

L.T.-OLDS. MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1962

(L.T. on South Sea Islands, Antarctica and Europe trip. Bc. given by Doug Edwards of CBS.)

GOOD EVENING :

President Kennedy today ordered an immediate review of the nation's foreign air program to determine whether it is contributing "materially" to the security of the United States. To make the study, the President appointed a top-level, non-governmental committee, headed by General Lucius Clay and other big names in finance, industry, labor and education.

White House sources said the President's action does not necessarily reflect dissatisfaction with the foreign aid program, but he was pictured as believing that a "new hard look" is appropriate at this time because of increasing Congressional criticism of the program.

The President took the action after returning to Washington from his Western tour, still feeling the effects of a slight cold. But nevertheless he put in a busy day of

engagements, including talks with Secretary of State Rusk and Defense Secretary McNamara, who leave tonight for Paris to attend a NATO meeting. McNamara will also talk with British officials in London concerning U.S. plans to drop its Skybolt missile program. The British are reported alarmed over this prospect because they had counted on the air-launched rocket as a nuclear power deterrent.

RUSK

Secretary of State Rusk held a news conference in advance of his departure for Paris and said the United States cannot tolerate the continued presence of several thousand Soviet troops in Cuba as a "normal situation." He also said this applies to any country in the Western Hemisphere.

INTRO. TO L.T.

As you know, our good friend, Lowell Thomas, is always at home, whether he's on the marble shores of the Taj Mahal, or high in the timeless towers of Tibet, or on the sunny beaches of Polynesia. Lowell -- just what sort of an environment are you in tonight?

NEW ZEALAND #2

MOUNT COOK

I am surrounded by snow and ice, tonight,  
Doug. Quite a contrast to Tahiti and other South  
Pacific tropic isles from which I have just come.  
Today I have been doing one of the things I enjoy most  
of all. Skiing on a glacier. From Auckland, by  
way of Wellington, I flew down the east coast of New  
Zealand for another four hundred and seventy-six miles  
to Christchurch, there a small plane picked me up and  
took me to one of the most spectacular regions on  
this planet. For a hundred miles or so we flew low  
over the rich flat farmlands of the Canterbury Plains  
where New Zealanders produce some of the world's  
finest wool - - there are forty million sheep on these  
two islands - - plunging through a cloud bank, we  
suddenly emerged in sparkling sunshine over what, down  
here they call "the Southern Alps".

Not wanting me to miss any of it, the pilot before landing me at the base of their highest mountain, took me for a look at the fiords of the west coast and for a quick view of some of New Zealand's unusual lakes, including Lake Whakatipu far down in a narrow gorge carved out by an ancient glacier. This is a lake that is different because its surface is one thousand feet above the sea level, and the bottom of it several hundred feet below sea level. The water an intense azure blue.

Also Lake Manapouri, one of the most beautiful in the world, which covers some sixty square miles and is surrounded by precipitous mountains that rise from four to five thousand feet abruptly from its shores. -- "Waters of the sorrowing heart", the Maoris call it -- Manapouri.

Finally to a gravel strip in a deep valley at the foot of Mount Cook, New Zealand's loftiest peak -

twelve thousand, three hundred and forty-nine feet. Around Mount Cook are more than one hundred other peaks that rise above seven thousand, twenty-seven of them to over ten thousand. This doesn't sound high, but, these mountains rise almost from Sea level, which makes them seem about as impressive as any mountains anywhere.

This is the region that produced the most famous of all living mountaineers, Sir Edmund Hillary, whom I saw at dinner in New York only a few days before taking off on this journey. When you look down on these New Zealand Alps you can understand why a mountaineer from here might be the one to conquer the highest of them all, Mount Everest.

Here I am in a region where the mountains are snow-capped all year round, with great glaciers flowing down the valleys.

Tomorrow, how about joining me for a flight

to the head of the most famous one, and for a long  
run down Tasman Glacier on skis.

So long.

FOLLOW L.T.

A few days ago, Lowell, you suggested a trip across the Pacific in a Polynesian war canoe -- and now you're talking about a long run down the Tasman glacier on skis. You sure have the world's most original ideas on how to "get away from it all."

INDIA

From New Delhi -- this word from Prime Minister Nehru:

The border war with Red China may last five more years -- and he rejects Peking's peace proposals, announcing that India is creating a new army and air force to meet the Chinese challenge. In a special broadcast to Indian soldiers Nehru said: "We want victory, and India will be victorious."

TO DICK ON MOUND CITY

At Mound City, South Dakota, the first Americans got going today. Sioux Indians from both the Dakotas got into the act, vowing to continue their war dances to aid Mound City against the great white father which, of course, is the federal government.

Residents of that town and farmers in the area have been engaged in a running battle with the U.S. Department of Agriculture over the movement of a county office to the larger community of Herried. The Indians - one hundred strong - arrived, pledging their assistance in keeping the office from being transferred -- chanting and dancing, praying for evil on the "great white father", and pointing out that the Indians, too, have had broken agreements with the federal government. So far -- no reaction from the government -- but it definitely has been tapped on the shoulder about the whole matter.

And Dick Noel, we're tapping you, right now.

STORE

A nice thing happened in New York yesterday.

A Bronx department store, Alexander's, opened its doors to give more than three hundred disabled and aged patients a chance to do their Christmas shopping in comparative peace and quiet of Sunday. Many of them, in wheelchairs or on crutches, arrived at the store in chartered buses and ambulances. For many, it was the first opportunity they have had to shop in the city since being hospitalized.

They were served by about one hundred fifty store employees and executives who gave up their day off -- the Christmas spirit at its best.

Good night -- I'll be back tomorrow.