their convention August fifth. But Democrat National chairman John Bailey

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says " at this time we still plan to hold the convention in Chicago." And CBS News learns on excellent authority that there is no chance of the convention being moved out of Chicago - no matter what happens in the strike.

JAMES EARL RAY

James Earl Ray has given up his fight against extradition from Great Britain. Today in London, Ray agreed to return to the U.S. - and face trial on charges of killing Martin Luther King. He was arrested in London June Eighth - and at first argued against extradition - asserting that he was innocent. But the preliminary judgment in Magistrates court went against him - and now Ray has decided not to take his case to a higher court. Sometime in the next few days, accordingly, he will be flown back to the U.S. under heavy guard. Ray will be tried in Memphis, Tennessee - where Dr. King was murdered April Fourth.