

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The signing of a new Russian -- North Vietnamese military and economic aid treaty -- set off another verbal donnybrook -- today between the world's two great Communist powers.

Red China with the first crack -- denouncing Soviet aid as too little, too late, and too bad. Russian material -- said to consist of old and damaged weapons -- "cleaned out from the warehouse" -- say the Chinese.

Russia in turn, accusing Red China of attempting to block Soviet aid to North Vietnam for its own devious motives thus forsaking -- "the principles of proletarian internationalism."

The Kremlin adding that China's simple denunciation of American "imperialism" -- is "not sufficient" to meet the situation. The need -- said Russia -- is for deeds, not words.

VIETNAM

There was a sudden flurry of violence today in Vietnam, in the face of that approaching -- Christmas truce.

U.S. Navy planes from the seventh fleet.-- completing the demolition of that major power plant near Haiphong, in the Communist North. While additional American planes ranged the length and breadth of Vietnam -- to blast additional Communist targets.

On the ground -- a series of attacks and counter-attacks. Coupled with the ambush of a company of Communist Viet Cong -- by government irregulars. Communist losses -- reported at more than three hundred dead. American and South Vietnamese losses called, "light."

GREETINGS

By way of Washington -- an unexpected Christmas greeting today -- for some two million young Americans; (a Christmas greeting -- from their good old Uncle Sam.)

The Defense Department announcing that draft registrants previously classified as one-Y may be subject to re-examination shortly; to see if maybe they are now eligible -- for military service.

One-Y reserved for those who fail by a comparatively narrow margin -- to pass the mental or physical test for induction into the Army.

POPE

The Pope's annual Christmas message is clearly addressed to the war in Vietnam. The Pontiff warning world leaders -- American and Communist alike -- that they are "on the wrong path again;" a path, said he -- that leads only to war and all-out destruction.

The Pope adding that he will continue to do everything possible to promote the cause of peace.

HOLY

A flood of pilgrims poured into the Holy Land today -- to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. The government of Jordan approving entry permits -- for five thousand pilgrims to celebrate Christmas at Bethlehem -- where the Christ child was born.

By the same token -- Archbishop Copello of the Old City of Jerusalem will cross from Jordan into Israel tomorrow, to celebrate midnight mass -- (at the new Basillica of the Annunciation;) at the site where the Angel Gabriel -- is said to have first appeared to the Virgin Mary.

This time with a new modern touch -- loudspeakers in the streets to relay the church service to the many unable to get inside.

ACCIDENT

A TRAGIC ACCIDENT TODAY NEAR MIDDLEBURG, SOUTH AFRICA -
PERHAPS THAT NATION'S WORST HIGHWAY ACCIDENT EVER. ABOUT A HUNDRED
YOUNG AFRICAN FARM WORKERS - CROWDED TOGETHER IN A HUGE TRUCK -
EN ROUTE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, WHEN THE TRUCK WENT OUT OF CONTROL -
ON A STEEP MOUNTAIN GRADE. FIRST ITS BRAKES FAILING - THEN ITS
TRANSMISSION.

THE TRUCK EVENTUALLY CRASHING INTO A STONE WALL - HALFWAY DOWN
THE GRADE, HURLING NATIVES - IN EVERY DIRECTION. THEN BOUNCING
BACK FROM THE ROADWAY - TO RUN OVER SOME OF ITS FORMER PASSENGERS -
BEFORE IT FINALLY PLUNGED INTO A RAVINE. CRUSHING THOSE - WHO
WERE STILL ABOARD.

THE TOLL - AT LEAST THIRTY-SIX DEAD, MORE THAN FORTY CRITICALLY
INJURED. OF THE DEAD - ALL BUT FOUR WERE TEENAGE GIRLS.

