

December 25, 1970
Mike Wallace

VIOLENCE

Christmas Day - Nineteen-Hundred-Seventy - was not a day when "peace on earth and good will toward men" prevailed. In Vietnam, Communist forces were reported to have launched scores of attacks against allied positions, despite a three-day Christmas truce proclaimed by the Communists themselves. A truce which ended today. The pilot of an American plane is listed as missing after crashing in the Communist-held Plain of Jars in Laos - the eightieth U-S warplane reported lost in Laos since last March. Two other Americans were killed when their helicopter gunship was shot down north of Saigon.

In Berlin, East German tower guards opened fire on a refugee as he ran toward the Berlin Wall - obviously in an attempt to reach the West. He fell wounded on the Communist side of the wall, and was removed by ambulance.

A terrorist hand grenade exploded in Ramallah - ten miles north of Jerusalem - injuring three Israeli soldiers and

an Arab civilian. Also, Palestinian guerrillas attacked Jordanian troops near Amman - killing two and wounding two others - according to Jordanian spokesmen.

HIJACKERS

The Christmas Day violence came as thousands of Israelis staged a massive protest against the death sentences imposed on two Jews in the Leningrad hijacking trial. Israeli Premier Golda Meir appealed to the Kremlin to let the Jews in Russia to leave the country if they so desire. The condemned men have three days in which to appeal the verdict of the death before a firing squad. Nine others also received long prison terms in the alleged plot to hijack a Soviet plane in Leningrad - a plot which failed.

CONSUL

The West German consul Eugen Beihl - who was kidnapped some three weeks ago by Basque nationalists in Spain - arrived home in West Germany today after being set free by his captors. He quoted his kidnappers as threatening harm to Spanish officials if sixteen Basques, now on trial for murder and terrorism, receive harsh sentences.

CRIME

Lowell Thomas is on the move again - traveling the globe - and tonight he tells us the latest on a timely subject - how to prevent crime.

Tape Runs: 1:20
Outcue: So Long

CRIME

What with crime rates still soaring - this next is perhaps worthy of special note. Law enforcement officials in Washington - reporting there is a way that each of us can help to prevent crime; and that's by behaving in a manner - so as not to invite criminal attack.

Said contention based on a study - on behalf of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence; coming to the conclusion that a significant number of violent crimes - are precipitated by something the victim has done - or else failed to do.

In cases of robbery, for example, nearly eleven per cent - occurring among people who "clearly had not acted with reasonable self-protective behavior." In cases of aggravated assault - at least one in seven resulting from attacks where the eventual victim actually struck the first blow. In cases of criminal homicide - the same figure jumping to one in five. The study also citing numerous attacks

on women - where the victim was careless about doors or windows - or going out alone late at night.

The message, in short: A policeman can best protect him - who helps to protect himself.

So long...

SCIENCE

And tomorrow - when some of the world's most eminent scientists gather in Chicago - pollution will be high on the list of problems to be discussed. The occasion is the one-hundred-thirty-seventh meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The six-day meeting will first turn its attention to automobile pollution - then population growth as it affects the ecological crisis - and the effects of herbicides and defoliants on the environment. On the agenda too is an evaluation of the Apollo program which will examine the age of the moon, lunar seismology and the differences between the moon and earth. And NOT to be overlooked will be such subjects as extra-sensory perception - measurement of emotion, the precise measurement of emotions - and the response of female crickets to the male mating call.

STAR

In a story known the world over, Saint Matthew described how a bright and shining star guided the Three Wise Men to the Christ child in Bethlehem. "And behold the star which they had seen in the East, went before them until it came and stood over where the child was." But the Three Wise Men - who actually were three kings - would never recognize the Star of Bethlehem on this Christmas - even though it's still there, in a fragmented state, that is. Fragmented into the four planets we know as Jupiter, Saturn, Mars and Venus. Astronomers - quoted by National Geographic - say the Star of Bethlehem was actually an apparent coming-together of several planets so that they looked like a single star. Others say, however, that the Star was NOT a conjunction of planets - that instead it was a "supernova" - an exploding star whose maximum luminosity may reach one-hundred MILLION times that of the sun.