

L.T.-DELCO. MONDAY, April 23, 1956

(Given by Chas. Collingwood, while L.T.  
is on way to Nepal.)

GOOD EVENING:

Lowell Thomas is off on another of his trips to far places. And while he's away, I'll be filling in for him. Today he's in London, where they're a couple of other well known visitors, these from Moscow, Bulganin and Khrushchev. Khrushchev talked big today about hydrogen bombs and guided missiles; he had all the air of sounding off - but the West is not likely to dismiss his talk as vain boasting. It is only too well known that Soviet Russia is pressing the creation of an inter-continental missile with a hydrogen bomb warhead.

At Birmingham today, Bulganin and Khrushchev were guests at a reception given by British business and civic leaders and the Secretary of the Russian Communist Party astounded the audience with a blunt speech entirely unexpected. The translation of what he said will suggest the impression he made. "Great stress," he said, "is being laid on guided

missiles. We can compete there too. I am quite sure we will have very soon a guided missile with a hydrogen bomb warhead which could hit any point in the world." Now, Khrushchev, was laying it on a bit thick. He's not inclined to what the British call understatement.

Then he went on with another boast, saying - that the Russians have exploded a hydrogen bomb from an airplane, the first to do so. "The Americans," Khrushchev said, "have exploded a hydrogen bomb only on the ground." These declarations in England produced reverberations in Washington, where there were immediate Congressional discussions of the Khrushchev statement about a Soviet hydrogen bomb guided missile. Senator Symington of Missouri said, "If true, it is a significant and terrible warning to the American people and the free world." Republicans in Congress took a fling at Adlai Stevenson who last week said this country should halt hydrogen bomb experiments. Today Stevenson explained that the important thing about the Khrushchev declaration was not the

hydrogen bomb angle but the inter-continental missile part of it. "I didn't say anything about stopping the development of the missile," Stevenson declared.

Air Force Secretary Donald Quarles notes that Khrushchev spoke in generalities today when he said the Soviets would have the missile very soon. The question being, "how soon is that?" The Secretary thinks it will be at least five-to-ten years before either the Soviets or the United States perfects an inter-continental ballistics missile.

In his remarks today, Khrushchev drummed up suggestions for international trade, balancing his hydrogen bomb-guided missile talk on one side and business propositions on the other. The trade angle seems to be one of the main objectives of the Bulganin-Khrushchev trip to Britain. This was echoed in Moscow today where Pravda declared that the cause of disarmament might be aided if the West were to lift its trade embargo; freedom of trade between the free countries and the world of Communism. Saying that, Pravda added a significant line: "Such trade," the

Moscow paper suggested, "should be advantageous to Britain in view of the growing British trade deficit." In London, the report is that Bulganin and Khrushchev are offering glittering business propositions to tempt the British; payment in gold for shipments of strategic materials which are now banned by the anti-Communist embargo, quite a temptation, Messrs. Bulganin and Khrushchev going to London with a bag of gold in one hand and the hydrogen bomb inter-continental missile in the other.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T.

But now let's have a report from London. Lowell Thomas, as I said, is at that center of news tonight, stopping over during another of his long trips. Maybe he's noticed the ghost of Stalin following Bulganin and Khrushchev around after the way they've been down-grading the memory of the old Kremlin tyrant. Anyway, here's Lowell recorded by short-wave from London.

LOWELL THOMAS

L.T.: - Charlie, you are an Oxford man, are you not?

Well, over here they are still chuckling about the visit of B and K to Oxford and the way that surging crowd of some 4,000 students swept aside the police barriers and then kept chanting: "Poor Old Joe! Poor Old Joe!" No wonder they are laughing over here. Did you behave that way in Oxford, Charlie? The British way of playing down the visit of Bulganin and Khrushchev by calling them B and K - that was the first thing I noticed when I flew into London, just here for a brief stop on my way to the Middle East. "A ragging for B and K" - big headlines reading just that way. Pictures of Stalin everywhere: "Poor Old Joe!" I wonder what the Russians are saying to each other about this ragging? At any rate, it's obvious that so far B and K have made a good impression. To put it conservatively, as one should do here in London, they have not made a bad impression. As one London

editorial write put it, said he: "At least we can't help but agree with what they say!"

Some of today's papers on Page 1 are featuring delightful three and four column pictures of Niki, the three-month old Russian bear cub brought by B and K to Princess Anne. What smarter public relations stunt than that? What more appealing than a little bear cub? The caption under Niki's picture, on page 1 of Lord Beaverbrook's paper: "I'm friendly as a puppy!" That's the new official line, and want to keep it that way.

