

L.T. - G.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1955

(Charles Collingwood sub.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Costa Rica charges new invasion of its country from Nicaragua and a series of air attacks in which Venezuelan planes are said to have participated. This is the first time that Venezuela has been linked with Nicaragua in alleged aggression against Costa Rica.

Costa Rican delegates made an emotional appeal today to the Organisation of American States, to stop the slaughter of women and children caused by the bombing attacks. The organization called for a report on the bombing by its investigating group, which arrived in Costa Rica tonight.

Costa Rica claims that government forces have recaptured the Villa Quesada, the town that was captured yesterday by the rebels. But the government is reported to have lost several other towns. It's

LEAD - 2

charged that fresh rebel forces have crossed the border from Nicaragua and are pushing ahead on the Pacific Ocean side of Costa Rica, in the northern part of the country around Puerto Soley and the Gulf of Murselagos. The Costa Rican government has suspended all constitutional guarantees as police round up opponents of the regime.

EISENHOWER - ATOMIC

President Eisenhower today made a statement of U.S. atomic policy. He said that this country would not use tactical atomic weapons in local wars like the Korean conflict; tactical weapons would mean atomic cannon for instance. However, the President pointed out that once the forces of war are unleashed, no weapon can be ruled out. These remarks were made at a White House news conference. The President telling the reporters that our policy against local Red aggression is to build up the forces of threatened countries. He recommended the development of light air and Marine Cops units by the United States, to help friendly governments in quelling local disturbances.

EISENHOWER - NIXON

At the same conference, President Eisenhower defended Vice President Nixon today against Democratic attacks. The Democrats have been saying that in the November political campaign, Nixon was guilty of smear tactics, challenging loyalty of the entire Democratic Party. President Eisenhower was asked about this and replied warmly that Nixon had never labelled the Democrats a "party of treason," he had merely questioned the way they handled specific security cases.

Tonight, Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler invited his opposite Republican number, to come over to the Democratic Committee and inspect exhibits which show, he says, how Nixon maligned and slandered Democrats.

The reporters, as usual, tried to fish around for some indication of the President's political plans. They asked leading questions; but the Eisenhower answers were deft, evading that issue of running for another term.

ROME COMMUNIQUE

In Rome tonight a communique was issued following two days of conferences between French Premier Mendes-France and Italian Premier Scelba. The joint communique urges the Western allies to take the initiative in efforts to lessen the cold war. This is taken to indicate that Mendes-France has had some success in persuading Italy that high level talks with Soviet Russia should be held soon, a thing that the French Premier has been urging all along. Mendes-France now proceeds to Germany for talks with West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. While he was in Rome he was received by Pope Pius XII, the first audience granted the Pope (sic) granted by the Pope since last November when his illness became serious.

Now here's a news dispatch from the realm of Arabian oil, a recorded report from Lowell Thomas on the scene.

L.T.: This time, Charlie, instead of a feature story, I have a little news background material. It's from a city that is not only the pearling capital of the world, but, in a sense, the oil capital, which makes it rather important since we are living in the oil age. Bahrein, where I am, is the focal center of this Middle/^{East}realm of oil. Yet how many of us even know the name of the capital of Bahrein or the name of its ruler? The city is Manama, in the middle of the Persian Gulf. To the west we can see the low desert coast of Arabia, and at night the flares at Dahrhan, headquarters of the enormous Arabian oil fields, owned by American companies and shared with the government of Saudi-Arabia. Largest of all the oil fields of the world by far. So Bahrein is the center of an area that is pouring out more oil than all the rest of the world put together. And strange as it may seem, only a few people except right here in this

area know the names of the capital city of Bahrein and its ruler. As I mentioned, the capital is Manama, from which I'm giving you this report. Its absolute ruler is a Persian Gulf Prince of lineage that goes back to the days when the caliphs ruled in Baghdad. He says all the way back to Adam and Eve. His name, Sir Sulman Ben Hamed El Calipha. His own family is of Arabian origin, pure Arab, I am told. But his subjects come from almost every land in the East. For this has been a cross road of the world for thousands of years. They are here from many lands in Asia, from east and central Africa, a sprinkling of Europeans and quite a large American colony.

