

Good evening everybody.

The government of Cambodia today granted political asylum - to those two Americans who hijacked the freighter Columbia Eagle. The U.S. State Department was also ~~now~~ informed that Cambodia was taking over the ship itself - complete with its cargo of bombs which were originally destined for Thailand.

For what it's worth, the two hijackers were earlier described by fellow seamen - as a couple of "pill-popping marijuana blowing" hippies - who were always "talking about how they were anti-Vietnam."

PHNOM PENH

A related item - from Phnom Penh; where the government of Cambodia opened talks today - with Viet Cong and North Vietnamese diplomats. Subject: The presence of Communist troops - in this "neutral" nation. The Cambodians reportedly telling the Communists bluntly - they must go. A demand that was underscored by renewed ^{demonstrations} anti-Communist ~~rioting~~ today in Phnom Penh - even as the meeting was taking place.

SENATE

In Washington - a text of the recent testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee - by Secretary of State Rogers was made public for the first time today. On the subject of Laos - the Secretary said the U.S. has no plans at present for using ground forces in that jungle kingdom - even "if it is overrun" by Communist forces.

AGNEW FOLLOW SENATE

At the same time, the Administration made it plain today - it has no intention of stopping U.S. bombing runs against Communist troops operating in Laos. Vice President Spiro Agnew asserting that such a move - would be "to prostrate ourselves on the altar of sacrifice to satisfy Administration critics; whose ~~op~~inions" - ~~he~~ ^{Agnew} added - "seem to concur with the opinions of the enemy."

VIETNAM

In Vietnam - a U.S. Navy reconnaissance plane crashed and burned today - at Da Nang air base. Casualties including twenty-two dead, eleven injured - in one of worst non-combat air disasters of the war. U.S. headquarters also reported the loss of three American planes - in air operations over Laos.

On the political front - South Vietnam's National Assembly approved today a sweeping land reform bill. One that's aimed at giving to ^{Vietnamese} peasants - the tenant farms which they have always tilled in the past for someone else.

**(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"WEDDING")**

7p
Next up - Lowell Thomas; telling tonight of Nepal's
"wedding of the century" - up near the "roof of the world."
Lowell...

WEDDING - II

Good evening, everybody.

There is no point in attempting to describe the wedding ceremonies in two minutes, or even days. Everything was done according to Hindu Vedic traditions that originated thousands of years ago.

There were three major processions. One when the Crown Prince of Nepal rode a tall, painted and richly caparison^{ed} elephant. Birendra up there alone in a golden howdah, proceeded by several hundreds of palace attendants carrying trays filled with cakes and other sweets and other gifts - the prince preceded and followed by marching soldiers firing volley after volley with their rifles, bands in leopard skins, cavalry, clowns, hundreds of government officials, and a stream of white cars for members of parliament, governors, mayors and so on.

There destination was Singha Durbar Palace, with its Twelve-hundred rooms once occupied by a Rana prime minister who had some hundreds of wives. Here the Crown

Princess and her Rana parents were waiting, waiting for Birendra to propose.

The following day there was a parade from Singha Durbar Palace to King Mahendra's new royal palace. This time the Crown Princess and her hundreds of attendants brought presents to the Prince, to say "yes," she would marry him. Of course, all this had been agreed upon long before. They had been friends and agreed to do this many years before.

Still another day, another parade. This time they spent an entire night going through the ancient wedding ritual. One-half million watched this parade and that's quite a crowd for a country with only ten million inhabitants.

These parades were not quite so colorful and dramatic as the coronation ceremony fourteen years ago. Then the king had brought in three-hundred elephants, all in gorgeous trapping with many of us riding in silver and golden howdahs. I wonder if we are seeing the end of the elephant era, with the gasoline buggy taking over everywhere? I hope not!

**(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
"WEDDING")**

Thank you, Lowell. Back to the news...

SAADA

A seven-year civil war in Yemen - which was supposedly ended seven months ago - back in the news today. Diplomatic sources reporting a resurgence of Royalist forces - once thought to be thoroughly defeated. Indeed, the Royalists are said to have just recaptured - the Northern city of Saada. The same city they lost to Republican forces last summer - & what was then considered the climatic battle of the entire war.

WHITE HOUSE

Here at home - President Nixon conferred today with Secretary of State William Rogers. The White House later indicating a decision had been made - on whether to sell additional U.S. jets to Israel. Rogers himself expectdd to disclose that decision - at a press conference later this week. But what it will be - we can only wait and see.

POPULATION

The White House again - President Nixon today signed into law - a bill establishing a commission to study the so-called "population explosion." The President appointing as its first chairman - John D. Rockefeller the Third, a pioneer in the field.

JEMEZ

50.25
Hwy 162

Jemez, New Mexico - the U.S. Forest Service today declared war on a number of hippie communities - which are currently populating the Santa Fe National Forest. The government establishing what it called "hippie patrols" - in an effort to stop the hippies from wandering around in the nude - or engaging in, quote, "mystic activities." Both of which - are said to offend more normal campers.

District Ranger Fred Swetnam explaining: "We're not challenging the hippies' activities - except when they infringe on the rights of others." And at that point - he added: "We're immediately forced to defend the establishment."

51.00

LONDON

A new translation of the Bible - billed by many as the best yet - was published for the first time today in London. The "New English Bible", as it's called - a product of more than twenty years' work by Anglican and Protestant scholars. Scheduled to replace the King James version - in British churches. And it's written - we are told - in an "idiomatic yet elegant English - which is much easier for modern readers to understand."

For example, the Twenty-Third Psalm now reads;

in part

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall want nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

And leads me beside the waters of peace;

He renews life within me.

*And for His Name's Sake guides me in the right
path.*

*Even though I walk through a valley dark as
death.*

I fear no evil, for Thou art with me,

Thy staff and Thy crook are my comfort.

*That - from the "New English Bible"; about which
doubtless we'll be hearing much more - in days to come.*

And now for Lowell - so long until I move