

BETHESDA

Fri, Dec. 24 - '71,

For President Nixon - a pre-Christmas gift today, in the form of a clean bill of health - from his doctor. This ~~following~~ following his annual medical checkup - a three hour physical at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

The President later telling news men that not only is he in good shape - but the whole country "is in better health this year than it was last year." The President going on to say: "The economy is healthier - the chances of peace in the world are better - ~~the~~ the nation is in a better frame of mind." Adding, in ~~the~~ short: "The Christmas spirit is better this year than last."

~~On another front,~~ <sup>went on to</sup> The President ~~praising~~ <sup>praising</sup> ~~former~~ comedian Bob Hope for his attempts to gain the release of American prisoners of war. Calling <sup>the Hope effort</sup> ~~the effort~~ deeply appreciated." But the "most

discouraging aspect" of all this - said he <sup>is</sup> that of  
trying "to get a nation to abide by the very basic  
rules of international law;" when said nation - is  
itself "governed by international outlaws."

VIETNAM follow Bethesda

Meanwhile, the guns of war were falling  
silent = at least, a good many of them. With both  
sides in Vietnam - presently observing a Christmas  
cease fire. But the fighting continues ~~without let up~~ -  
we are told, - in ~~both~~ Cambodia and Laos, Christmas  
or no, - ~~the war there goes on and on and on,~~

MESSAGE

<sup>In his</sup>  
~~President Nixon's~~ annual Christmas message  
to U S service men, ~~was~~ broadcast worldwide tonight  
via the armed forces radio network, <sup>Pres. Nixon said:-</sup>  
~~said the President:-~~

"In the long journey toward peace - the men and women  
in ~~under~~ uniform have kept the vigil; recognizing "that  
peace without freedom is not acceptable - and that  
freedom/~~without~~ strength is not possible."

Then <sup>he</sup> ~~President~~ <sup>ed:-</sup> ~~adding:-~~ "It is because of  
your devotion, your courage, your sacrifices-  
that we ~~now~~ now come to this season of light with  
the firm belief that the light will not fade again;  
and that there may be at last - peace on earth  
good will toward men, for our time and for all  
time."

# ATLANTA

This next - from the National Center for

Disease Control at Atlanta, <sup>comes</sup> a report <sup>that the flu bug is</sup> ~~undoubtedly~~ <sup>at the moment</sup> ~~currently~~ making life miserable, -- for an estimated <sup>The states</sup> thirty million Americans. Hardest hit, ~~states - including~~ Connecticut, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey and Utah.

Also, coming on strong, ~~we are told -~~ Colorado,

Idaho, Indiana, ~~Illinois~~ Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts

Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, and

Wyoming. With the result that school absenteeism <sup>this week</sup>

<sup>The same is true with</sup> ~~is~~ running as high as thirty percent; ~~and~~ many plants -

factories and offices. - ~~not much better.~~



TEL AVIV

~~In~~ <sup>story today</sup> A Tel Aviv newspaper ~~a story today~~

discusses <sup>20</sup> ~~the~~ Madame Golda Meir's recent parley with President Nixon. The Lady Premier supposedly pledging to make a "positive new proposal" -- on reopening the Suez Canal; as a first step, ~~hope~~ hopefully - toward a final peace agreement with Egypt.

<sup>Indeed</sup> <sup>Golda</sup> ~~And now~~ Madame Meir suggests <sup>5</sup> ~~that~~ that this

may, indeed, be the ~~xx~~ case. The Lady Premier telling newsmen - she is awaiting clarification from Washington

on the terms of a possible "interim agreement." <sup>The</sup> ~~Strong~~ <sup>Feminine</sup> ~~Jerusalem~~ <sup>premier</sup> ~~Madame Meir~~ adding that Israel <sup>4</sup> is more than willing

to make major changes in its ~~own~~ peace policy, <sup>provided</sup> ~~but~~

<sup>only says</sup> ~~only~~ ~~she~~ she <sup>that</sup> ~~as~~ Israel is not required

to make any prior commitments.

# LONDONDERRY

From the outlawed Irish Republican Army comes

~~self-styled~~<sup>Q</sup> Christmas message; made public today by the

<sup>IRA</sup> at Londonderry. The I R A extending, quote "its

utter, sincere good wishes - for the happiest Christmas

possible, in prevailing circumstances." But the

message <sup>goes on to say</sup> ~~saying~~ that residents of Northern Ireland -

"must be prepared to suffer inconvenience, trouble

and nerve strain - perhaps even death."

At the ~~same~~ hands of whom? "At the

hands of British ~~soldiers~~ soldiers" - <sup>So</sup> says the <sup>cheerful</sup> ~~IRA~~ I R A -  
X'mas message.

## **TOKYO FOLLOW LONDONDERRY**

**From Tokyo we have a story about a giant package containing - a Christmas tree. It was placed near a police precinct station. When the precinct commander and one of his aides - attempted to check out the unusual Christmas package suddenly - it exploded. The commander - losing a leg. His aide and ten passers-by - also injured.**

**Officials are blaming the explosion on radical students - who have publicly branded the police as "people of the enemy". These they believe are the same students who last week sent a bomb - disguised as a gift, to the home of Tokyo's police chief where it exploded killing one member of the Chief's family, injuring another.**



## NELLIE BLY

I've been doing a good deal of flying recently, with more time than usual to read magazines, in airports and on planes. There's one article I hope you won't miss. Remember Nellie Bly, the girl who in Eighteen-Eighty-Nine stood the world on its ear when she set a record for a dash around the world? Jules Verne had written his famous book, fiction, **AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS**. Nellie Bly went Jules Verne one better. She did it in seventy-two days. But "Nellie Bly" wasn't her real name. This exciting story is in the current issue of the Reader's Digest. You may be as amazed - I know - I was I was - at some of the other things Nellie Bly did. So famous did she become that songs were written about her; flowers, trains, race horses were named for her, and in one state they even wanted to run her for governor. Warren - the piece ends with these lines:

"I wonder when they'll send a girl  
To travel around the sky,  
Read the answers in the stars -  
They wait for Nellie Bly."

## **QUITO**

*At Quito - the lofty Capitol of Ecuador, high in the Andes, a big hassle this week that all started with a twenty thousand dollar pay-roll robbery at a local private school. The hold-up gang - described as a bunch of long haired hippy types.*

*This for Quito's mayor Oswaldo Fierro was the final straw. Mayor Oswaldo Fierro ordering a police round-up of all long hairs - both foreign and domestic. At last report, more than a thousand such, men and boys were hustled into Quito barber shops and shorn of their locks.*

*All of which has the hippies in Ecuador crying - "persecution". But they say the Quito barbers are happy. With his cash register bulging said - one barber: "Gracias Hombres, this is a good Christmas." And here's hoping it will be a merry Christmas for all of you - and so long until tomorrow.*