

L.T. - FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1967. (Denver, Colo.) ✓

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Chairman Mao Tse-tung knuckles under. The news today -- from Hong Kong telling of major concessions to Army commanders -- in sensitive border areas of Red China.

Under the new rules -- Chairman Mao's so-called "cultural revolution" has apparently been called off. At least, in Tibet -- Sinkiang Province -- and Inner Mongolia. With military leaders in these areas -- reportedly winning the right to carry out their own reforms -- in their own time.

What's more -- the Army now said to hold all real power in remaining areas of Red China -- supposedly still under total Mao-ist control.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam -- pouring monsoon rains today; turning jungle -- into quagmire, and setting the stage for a series of clashes on the Northern Frontier.

First, enemy mortar attacks -- pounding American defenses on the fringes of the so-called de-militarized zone; followed by Viet Cong guerillas attempting to overrun American positions.

Details of the fighting -- still sketchy; except that enemy losses -- were running about four to one over American casualties. However, Communist ground fire downed seven U.S. helicopters that ^{were} flying low because of the heavy cloud cover.

Bad weather also blamed for a tragic airplane crash today -- on a mountain peak near Da Nang. The victims including eight prominent educators -- on a study tour of Vietnam. Among them -- two college presidents: James Albertson of Wisconsin -- and Harry Bangsberg of Minnesota.

LAKWOOD

The shore area of central New Jersey -- long a summertime retreat for vacationers and senior citizens. But in the winter - apparently a gangland burial ground; on the basis of a grim discovery -- reported today by the F.B.I.

Federal agents finding two bodies -- in a deserted swamp hole -- about five miles from Lakewood, New Jersey. The victims -- two men who disappeared mysteriously -- in the midst of a two-year investigation of the Costa Nostra in New York and New Jersey. Apparently "bumped off" -- by Costa Nostra "executive squads" -- says the F.B.I.

In the light of the following -- F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover ordering a "continuing" search of the entire area. In an attempt to find a number of other mobsters -- who also "disappeared" when they fell into disfavor -- with gang leaders.

BROOKLYN

The story of a senseless death -- comes today from Brooklyn. Raymond Mauro -- a twenty-one year old college student -- walking along the street; when he was stopped by four young toughs -- who asked him for a cigarette.

Mauro explaining he didn't have any -- didn't smoke. With that -- one of the four hoodlums plunged a knife into his chest. He was dead -- in a matter of minutes.

The boy's mother -- called to identify her son. Later saying that she could have understood it -- if he had "died in Vietnam for his country." "But to die for nothing -- for a cigarette -- it's monstrous" -- said she. And it truly is.

Worse still -- it's the second such death in the same area -- under the same circumstances -- in less than a month.

TASHKENT

The City of Tashkent in Soviet Central Asia -- struck today by another major earthquake. A tremor registered seven on the twelve-point Richter scale. The worst yet of some seven hundred tremors -- that have rattled Tashkent since that killer quake of last April.

First reports indicating no deaths as a direct result of this latest quake. But some thirty persons -- suffered heart attacks.

LANDS END

Just in time for Easter -- the storm-tossed super tanker Torrey Canyon is soon to get a new outfit; tailor-made to its present perch -- on a reef off Land's End, England.

British naval authorities disclosing that a plastic foam girdle -- will be cast around the stricken ship; to prevent the further loss of oil -- oozing into the sea. And so to protect British seaside resorts -- from eighty thousand more tons of oil still in the hold.

Meanwhile a Dutch salvage crew -- is pumping huge quantities of compressed air below deck, in hopes that the ship will rise from the reef -- like a giant bubble-- at high tide.

The odds -- against it. Past salvage men having saved only one of the many vessels trapped in that "ships' graveyard" over the past two hundred years.

EUREKA

From the Arctic village of Eureka -- on Canada's Ellsmerre Island, way north of the Arctic Circle -- the beginning today of a perilous journey. Eight Canadians and Americans setting out on a daring over-the-ice expedition -- hoping all the way to the North Pole. The first such venture in fifty-eight years. The first, in fact, since Admiral Perry covered the same route by dog sled -- way back in Nineteen Nine.