But now for the news, for what is happening here. Ten days before we started on this flight around the world, a news story came from Bahrein, telling about a general strike here in these islands in the Persian Gulf. It sounded like a popular revolt against Sheikh Sulman, the Prince of Pearls and oil. Then we heard

no more about it. So I wondered what had happened. I've just heard. It's complex; all things are out here. Sir Sulman Ben Hamed, like his fathers, had always ruled as an autocrat. Well, recently, he has been loudly berated by his subjects because of his courts; all of the courts presided over by lesser members of the reigning family, who no longer are the same type men their fathers were, for an understandable reason. Since the period between 1930 and 1940, when American engineers, Fred Davies, Ed Skinner and Max Thornberg and others opened up this first American-Middle East oil field, almost endless millions of dollars in liquid gold have flowed from beneath these sands and these layers of coral. So can you imagine what that vast wealth had done to those who have pocketed many of these millions? So agitators, naturally, have been at work. In a realm where the ruler can say "Off with your head," not many

of the abler and some sober citizens have wanted to speak up. But a secret committee of one hundred was organized, including many important people; and there was some sort of mysterious check made person-to-person among key people, a fairly wide canvass I understand, whereupon they announced that they had held an election and that certain men were chosen by the people as a small committee. This group of eight then asked the ruler for an audience, to present grievances, and he refused. After a number of requests the committee said that there would be a strike, that all business would come to a standstill in these islands. Sheikh Sulman and his satellites thought that that was merely an empty threat. But the strike was called. And that was the news we got over our press wires, which I broadcast, followed by silence. No more word. And now I find what

happened was this: The Sheikh quickly found that he was in real trouble, so he appointed his own committee to meet with that popular committee, for everything at Bahrein had come to a full stop. Since then there have been repeated sessions behind closed doors, with no definite word of the outcome. But it's easy to predict approximately what is going to happen. The word coming from these meetings is that as an absolute minimum, Sir Sulman Ben Hamed no longer will be able to rule in the arbitrary way that had been so successful for a thousand years. First, he will have to report to the peoples of these islands in the future he'll have to tell them the things that he has done for them and why; and he has done a great deal. I understand he has been a benign ruler in many ways. Also, it is pretty certain that he will have to give them some idea of what he hopes to do for them in the future. And of more immediate importance, he is

sure to announce a reorganization of the Bahrein court system.

The two great divisions in the Moslem world are the Sunnis and the Shiah~~s~~. The ruler here and all his relatives, who have been all-powerful, are Sunnis but the people - most of them - are Shiah~~s~~. Henceforth, it's a safe prediction that the courts will be decided over by a considerable percentage of Shiah~~s~~ magistrates; and there have been none. Just another illustration of how this whole Middle Eastern world is in a state of foment, in which we because of the oil alone are vitally interested and as vitally involved as we are in our own local problems at home.

So, from Manama, so long until Mañana!

C.C.: Lowell, aren't you getting the Arabic and Spanish mixed up? But we'll be waiting for another Arabian report from you, mañana!

Here's an item of news that Lowell should hear out there in exotic lands, far from home, you might think that anybody would envy him. But here's a report from Redwood City, California. A county clerk there, Mr. Don Brunick, mailed a summons to Mrs. Jane Reckling of East Palo Alto, California, calling Mrs. Reckling for jury duty. To that he got a reply from the lady, who wrote: "I would be delighted to comply with your request as I am heartily sick of North Africa, where I've lived for the past year." So there's a comment on life in the exotic parts of the Mediterranean world, not too far from Mediterranean where Lowell is now exploring and reporting to us on the strange and wonderful adventures which he finds while he's there. But he'll be back next week as Mrs. Reckling apparently would like to be herself.

You can have the exotic so far as Mrs. Reckling is concerned, Hugh!

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