

L.T.-BUICK, FISHER. THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1966

(Dallas Townsend substituting)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Red China charges that five American fighter planes intruded over Chinese territory today and shot down a Communist Chinese plane, with air to air missiles. Peking Radio -- heard in Tokyo -- says it happened over the city of Makwan in southern China, about twenty-five miles inside the Chinese frontier and about one hundred and seventy miles northwest of Hanoi, the capital of North Viet Nam.

Makwan is located on an important rail line into North Viet Nam. Peking calls the alleged intrusion and shooting down of the Chinese plane "an extremely grave incident -- a deliberate, systematic act of war provocation by the Johnson administration." Peking Radio going on to say -- "The incident took place at a time when the U.S. is sending massive reinforcements into South Viet Nam, and extending its bombing of North Viet Nam." The

Defense Department in Washington says it is checking the report.

Earlier, officials in Washington gave an implied warning that the North Viet Nam's three jet airfields may be bombed -- if American planes begin to suffer losses from Communist Mig fighter attacks. Two days ago, Migs were said to have fired air to air missiles at American planes over North Viet Nam, without hitting them.

## VIETNAM

A second straight day of massive American air strikes today against North Vietnam. One of the raids knocking out a Communist missile site -- only Ten miles from the city of Haiphong. The closest American planes have yet come -- to that vital Communist seaport.

Back at Saigon -- latest casualty figures for week; showing that American and Allied casualties in South Viet Nam -- were triple those suffered by the South Vietnamese last week.

## BUCHAREST

By way of London -- informed reports today of a severe rift -- in the East European Communist bloc; a situation said to be so serious -- that it has led to personal intervention by Soviet Communist Party Leader Leonid Brezhnev. In short -- the reason he flew to Bucharest early this week.

According to Kremlinologists -- the trouble stemming from East European demands -- for more independence from Moscow. Demands -- led by Romania; that have already forced transfer from Bucharest -- of a Red bloc summit meeting planned for this summer.

The so-called "independence" movement -- said to have reached a peak last weekend. When Romanian Communist Party Leader -- openly challenged Russian leadership of the Communist movement; calling for the first time -- for complete political and economic freedom from Moscow.

## HANOI FOLLOW BUCHAREST

Be that as it may -- a Communist call to arms today -- from both Romania and North Viet Nam. This in a joint communique from Hanoi -- scene of bilateral talks between officials of the two countries.

The communique -- addressed to large "anti-imperialist forces;" meaning -- apparently -- Russia and Red China; urging them to combine their might in an all-out Communist effort -- to repel alleged "American aggression in Viet Nam."

A combined effort -- the only solution -- said the statement; asserting that American aggression -- is "the direct cause of all the hotbeds and crises that exist in the world today."

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations -- a veiled response today from Secretary General U. Thant; to a recent charge by Senator Morse of Oregon -- that the U. N. chief executive has abdicated his ~~max~~ responsibility -- with regard to Viet Nam.

U Thant -- who had said earlier that the U.N. was powerless to promote peace in Viet Nam -- today going one step further; by asserting that even if the fighting were ended -- the U. N. could not undertake a peace-keeping role in Viet Nam.

This -- said U Thant -- because some of the biggest powers in the U. N. -- do not want it to assume such a role; including Russia, France -- and probably Britain. Another reason -- said he -- because <sup>ONE</sup> the principal antagonists -- ~~especially~~ Red China -- <sup>15</sup> ~~are~~ not <sup>9</sup> members of the U. N.

**SUGGESTED LEAD-IN FOR THOMAS TAPE:**

While Lowell Thomas is in Europe -- another special report tonight on the Middle East.

## TAPE--MONASTERY OF ST. GEORGE

As you know, Dallas -- I am always interested in the unusual -- the strange, and here is one. There is a little known almost secret Christian holy place -- in the Arab world. <sup>Today.</sup> It's the Monastery of St. George; a patchwork of buildings and ancient caves, high up in the cliffs of the mountainous Wadi Qelt, on the Jordan side of that line in Palestine. It's about halfway down from Jerusalem on the way to Jericho. But not the way modern travellers go to Jericho. When viewed from afar -- it has the appearance of a delicately carved piece of China; seemingly suspended in time and space. Today it's the home of only four Greek monks -- only four survivors of one of the oldest religious orders in the Middle East.

Here -- according to legend as told by The Arab World -- an angel visited the father of Mary -- foretelling the birth of Christ. Here a convent was built by the Romans-- later destroyed by the Persians. And later still, here the



TAPE--2

Greeks, the Crusaders, and the Arabs fought historic battles -- rebuilding and redestroying the convent countless times; until the Greek monks took over early in the Nineteenth century -- founding the present Monastery of St. George.

It's domes and belfries up there on that cliff painted a striking blue -- the monastery clearly visible from afar off its resting place high above the route of the Good Samaritan -- a route that leads to the biblical "Valley of Affliction." Yet so remote -- so inaccessible -- nowadays -- that it's virtually unknown even to lifelong residents of the Holy Land.

S.L.

## WEATHER

Violent weather -- still on the rampage today -- and no city got it worse than Chicago. Almost four inches of rain there in twenty-four hours -- the heaviest rainfall for any such period in May. Streets and underpasses were flooded -- and the result was colossal traffic jams.

And if you've been wondering whatever happened to Spring -- well, the chief of that extended forecasts division at the U.S. weather bureau explains that it got smothered in a Canadian cold air mass it was pushed southward by the planetary wave system.

Warren -- I trust that makes everything clear.

## TRADE

A sudden Congressional roadblock was thrown up today -- in the path of Administration plans for an expansion of trade with Iron Curtain countries. Chairman Wilbur Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee -- declaring: One -- that he will refuse to introduce the requested enabling legislation and two -- that if someone else does -- he will refuse to hold hearings on it.

Congressman Mills adding flatly -- "I want my position clear -- I'm not for it." At least -- said he -- not "at this time."