AUTOMATION

CONTENTS OF THE FIRST REPORT OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S
COMMISSION ON AUTOMATION - DISCLOSED TODAY IN WASHINGTON. THE
MAJOR RECOMMENDATION: THAT SEVERAL AGENCIES PROVIDE SO-CALLED
"PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT" - FOR WORKERS WHO ARE REPLACED BY
MACHINES. THE JOBLESS TO BE FUNNELED INTO ^{other} ~~THE~~ GOVERNMENT WORK
WHEREVER POSSIBLE - AT THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE, OR INTO JOBS
IN NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION: HIGHER SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS - OR
REVERSE INCOME TAX PAYMENTS, FOR HEADS OF FAMILIES - WHO ARE TOO
OLD OR TOO SICK TO WORK.

COMMUNICATIONS

ALSO IN WASHINGTON - THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
TODAY ORDERED A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION - OF THE RATES AND
OPERATIONS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST CORPORATION - ~~THE~~ AMERICAN ^{Tel & Tel,}
~~TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY.~~

AT&T ATTEMPTING TO HEAD OFF THE PROBE - ON THE GROUNDS THAT
IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH AND TAKE UP TOO MUCH TIME. THE FCC
ASSERTING, HOWEVER, THAT MOTHER BELL'S INTERSTATE RATE SYSTEM -
"KINKEX" GIVES RISE TO SUBSTANTIAL QUESTIONS - WHICH SHOULD BE
EXPLORED ON A PUBLIC RECORD."

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TRAVEL DID PICK UP LATER THAT SUMMER. AND THEN - THIS YEAR ON
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TO BE STILL BETTER. AND THAT BOOKEND FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER
OF LOSS ALREADY ARE WAY AHEAD OF WHAT THEY HAVE EVER DONE - AT
THIS SEASON.

HERE ABOUT ALBERT AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE GREATEST BARRIAGE
TO HIT NORTH AMERICA IN THE FORT TWO OR THREE HUNDRED YEARS. Dallas
MORE ON THAT IN MY NEXT.

ALASKA - SHARROCK

ALASKA, AS YOU HAVE OFTEN HEARD ME SAY, IS ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR, ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING, ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING PARTS OF THIS PLANET. WHEN I WAS HERE ^{soon} ~~RIGHT~~ AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE THAT SHOOK OUR 49TH STATE IN 1964, I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT MANY TOURISTS CANCELLED OUT EARLY THAT SUMMER. WHICH WAS A SURPRISE TO ME. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT VISITORS WOULD HAVE RUSHED NORTH TO SEE THE EFFECTS OF ONE OF NATURE'S MOST DRAMATIC SHOWS. INSTEAD - JUST THE OPPOSITE.

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BUT GEORGE SHARROCK OF PACIFIC NORTHERN AIRLINES, ONE OF ALASKA'S BEST-KNOWN BUSINESSMEN, HAS JUST BEEN TELLING ME THAT TRAVEL DID PICK UP LATER THAT SUMMER. AND THEN - THIS YEAR HE SAYS IT BROKE ALL RECORDS. HE ADDS THAT THIS COMING YEAR PROMISES TO BE STILL BETTER, AND THAT BOOKINGS FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1966 ALREADY ARE WAY AHEAD OF WHAT THEY HAVE EVER BEEN - AT THIS SEASON.

MORE ABOUT ALASKA AND THE AFTERMATH OF THE GREATEST EARTHQUAKE TO HIT NORTH AMERICA IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE HUNDRED YEARS. *Dallas,*
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MORE ON THAT IN MY NEXT.

INTELLIGENCE

From San Francisco -- a report today with the promise of new hope for mentally retarded children -- and older persons approaching senility.

A group of Chicago research people -- are said to be working with a mild stimulant called Magnesium Pemoline, which -- when injected into the nervous system of test animals -- causes them to learn faster and, gives them longer memories.

This apparently because the drug stimulates production of something called Ribo-Nucleic acid -- a substance found to increase in the brain cells of all animals -- including humans -- moreover first experiments with people are now under way. I could use some of that Ribo-Nucleic! And now, from KFOD; Alaska, Solong until tomorrow.