But, Charlie, what will Niki be like when Niki grows up and weighs six hundred pounds? At any rate, this is the first day of summer over here, the sun is shining as it shines in Florida and California, and at the moment the world seems like a marvelous place. And the British - all of us in fact - are hoping that B and K will keep it that way.

FOLLOW L.T.RECORDING

So do we all, Lowell. I see that Oxford hasn't changed very much since my day. When I was there the students loved nothing better than a lively rag, a certain exuberance in politics - and I'm glad to hear that they're still the same.

DULLES

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles today suggested an expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, along political, economic and cultural lines as well as military. "The time has come," said the Secretary, "to advance Nato from its initial phase into the totality of its meaning; an association, that is, which will be more than an armed bulwark against Communism." The statement was made in New York at an Associated Press luncheon, held in connection with the annual meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. And Paris reports that our West-European allies are keenly interested. They have been pressing already for an extension of Nato, into political, economic and cultural fields.

PALESTINE

Israel takes a suspicious view of the latest Russian offer to cooperate for peace in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Sharett criticizes the Soviet suggestion on the ground that it does not recognize that the Arab states are now superior in armament, thanks to the weapons they got from the Reds. He says the danger of war will persist as long as the Arabs have the advantage in armament. The Israeli Foreign Minister adds that the Russian statements, urging a settlement together with Dag Hammarskjold's peace mission, may create false illusions. He's apprehensive of the settlement that may freeze shipments of weapons to the Middle East, leaving the Arabs with superiority. Meanwhile, the Israelis accuse both Jordan and Syria of border attacks; Jordanians firing on an Israeli patrol, no casualties; the Syrians shooting at an Israeli fishing boat in the Sea of Galilee, again no casualties.

## YEMEN

The British agree to negotiate with the Yemen on the subject of territories in dispute. At the Protectorate of Aden, British Governor Sir Tom Hickenbotham says he accepts a proposal from Yemen to begin diplomatic talks. There, in southwest Arabia, as Lowell has told you, a boundary quarrel has been going on for years, the British protectorate holding sway over eighteen sultanates in a territory a hundred and twelve thousand square miles. The principality of Yemen claims that region and there have been border clashes from time to time. There was an attack by tribesmen of the Yemen on a British outpost and at Aden Governor Hickenbotham issued an ultimatum, but now the Yemen asks for talks on the whole subject of the sultanates and the British accept. The question is all the more to the point because the territories in dispute are believed rich in oil.

## SEGREGATION

Today the Supreme Court confirmed the overthrow of State laws for segregation on buses. In South Carolina a lower court had ruled the bus segregation law unconstitutional so the State carried the case to the high tribunal, which not only refuses to reverse the decision but criticizes the appeal, saying that it was wasting the time of the Supreme Court.

## RACE

At Long Beach, California, today, Coast Guard officials announced: "We presume all hands are safe," which seems to end the story of one of the most remarkable boat races in the history of navigation. Over the weekend eighty seafarers missing and forty boats, bringing about one of the greatest sea and air searches.

On Saturday, two hundred and nine small craft started out from Long Beach, California, in the annual race from the mainland of Santa Catalina Island, only twenty-one miles, and ordinarily one of the fairest voyages, that is, if the weather is right, but this weekend the weather was all wrong. A blanket of dense fog rolled in covering the Catalina Channel with a blinding mist. Result -- nearly all of the two hundred and nine small boats got lost. Some turned back to the mainland, groping through the fog, and boats came in along the shore all the way from Wilmington as far south as Newport; some kept on, trying to find Catalina; many missing the island, poking along blindly through the fog; some got in all right. Hollywood actors,

Roy Rogers and Si Breen, were missing for a time, but were able finally to get their bearings in the fog and to find Catalina, but scores of other boat racers were not so luck - lost in the fog, running out of fuel, drifting helplessly.

A fleet of Coast Guard boats put out, going to the rescue, taking boats in tow. The search on the sea was a headache. The Coast Guard craft had to creep along through the fog for fear of running down drifting boats. The air search was impossible until late yesterday when the fog lifted somewhat and two Coast Guard planes, two blimps, and a dozen private planes searched the sea for the missing boat racers.

Most of the rescued craft were towed along to Catalina Island, the Coast Guard reporting today that one hundred and forty-five of those small boats that started out in the race are now stranded on the island. The final act of this oceanic drama will be, of course, when they get gas and when all those boats are escorted in one huge armada back to the mainland, a springtime exodus, Henry!