

CUBA

L.T.-Olds. Tues. Mar. 29-60

The State Department in Washington admits -- that it has an affidavit from one of the two American fliers, whose plane -- was forced down in Cuba last week; The two -- captured, and accused of trying to take out anti-Castro fugitives. The affidavit -- made by the co-pilot, William Shergales of North Hollywood, Florida. The State Department -- refusing to reveal what Shergales has to say, ~~in the statement.~~ Whether or not it corresponds -- with <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ disclosure made in the New York World-Telegram today.

According to that newspaper, the affidavit relates -- that the flight from Cuba was a Castro propaganda scheme, Shergales -- employed by the Castro people. ~~The purpose -- actually to take out a couple of political fugitives.~~ The whole thing -- to be represented as another violation of <sup>Cuban</sup> ~~the~~ territory by planes flying from the United States.

According to the story, the other American aboard the plane, Howard Rundquist of Miami -- thought it was the real thing. Kept in ignorance -- of the Castro propaganda part of it.

The trouble was -- that the Castro people blundered the business. They intended to let the plane take out a couple of fugitives -- to make the supposed plot look good. But shots were fired. Pilot Rundquist, at the controls, was hit in the foot, Making a crash landing in which the plane was too much damaged -- to fly out.

So there was nothing to do but arrest the two Americans. <sup>More</sup> Castro propaganda, -- ~~starting to yell. But,~~  
Then <sup>Castro</sup> -- quickly dropping the subject, like a hot potato. ~~which~~ Which would seem to confirm the notion -- that the flight was a Castro scheme, that went wrong.

EISENHOWER

President Eisenhower has come to an agreement with British Prime Minister Macmillan -- on an answer to the Soviet proposal for an atomic test ban. A compromise -- which would accept the demand for a prohibition of small underground explosions, which -- cannot be detected. ~~Cannot be controlled.~~ But this would be only -- temporary, <sup>^</sup> a moratorium. ~~No permanent ban on all kinds of atomic testing -- until scientists have devised a way to detect subterranean blasts.~~

Today, Vice President Nixon joined the President and Prime Minister in their talks. Which is much to the point -- because of an important question in President Eisenhower's mind. He doesn't want to make any kind of international agreement -- that would tie the <sup>(hands)</sup> ~~hands~~ of his successor. One very possible successor -- Richard Nixon, who will be the Republican candidate in the November election.

But what about -- a possible Democratic President? Of course, you can only guess who the Democratic nominee will be. Kennedy, Symington, Johnson, Humphrey -- who?

Today, Presidential Secretary Jim Hagerty was asked -- has there been any discussion of consulting with Democratic Presidential possibilities, concerning - the projected moratorium on atomic testing? Hagerty replied <sup>that he had</sup> ~~-- he'd~~ heard of no such discussion.

## DISARMAMENT

At Geneva, the West made another proposal today. The United States -- offering the Soviets an agreement for a cut of American and Russian ground forces. Each party -- to reduce troop strength to two-million-one-hundred-thousand men, each.

Provided ~~-- that~~ there are strict controls to guard against cheating. Always that question -- of controls.

This got little approval from Russian Delegate Zorin, who repeated the familiar Moscow demand -- for an agreement, first, on "general and complete disarmament."

KHRUSHCHEV

Khrushchev came to a climax, today - in his blasts against West Germany. The place where he was - inciting a revival of bitter memories. The old battlefield of Verdun - where, in World War I, a million soldiers perished. France losing - four-hundred-thousand.

Today, the Soviet Premier visited scenes - recalling that holocaust of more than forty years ago. Today - rainy, foggy. Which made the scene - all the more bleak and grim.

Later, in an address, Khrushchev spoke sourly of the present understanding between France and West Germany. The amicable relations - between President Charles DeGaulle and Chancellor Adenauer.

Khrushchev made reference to a remark by the West German Chancellor - to Pope John the Twenty-third, at the Vatican.

"He said," Khrushchev declared, "that God had given Germany a special mission to save Europe." This, Khrushchev interpreted, as an assertion of the Nazi notion that the Germans are the master race.

## BRITAIN

A report from London about the prospects of what would happen -- if war broke out in Europe.

The British Government, we hear, is going to make a suggestion to NATO, ~~Proposing~~ -- a new defense plan. Based on the assumption -- that, if there should be a war in Europe, they should be prepared for about thirty days of it. The Western Alliance to be ready -- for about one month of battle.

In the British view, either of two things would happen. One -- hostilities in Europe would be localized. Meaning -- a small sort of ordinary war. For which NATO would not need ~~///~~ a huge build-up of armament and supplies. Or, secondly -- the trouble would bring about -- an atomic war. With such fearful nuclear destruction -- that fighting in Europe wouldn't last long, maybe a month.

Word in London is that the British will present this contention -- at a NATO conference which opens in Paris on Thursday.

## FLOODS

The Prairie states where this winter they had blizzards and heavy snows, are now having - a sudden Spring thaw. Add the two together - and you know the result.

Today, the Nebraska National Guard ordered the evacuation of all human beings and livestock - from the lowlands of the Platte River, threatened - by the worst floods in half a century. A huge ice-jam in the Platte - damming up the flood waters, sending an inundation far and wide. Two-thirds of the town of North Bend - under water two-and-a-half feet deep. Surrounding farmlands - like one huge lake.

The National Guard - moving in with trucks, boats, and helicopters, to carry out - a wholesale evacuation. Nebraska - hit the hardest - by floods all the way from the Dakotas to Kansas.

March 29, 1960

~~LOWELL THOMAS~~  
~~PANLING, N.Y.~~

CONVICT. At the Pentonville Prison, in England - the sternness of the law melted - at the thought of romance. A convict, Michael Moore - wanting to get married. The girl, Hazel Dumphey - willing to take him as her husband. The couple - to set up housekeeping, after the bridegroom had completed his prison term for burglary.

Blissful sentiment - which moved the hearts of the prison officials. Persuading them - to let Michael Moore go to a local church for the wedding. His best man? Two of them - two policemen. To guard the bridegroom - and at the same time to help him get married.

The ceremony - according to the familiar ritual. The couple - taking their vows. The two policemen - signing their names as witness. When the bridegroom suddenly shouted:

"See you later, darling." And away he went - on a

dash out of the church. Down the street, lost in the crowd.

The prison people say - it was just all a clever scheme. Marriage - as a way to freedom. Which, it usually is not; wouldn't you say, Dick?

Completing the baby clothes - she wrapped them in a neat package. To mail - to her friend, Mrs. Kelsey. And her fond feelings - got the better of her. Above the name and address on the package - she wrote something special. In large, enthusiastic letters - "To His Majesty the Baby."

Today, there came a reply - from Buckingham Palace. A courteous - "thank you" note. The noticed article for "His Majesty the Baby" - accepted for the Queen's new baby.

## BABY

Over in England, at Liverpool, Mrs. Annie Tedcastle worked hard for a couple of weeks - knitting. Her friend, Mrs. Mabel Kelsey, had a new grandson, a fine bouncing baby. So Mrs. Tedcastle knitted - a tiny sweater, a little cap and a pair of booties.

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