

L.T.-OLDS. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1962

(L.T. on South Sea Islands, Antarctica, Asia,
Europe trip. Bc. given by Doug Edwards of CBS.)

GOOD EVENING:

Dick, this certainly comes under the heading of "good news." The Defense Department announced today that U.S. military forces, which were mobilized on the southeastern United States during the Cuban crisis, are being returned to their home stations. This word came from the Pentagon as dispatches from Havana told of the continued demobilization of Cuban militiamen who were called up at the height of the crisis.

At the same time, reliable sources at the United Nations in New York are quoted as saying that Russia has dropped its support for Cuban Premier Castro's five-point demand for settling the Cuban crisis, including U.S. withdrawal from the naval base at Guantanamo. However, Russia is said to be supporting Castro's proposal for U.N. inspection of offensive weapons bases both inside and outside Cuba.

MIKOYAN

The White House announced that Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan will meet with President Kennedy in Washington on Thursday afternoon to discuss the Cuban situation. It will be the President's first meeting with Mikoyan, who has just completed talks with Premier Castro in Havana. It was also officially announced today that the President and British Prime Minister Macmillan will meet at Nassau in the Bahamas on December Nineteenth and Twentieth for a review of cold war strategy.

Also today, President Kennedy held an hour-long conference at the White House with Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak and they issued a joint statement, saying their two governments are prepared to invoke "severe economic measures" unless the problem of Congo reunification is settled ~~upon~~ soon. Presumably, such measures would be taken against the secessionist Katanga government.

INTRO. TO L.T.

Tonight Lowell Thomas is in -- Polynesia, the paradise of the South Sea Islands. By the way, Lowell, have you learned to speak Polynesian yet?

HELLO EVERYBODY, AND IA ORA NA TO YOU, DOUG:

If a Tahitian girl were saying it to you, she most likely would be kissing you at the same time, more about that in a moment. I am in Papeete tonight, capital of what are sometimes called "the amorous islands", Tahiti, Moorea, and Boro Boro, the one that Mitchener calls the most beautiful island in the world, French Polynesia. Ever since the days of DeBougainville, first sea captain from France to find his way here, and that great British explorer, Captain James Cook -- and for a few years before them -- it was the dream of every mariner to visit these South Pacific isles of paradise. And no wonder. The women then, were considered among the most beautiful and voluptuous in the world, and they may be even more so today, because of the blending of the Polynesian and white races.

Marriage here is taken, Oh rather lightly according to our standards. But children are given much affection, and everybody seems happy, carefree, not in a rush: always ready for laughter and fun. Like many of you, after reading of the travels of Herman Melville, Pierre Loti, Robert Louis Stevenson and others, for long years I too had dreamed of

one day visiting Tahiti. Oh yes, I had criss-crossed this greatest of oceans many times; and visited its islands all the way from the Aleutians in the north to Australia far to the south. But, somehow, I had missed Tahiti. It was almost untouched by the war. The Japanese didn't get this far, and the French have always discouraged visitors. But whaling crews and Antarctic explorers have seldom failed to visit Tahiti. And since I am heading for the ultimate South, I thought I too should do the traditional thing, make Tahiti, its capital Papeete, a port of call.

To get back to the Tahitian greeting and kissing, an all-pervasive theme in these amorous isles - by the way I tried to get my wife to fly this far with me. But she said no, she preferred Palm Springs, San Francisco and Denver -- girls here used to touch noses with you, but no longer. Maybe several centuries of French influence have something to do with it. Now it includes both cheeks, but not as the French and the Russians a la Khrushchev do it. She touches her right cheek to your right cheek and at the same time blows a kiss past your ear. Then the same on the left. I was lucky enough to get the full treatment, plus explanation, from the most famous lady in the Polynesia of today, the Tahitian widow of James Norman Hall, author of "Mutiny on the Bounty." As most of you know, two survivors of the Lafayette Flying Corps of World War One, came here to get away from it all. Married Tahitian beauties, raised

families and wrote famous novels. Lala Hall, twenty-two years younger than her husband, has five grandchildren, and is a wonderful and sparkling woman. She gayly told me about her father and said he was known as "Lying Bill" Winchester, the Pinner", most famous South Sea Island trading schooner captain of his day.

Too bad Nordhoff and Hall, both of whom I knew, too bad they couldn't have lived to watch the recent remaking here of their masterpiece, "Mutiny on the Bounty", and all the excitement and hijinks that went with it. But they died in their prime. Although I have nothing to do with the motion picture that just opened in New York and elsewhere, if you'll come with me to a booth over at Quinns tomorrow night, I'll tell you some of the things I've heard. But, I won't attempt to describe Quinns. That's impossible. So long.

FOLLOW L.T.

So long, Lowell. We'd like to be with you -- in the romantic South Pacific. After all, what could be more romantic -- than the Amorous Isles?

AIRLINES MERGER

In Washington, a Civil Aeronautics Board examiner today recommended that the Board reject the proposed merger of Eastern and American airlines. The examiner -- Ralph Wiser -- said it would create a monopoly in seven major air transportation markets in the eastern half of the nation.

LIMA CRASH

Ninety-seven dead -- one of them a top level official of Castro's Cuba. A seven-oh-seven went down about forty-five miles from Lima, Peru. No survivors have been found. At least fourteen Americans were among those killed. A Brazilian Varig Airlines plane bound for Los Angeles. Apparently the plane hit one of the many peaks in the area.

LONDON ROBBERY

In London, a robbery -- British style. Two men - stockbroker types wearing bowler hats, striped pants, carrying umbrellas and suitcases, moved into London Airport, knocked out two guards and a pay clerk, and stole about one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars in wages. Actually, there were eight men in the gang - and they did the "knocking out" with iron bars. The bandits then raced away in cars driven by two more men.

Slipping away like thieves in the night - which they were.

But now - here's honest Richard Noel - with word about a fine product.

END

Well, Dick, we are victims of the elements.

Weather trouble in San Antonio, Texas, today when two transformers were blown out during a storm and the city-county hospital was left without electricity. Auxiliary power also failed, but emergency stop-gaps went into service -- and no real trouble developed.

Here in New York, other elements gave the city hospitals a bit of a hard time. Two thousand drivers who operate ambulances, police wagons and other city vehicles went on strike today. But policemen took over and officials say that complete service is being maintained. The Union wants an annual increase of two hundred forty dollars for each driver.

And that's it for tonight -- good night, and back tomorrow.