

April 12, 1968
Dallas Townsend

Good evening everybody.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark tonight says FBI agents are working around the clock - pursuing every lead - in their search for the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King. The Attorney General adds - Physical evidence is very substantial. And while it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, Clark says he remains hopeful it will be soon. This is the Attorney General's first public statement on the case in five days. He says nothing further about killer.

ATLANTA

The name of Eric Starvo Galt - an unemployed merchant mariner - keeps popping up, in the FBI's investigation.

Galt's name first coming into view - as the owner of a white Mustang found abandoned in Atlanta. A car said to be similar to the getaway car - used by the assassin. The FBI office in Miami - yesterday issued a "locate and notify" order on Galt; only to withdraw the request a short time later - no explanation.

WHITE HOUSE

President Johnson's delayed meeting with South Korean President Chung Hee Park - now set for next Wednesday in Honolulu. Announcement today - from the White House.

Calling the planned get-together a "personal meeting - to discuss all matters of interest to the two countries." Such matters including first and foremost - of course - the pursuit of peace in Vietnam.

The White House later reporting that efforts are still in progress - to find a "mutually agreed upon" site for those pending U.S. and North Vietnamese talks. But as yet - noting new - said Presidential news Secretary George Christian.

PARIS

More on the same - from Paris. Where U.N. Secretary General U Thant conferred today - with Mai Van Bo - North Vietnam's top diplomat in the West. In an effort - apparently - to speed up negotiations on the Vietnam war.

When he emerged from the meeting nearly an hour-and-a half later - U Thant reported smiling broadly. He also characterized the parley - as "useful." But when asked whether the outlook for peace had improved any - U Thant replying simply: "I cannot say anything - for the moment." He got back to New York tonight - still not saying anything.

LUCI JOHNSON NUGENT

Luci Johnson Nugent - the President's daughter - says her husband Patrick Nugent was sent to Vietnam last night. Mrs. Nugent made the announcement when she arrived with her parents at their Texas ranch for Easter. She says her husband will be stationed at the Cam Ran Bay air base.

VIETNAM FOLLOW PARIS

Farther north - a brief, savage battle today; a battle they're calling - the Battle of Good Friday. With hundreds of Viet Cong - attempting to overrun a U.S. Army position about fifty miles northwest of Saigon. The attackers screaming as they charged: "We kill G.I.'s."

In the end though - just about the reverse. Superior American firepower - turning back the charge; the fleeing enemy leaving behind - a hundred-and-twenty-nine bodies. U.S. losses - set at sixteen.

FIRE FOLLOW VIETNAM

Perhaps even worse for the Communist cause - a series of raging fires tonight in the vast U Minh forest - at the southernmost tip of the Vietnamese land mass. This a virtually impenetrable Viet Cong sanctuary - for more than twenty years. Long the enemy's chief storage area - in the South. Once considered so safe, in fact - that it served as a haven for Communist troops on rest and recuperation.

Not any more though. The fires - numbering more than seventy in all. Destroying huge areas of the forest - and with them - Viet Cong base camps, ammunition dumps, oil tanks and so on. U. S. pilots calling the forest a flaming "inferno" - setting off explosion after explosion.

How the fires got started - still hard to say. However, chief suspects - listed as local fisherman. Loyal neither to the North nor to the South - but tired of being heavily taxed by the Viet Cong.

WEST BERLIN

Rioting in West Berlin. Thousands of leftist youths battling police today - along the Kurfuerstendamm - the city's main street; in the climax to a mass protest - over the attempted assassination of anti-American student leader Rudi Dutschke.

As for the shooting victim - commonly called "Red Rudi" - his condition took a surprising turn for the better today; following removal of a bullet - imbedded in his brain. He's still on the danger list - but conscious and coherent.

Dutschke's attacker - identified by police today as Josef Bachmann; a twenty-three^e year-old house painter - also, a Hitler-worshiper. Bachmann supposedly saying he was inspired to shoot Dutschke - after reading about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Bachmann's mother commenting: "He always was peculiar."

MOSCOW FOLLOW PRAGUE

The Kremlin was forced today to take first public note - of that continuing Czech upheaval. Warning Soviet citizens - against the dangers of "bourgeois democratization." Charging, what's more, there are actually a number of Czech Communists - who tried recently to throw out Communism entirely.

The Kremlin reporting, however - that cooler heads carried the day. Adding that Czechoslovakia's new leaders have already reaffirmed - "Loyal friendship with the Soviet Union."

PRAGUE

In Prague, Czechoslovakia - first public criticism of that country's new Communist reform government. With a leading Czech scientist charging - that so-called "democratization" is still largely a myth. Dr. Ivan Svitak asserting that newly-abolished press censorship - "can be re-introduced at any time." Adding that the "mechanism of dictatorship" - is still there.

Be that as it may - Dr. Svitak's remarks were carried by the official Czech News Agency. And he is still free - in contrast to many imprisoned for far less - elsewhere behind the Iron Curtain.

NORTH POLE

Latest report from the top of the world: Water, water everywhere - and not a speck of ice in sight. Endless miles of open sea - again halting forward progress of that second Plaisted Arctic Expedition; which is now - less than two hundred miles from its goal. The water refusing to freeze - even at temperatures of thirty-five below. Seriously threatening the group's attempt to become the first overland party to reach the North Pole - since Peary did it way back in Nineteen-Oh-Nine.

This according to radio reports back to base camp - at Ward Hunt Island in Canada's Northwest Territory. Leaders of the expedition - still insisting they will carry on. However, Arctic experts saying the group must reach the pole by early May - when the Spring thaw really begins to set in; or else they'll never make it there - and maybe not back either.

Warren, this seems to be a strange case of too much water, not enough ice.

SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY

Attention Senator Robert Kennedy. Just in case you're wondering what happened to your right shoe - Mrs. Phyllis Jenkins has it. Mrs. Jenkins is a twenty-seven-year-old mother of five, and she lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Senator Kennedy made a campaign appearance there yesterday. As he finished his speech and dashed for a waiting convertible admirers crowded in around him - some of them looking for souvenirs. The convertible began pulling away. Mrs. Jenkins ran after it, hoisted herself onto the back - and somehow got hold of the Senator's right shoe. It came off in her hand, still tied. As one bystander remarked later - "he couldn't have kept her from getting it unless he kicked her, and he obviously wasn't going to do that."

The shoe, by the way, is an eight and a half, with arch support.

Dallas Townsend saying - Good night.