It's called The Plaisted Polar Expedition; headed by Ralph Plaisted of White Bear Lake, Minnesota. The group -- expecting to cover eight hundred miles to the Pole in about three weeks. Using ten motorized snowmobiles -- capable of speeds up to thirty-five miles an hour. Each of the snow buggies -- rigid, with special flotation equipment in case they go thru thin ice -- or if they have to cross open stretches of water.

Both the United States and Canadian governments are cooperating with the expedition. Which will serve --

among other things as quite a test of the latest in these oversnow machines, and other equipment. Also a test for the men. Planes have been flying to the Pole for years.

Submarines have made it under the ice. Now an attempt to do it in these small snowmobiles.

Incidentally, CBS cameraman Robert Klemenn -- is one of the members of the party. With Charles Kubalt of CBS News -- scheduled to check them from time to time by plane; to keep us informed of how they are doing.

JAKARTA

According to his critics -- Sukarno of Indonesia was sick and old and tired, when the National Congress ousted him from the presidency -- early this month. The story further bolstered -- by later news of his divorce from one of his four wives, the lovely Haryati immediately announcing she'll write a book -- telling of Sukarno's torrid past in the field of romance.

He may be old -- but is he tired? Friends of the ex-President were reporting today that he has just taken another bride. The sixty-five year old Sukarno -- and twenty-two year old Yurike Sanger. The marriage reportedly taking place shortly after the birth of a child to another of his wives; a couple of weeks ago -- in Tokyo.

Sukarno -- stripped of his public title; "President for life" -- "The Great Benefactor" - and so on. But still holding on to the one title -- by which he was known to friend and foe alike ; that of Sukarno -- "the ladies Man."

ETHEL

It's a boy -- again -- for Senator and Mrs. Robert Kennedy. Vivacious Ethel Kennedy giving birth today in Washington -- to her tenth child and seventh son. The newest Kennedy weighing five pounds, four ounces -- both Mother and child doing fine.

SKI ITEM

After skiing down the mountain, I was heading for the old Hotel Jerome, where Damon Runyon once was a bellboy -- of course in the days of the Colorado silver boom. Three gentlemen stopped me. . . John Wendt, District Attorney; Orest Gerbaz, County Commissioner; and Clifford Darrow, District Judge. They all knew I had been coming to Aspen for as many many years, so we chatted about the old days, and County Commissioner Orest Gerbaz remarked that on my first visit to Aspen, when it was still a ghost town, the total assets on the county tax books was about a million dollars. Now -- it has jumped to over twenty million. All because of skiing.

This great winter sport already has changed the economy of some nations abroad, and of hundreds of towns and villages from coast to coast in the USA and Canada. At Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the other day when U.S. Forestry Supervisor Bob Safron took us out where they were feeding

seven thousand elk, we drove along a road where there were a few trailers and a few non-descript buildings. He said until recently the road was called "Poverty Row." But land values have jumped so high, it has been renamed "Mink Avenue." If I had had a crystal ball only a few years ago, I could have bought much of the land in the Jackson Hole area for a few dollars an acre. Now it's selling for as high as fifteen and sixteen thousand an acre. All because of the ski boom.

You've heard of Vail, the new town in Colorado, built recently from scratch by one of the veterans of the Tenth Mountain Division, Pete Slibert, and his pals. I was there a few years ago when there was no Vail. You should see it today. Again, all because of skiing.

After a run down the big mountain at Alta, Utah, I stopped for refreshments at Jim Shane's place, the Gold Miners Daughter, where a skier introduced himself, Walter Neuron, who told me how he has created six ski resorts in

the State of Ohio, where there are no mountains. All of which will give you an idea of how this winter sport is adding tens of millions to the economy of many of our states. And nearly everywhere March is the best month of all. . . with lots of snow and long sunny days, and So Long Until Monday.

Chairman Mao's "cultural revolution" -- has failed to date to achieve its purpose to kill his opponents. Even now -- "conspiracies for staging counter-revolution" are still afoot -- said Peking.

A second broadcast tonight -- from Radio Moscow, called that "cultural revolution" -- "a complete failure." At least insofar as its stated goal to "bring the revolution and turn it to the benefit of the great masses." This evident, said Moscow -- in latest orders from Chairman Mao, placing greater emphasis on material production -- imposing fewer sanctions against his political opponents -- and putting a betch on those fanatical Red Guards.