

L.T. OLDS - TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1963

Good Evening Everybody:

The odd way of the world at this moment of history - is reflected in the latest about Khrushchev. The stories that the Soviet leader is in trouble at home - are coming from Communist sources. Beginning with Rome's Red paper "L'Unita" - which describes Moscow as passing through "a sensitive political period". Another Communist paper explains this to mean that Khrushchev is being badgered by his opponents. The boss of the Kremlin - if he really is the boss - trying to explain the failures of his regime: the dispute with Red China, the backdown in Cuba, the mess in Soviet agriculture - and so on.

But Western observers in Moscow - are discounting these reports. They note that Khrushchev is vacationing on the Black Sea - as usual. And if he were really in trouble - he'd be back in Moscow dealing with it.

LEAD - 2

Still, some Kremlinologists - not persuaded by this - recall that Trotsky was away from the Soviet Capital - in the crucial period during the illness and death of Lenin. Trotsky's absence, allowing Stalin - to outmaneuver him.

Could something similar - be happening to Khrushchev.

NOTE - FOLLOW KHRUSHCHEV

Today's note from Moscow to Peking - could be connected with Khrushchev's anxiety. The boss of the Kremlin, moving to patch up - his quarrel with Mao Tse-Tung. At least, Khrushchev says he's willing to meet Mao - in a Red summit conference, if - Mao will come to Moscow. A Khrushchev trip to Peking - that's out.

All a Khrushchev maneuver? Maybe you can see - the point. How could the Bolshevik Tzar handle his homegrown critics more effectively - than by restoring the former unity of the communist bloc?

BERLIN

In West Berlin, Hughie Green said today -
"Most exciting show I ever starred in". The British
TV personality referring to - the incident in the air
corridor to West Berlin. Green's private plane,
harassed by Soviet fighter pilots - who tried to force
him down in East Germany. They even fired machine gun
bullets - past him. But he ignored them - and landed
at the airport in West Berlin.

The question tonight - are the Russians
launching another drive to cut the access routes across
East Germany?

SOVIET. The Kremlin has just delivered a message - to Soviet writers. The message - "Conform, or get out!" Meaning - write according to the party line, Or head for the West - and permanent exile from Russia.

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This - the outcome of the soul-searching behind the Iron Curtain. Khrushchev deciding - he's been misunderstood. The writers, interpreting his liberalism to mean - that they might write freely about their homeland. But all the boss of the Kremlin meant - was that they could lambaste Stalin as much as they wanted to.

Criticism of the Leninist dogma - and Comrade Khrushchev? Definitely verboten - says Nikita. His point, picked up by - the Russian Writer's Union. Handed on to - Ehrenburg, Yevtushenko, and the rest of Russia's "angry men." If they want to keep saying what they're angry about - they'd better not say it in Moscow.

ARGENTINA

The confusion in Argentina is due to -
the size of the country, and the number of points
at which fighting has broken out. But this much
seems clear. Retired General Menendez - has raised
a revolt. Motive - to head off both communists and
Peronists. The General, joined by contingents - of
the Armed Forces. Pledging - to overthrow President
Guido.

Loyalist troops were rushed up - and when
they met the rebels, shooting began.

official United States Policy.

CUBA

The apology that went from Havana to Washington today - shows that Castro is becoming worried about those rebel raids. Or - that the Russians have the bearded dictator under tight control.

Either way, Castro says he's sorry about - Friday's attack on an American freighter. Cuban MIGS, firing at - the Floridian. Which was all a mistake - according to Castro, adding that he hopes we'll put a stop to those Commando raids by Cuban exiles. Something we've already declared to be - official United States Policy.

LOWELL THOMAS
PAWLING, NEW YORK

April 2, 1963

LAOS. That assassination in Vientiane - has removed a pro-Communist from the Laotian government. And - disturbed Washington. Sounds like a paradox - Washington, in favor of a Red politician. But it's a tip-off on - just how tangled international international events have become.

Our diplomats worked hard to see installed - a Coalition government for Laos. Reds on one side, democrats on the other - with a sprinkling of neutralists in between. This being the nearest thing to a free regime - that we could hope for.

Now, the balance in Southeast Asia may have been tipped - by a twenty-year-old Laotian soldier. Corporal Chy Kong - who poured a fusillade of machine gun bullets into Red Foreign Minister Quinam Pholsena.

How far - will this new Laotian crisis spread? The Chancellories of the free world - are watching for the answer. Watching Laos - with a good deal of ^{apprehension.} /

RAILROADS

If President Kennedy and former President Eisenhower ever indulge in some close harmony - they might try "I've been working on the railroad", which they sure have.

Both trying to solve the question of - featherbedding. Railroad jobs the companies claim are superfluous. That the Unions want retained - to keep their members from being thrown out of work.

President Eisenhower appointed a Commission that studied featherbedding for over a year - without coming up with a solution acceptable to both sides. President Kennedy may have - only sixty days. Two months for an emergency board - to try to head off a railroad strike.

All of which results from a ruling - by Federal Judge Sam Perry in Chicago. Judge Perry, lifting the injunction that barred changes in the work rules. The companies, announcing immediately - that those rules will be overhauled to get rid of featherbedding. The railroad unions, threatening to ^{strike} /

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LUNIK. The news that Lunik Four is headed for the Moon - is a self-evident truism. At least, if you go by etymology - the science of word origins. "Lunik," obviously from the Latin "luna" - meaning moon.

So much - for linguistics. As for space science - it's rather impressive. Lunik Four weighs - one and one-half tons. And will reach the moon - within four days. The sophisticated instruments/a/board - to send back detailed information about our ~~XXXXXXXX~~ natural satellite.

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As always - politics is mixed up with science. The Soviets, pointing out - that American scientists haven't been able to rocket that much of a payload into space. Our spacemen, calling for - a greater effort to catch up.

ALPS

Here's a follow up to a story - we had last night. The one about nine skiers - overwhelmed by an avalanche in the Austrian Tyrol. The worst Alpine tragedy of the season - except for the bizarre typhoid epidemic in Zermatt.

Tonight - fear of tragedies to come. Fifteen more skiers - missing for three days. Lost in what has often been called "the land of the avalanche" - the Bavarian Alps. A massive rescue operation is underway - led by Alpinists of the West German Army. Still great ski country - but dangerous at times - Gailord - the classical mountain range of Europe. The rugged, towering - lordly Alps.

SILVER

The House Banking Committee is willing to release - more than a million ounces of silver. The horde of precious metal that the Treasury has on hand - to back up the one dollar bills in circulation. And the Committee also okays a Treasury proposal - to pay more for the silver it needs.

Looks like a boom in the silver market. The kind of boom the west has long hoped for.

Latin America. All the turmoil in Guatemala and Argentina. The President agreed that last year.