

L.T.-OLDS. TUESDAY, DEC. 19, 1961

(Given by Richard C. Hottelet,
CBS wrote script)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

President Kennedy, who flew to Washington from Palm Beach only this morning, is now flying back to Palm Beach. Returning to Florida to the bedside of his father, Joseph Patrick Kennedy, who suffered a stroke this afternoon on the golf course. The President's father, seventy-three years old, is reported in satisfactory condition at St. Mary's Hospital, and he will undergo surgery immediately.

A presidential news conference, that had been set for tomorrow, has been postponed. But government sources in London, after consultation with the White House, tonight announced that President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Macmillan will meet in Bermuda on Thursday and Friday as scheduled. This despite the illness of the President's father.

INDONESIA

The story from Indonesia tonight - one of wait and see. Indonesia has asked the United States to help mediate its dispute with the Netherlands over Dutch-Administered West New Guinea. That's the western half of the island which Indonesia calls West Irien and which Dutch officials recently named West Papua. That name stemming from the Papua tribesmen who inhabit the area - part of the world's second largest island. A threat to "liberate" the territory had been voiced by Indonesian President Sukarno. Sukarno - still trim and dynamic at the age of 60 - a spell-binding orator - a man who has told his people that when he dies, just write on his tomb "the tongue of the Indonesian people," rather than the President of Indonesia.

CONGO

Connecticut's Senator Thomas Dodd has renewed his criticism of the Kennedy administration's Congo policies. He speaks of "naked Aggression" by the UN in Katanga - wants a Senate inquiry into American support of that UN operation. Dodd - a member of the Senate foreign relations committee - expresses hope for the establishment of a just peace in the Congo - a reference to that meeting that began today between Tshombe of Katanga and Congolese premier Cyrille Adoula. The Congo's two chief political rivals - meeting at a UN military base near Leopoldville.

GOA

There's been some curious reaction to that Indian blitzkrieg in Goa - both Russia and Communist China today formally backing the Indian invasion of the three Portuguese enclaves on the Indian West coast. The invasion was fast, and decisive - India claiming complete victory and the end of 451 years of Portuguese rule on the Indian subcontinent.

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ALGERIA

The French Algerian dispute has produced another odd twist - something unorthodox in that bitter war that has seen many strange turn of events in seven years of fighting. The latest: an order to the troops from the French Commander-In-Chief in Algeria - instructions to French soldiers, sailors and airmen to "put out of action" any of their officers who revolt or support any revolt against the French government. A military spokesman in Paris confirms the report - which a French newspaper describes as without precedent in the history of the French army.

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CUBA

This Christmas in Castro's Cuba will be radically different. Says the Cuban radio station in Havana: "It is a happy and joyful Christmas that we celebrate this year with a new victory - the victory over illiteracy." Apparently all Cubans can now read and write. The Cuban people are urged to sing and dance and laugh - but also to keep in mind that warning over the Cuban radio. It told the people not to buy unnecessary things. When it is time to make purchases - the radio broadcast warned - give one more example of "your revolutionary conscience." We don't know what that means exactly.

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AIRLINE

From the Federal Aviation Agency - some disciplinary action. For one thing, it suspended the operating certificate of Imperial Airlines - a non-scheduled line - owner of the constellation that crashed last month at Richmond, Virginia, killing 74 army recruits and three crewmen. The airliner put out of business until it proves it is able to meet all federal standards.

The F.A.A. also imposed a fifty dollar fine on one of its very own - none other than Mejeeb Halaby, the FAA administrator. The penalty for careless operation of an aircraft. It seems Halaby - while preparing to take off from Washington's national airport - brushed wing tips with another plane. Said Halaby - a veteran of 28 years flying experience - I'm relieved it's over." Thinks his fine may be a good deterrent to others.

PLANE

Much more serious - the tragic news of that airplane accident at Seville, Spain. A light plane crashing into a crowd. The people assembled to welcome a truck convoy bringing clothing and food from Madrid for victims of a flood. The chartered plane - carrying newsmen - struck a high-tension pole - plunging into the crowd of hundreds. The toll: at least 30 dead, eight of the children. About 120 injured, many seriously.

ARMY

The American army has put together a pamphlet - called WHY ME? To be distributed to all National Guardsmen and reservists. The purpose: to explain their call to active duty and to offset widespread criticism and complaints. A preamble to the eleven page pamphlet outlines the doctrine behind the partial mobilization order. It says in part: "Increasingly hostile behavior by the Sino-Soviet bloc made it urgently necessary to build up our military forces." The pamphlet then gets down to questions and answers. Here's one. "Has the army been expanded just to meet the Berlin crisis? The answer. "No, although world attention has been centered on Berlin for months, there are other major trouble spots - and many more potential trouble spots." There are many more questions - and answers - but they seem to boil down to just this: The call-up, says the army, has demonstrated to Communist leaders that we are determined to fight, if necessary, to preserve the rights of free men.

ROYALTY

There's a story from London today of a christening. Not an ordinary affair and not an ordinary baby. He wore the white lace gown worn by Queen Victoria's children one hundred years ago, and Queen Elisabeth acted as one of five godparents. The infant - only thirty-six days old is Viscount Linley, the son of Princess Margaret and Anthony Armstrong-Jones. He was christened David Albert Charles - and it was duly reported he cried during the ceremony - a very good sign in Britain, where babies who remain silent during christenings are supposed to be destined to a future of unhappiness. Or so we're told.

As Lowell Thomas would say. So long until tomorrow.