

NOTE

L.I. - Olds, Thurs. Aug. 24 - '61,

~~The administration is laying it on the line~~

~~in its first~~ reaction to Khrushchev's latest note:- A White House statement, approved by the President - states ^{ing} flatly that the ^{Moscow} ~~Khrushchev~~ charges are "false," ^{the} ~~those absurd~~ charges about allied planes flying West German spies and saboteurs - into West Berlin.

What about the Khrushchev hint - that he might close the air corridors across East ~~Berlin~~ Germany? The White House statement calls this - a "scarcely veiled threat of aggression," adding that we would consider any air blockade of Berlin - "an aggressive act." That is - as a resort to ~~force~~ force, that we would promptly meet with force.

To sum up, in a few words. We are waiting to see how close Khrushchev will go - to a declaration of war. Which is what a Berlin blockade - would amount to.

Statements as strong as our own are coming out of - London and Paris. As a British ~~diplomat~~ diplomat puts it - "our

right to use the access routes is implicit in our right to be in Berlin." And a French diplomat sums up his country's attitude in these words - "let Mr. Khrushchev show us the document in which we agreed to let Moscow be the judge of our rights."

RIGHTS FOLLOW NOTE

As to that question of legal rights - our State Department has issued an answer to Nehru, ~~to~~ yesterday's assertion by the Indian Prime Minister - that the allies are in West Berlin by sufference of the Russians.

State Department spokesman Lincoln White points out that Nehru is refuted - by the evidence. Three documents signed by the allies and the Soviet Union - in Nineteen Forty-Four, Nineteen Forty-five, and Nineteen Forty-Nine. The last one specifically guarantees^{ing} - both allied access to West Berlin, and freedom of movement throughout the city.

Lincoln White adds - this comment:- The Russians respected those rights - over the years. So it's absurd for Khrushchev to deny their existence - more than a decade later.

KHRUSHCHEV

In the chancellories of the free world, experts on the Soviet Union are trying to figure out - why Khrushchev seems determined to have a major crisis. ^{One} ~~The best~~ guess is that he needs a show-piece -- to present at the forthcoming session of the Supreme Soviet, ~~in Moscow after all,~~ ^{The} boss of the Kremlin has suffered some ~~crushing~~ diplomatic defeats - in the Congo, at the U N and so on. ^{Also,} ~~at the same time,~~ he's under fire from Red China - and from Russian Stalinists as well. ~~Khrushchev~~, criticized for being - too soft, ~~peddling~~ his co-existence line - instead of cracking down with a mailed fist.

~~Look at it this way.~~ What can ^{he} ~~Khrushchev~~ do - to silence his opponents? ^{One way -} ~~Why~~ meet the Allies in the head-on collision - and force them to surrender. Possibly seize - all of Berlin. Which would be a glittering prize indeed - to throw on the table before the Supreme Soviet.

There is just one fly - in Nikita's ointment. The Allies are not going to back down. ^{say they are} They ~~are~~ not going to let

any Red Hitler - push them out of Berlin. The problem
- to make Khrushchev understand that it's that way.

about 10:00 AM - especially after - today's border incidents.

First, there was the bombardment by - an East
Berlin water cannon. The Reds, firing a stream across the
sealed border - at two American soldiers. Stopping, only when
the G I's picked up their tear gas grenades - for a counter-
attack.

The second incident - Red police, holding up three
buses at the barrier, making the occupants wait for over
an hour - before allowing them to proceed to East Berlin.

The third incident - involving a U.S. Army Sedan.
It was moving - in the opposite direction. A Captain and
his driver - returning from East Berlin, they were stopped
at the cross-over point - for fifteen minutes, not allowed
to proceed until their papers had been checked - and
double-checked.

These are sound like petty harassments, but --

BERLIN

As far
~~One sure thing about~~ the Berlin Crisis ~~- is that~~
~~it's getting worse.~~ The tension ~~- well, they say you can~~ *not improved*
~~almost feel it. Especially~~ after - today's border incidents.

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These ~~may~~ sound like petty harrassments, but —
they are not encouraging.

U N

Today's report by the Secretary General of the U N - makes one key point. Dag Hammarskjold, telling the smaller nations of the world that they have more to lose than anyone - if Khrushchev undermines the U N with his Troika proposal, ^{his} ~~the~~ demand that the office of Secretary General be abolished - in favor of a three man directorate. Which would involve - a built-in Soviet veto -- taking from the weaker powers - the U N support on which they new rely. Hammarskjold's advice to them - defend the present structure of the U N or save domination by one nation. Namely - Russia.

CHOLERA

Tonight Hong Kong is in - a dilemma. The British Crown Colony on the South China Sea depends on Red China for food - and wants to keep the border open. But, as we know - something besides trade has been coming out of Mao Tse-Tung's domain. That something - cholera. Many cases of the plague already under treatment in Hong Kong; with more - reported. Threatening - an epidemic. The obvious solution - close the border. But - how are the people of the Crown Colony to be fed?

At Hong Kong only travelers who have been innoculated are allowed to land or come ashore. Traders turned back - if they haven't the necessary papers.

SCHOOLS

The speaker of the House today introduced - the new administration bill for aid to the schools. Speaker ~~Sam~~ Rayburn, hoping to salvage part of the President's original ~~request~~ request - before Congress adjourns. Emphasizing - school construction and student loans. Chances of success? *Speaker Rayburn* Mr. ~~Sam~~ *Rayburn* refuses to ~~and~~ predict. Most of his colleagues seem to feel that the school issue - could go either way.

FIRE

Newfoundland's big forest fire ^{still not} ~~out~~ out - in spite of the rain. Last night's wet weather - not wet enough. Petering out this morning - with pockets of flame still lit. The sun, drying out the underbrush - allowing the inferno to blaze up again. Tonight it's raging along a twenty mile front - west of the Gander airport. The airport, apparently safe -- after a night of frantic digging. But Canada is rushing more fire-fighters to the island - to help put out one of the worst forest fires in Newfoundland history.

CRASH

That crash of a locomotive and a truck outside
Detroit - was caused by fog. ^{A train, on} The Wabash, Railroad ~~train~~
enroute from St. Louis to ^{Detroit -} ~~the Motor City~~ was doing seventy.
Visibility - fifty feet. Suddenly at ^a ~~one~~ crossing - a big
gasoline truck loomed out of the fog. Squarely - across
the track.

The engineer slammed on the brakes - but, ~~it~~ was too
late. The train, smashing into the truck - hurling it into
a ~~in~~ ditch. Flames erupted - with blazing gasoline deluging
the train from locomotive ^v ~~to~~ caboose. The toll - three dead.

MOON

To nobody's surprise, the first American voyage to the moon is scheduled to start at - Cape Canaveral. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, selecting our famous missile base - as the launching site. Deciding that South Florida is the ideal place - from the standpoint of weather, facilities, and so on. So, there's where the installation will be set up - for the next American space voyages, Dick - from Cape Canaveral - to the moon.

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LADIES

Tonight the U N salutes an American state; Wyoming. Why? The U N has just issued a report on women's rights - around the world; showing where and when the ladies got the vote, the right to hold office - and so on. The first place to give women the same political privileges as men? Wyoming, back in Eighteen Sixty Nine.

The first nation - New Zealand, in Eighteen Ninety Three; followed by Australia in Nineteen Two - and then most of the nations of the West; including the U.S.A. - in Nineteen Twenty.

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