

L.T.-OLDS. FRIDAY, DEC. 22, 1961.

(Given by Richard W. Hottelet,
CBS wrote script)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The West will go ahead and prepare for nuclear tests in the atmosphere. This announcement from President Kennedy and British Prime Minister Macmillan - at the end of their two day meeting in Bermuda. A joint communique saying the West must prepare to test in the atmosphere - as a matter of "prudence" - in view of the "massive series of Soviet blasts" in the atmosphere.

The two leaders also announced that the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow - will contact the Russians about resuming exploratory talks on Berlin. The British Ambassador in Moscow - said Macmillan - will stand-by to "play whatever part might be found helpful in the talks with the Russians." The communique said that the West is still pledged to promote disarmament.

On the Congo - the American President and British Prime Minister agreed that talking - not fighting - is the best way to solve the conflict. An encouraging step in the right direction - said the two Western leaders - is the recent talk between Premier Adoula of the Central Congo government - and President Tshombe of secessionist Katanga Province. Such talks - said the communique - should be continued - and armed action avoided.

From the other side of the fence - Premier Adoula gives Tshombe five-days in which to prove his good faith - or else - face the use of force to change his mind. Adoula - apparently discouraged by the initial talk - says he won't meet Tshombe again at new negotiations. At United Nations headquarters in New York - Undersecretary Ralph Bunche says he expects Tshombe to live up to his words. But Bunche drew on history to voice pessimism. Said the Undersecretary: "international agreements have been violated ever since there was an international community. It could happen again."

CONGO

From the Congo tonight - word that talking may not be the full answer. The Katanga Cabinet says it can't ratify the document signed by Tshombe - to end the secession of the Province. The agreement was reached yesterday by Tshombe and Adoula - in their meeting at Kitona. Today it's a different story - the Cabinet declaring itself "incompetent" to authorize the agreement, says the Katanga Assembly will have to make the decision. From the other side of the fence - Premier Adoula gives Tshombe five-days in which to prove his good faith - or else - face the use of force to change his mind. Adoula - apparently discouraged by the initial talk - says he won't meet Tshombe again at new negotiations. At United Nations headquarters in New York - Undersecretary Ralph Bunche says he expects Tshombe to live up to his word. But Bunche drew on history to voice pessimism. Said the Undersecretary: "international agreements have been violated ever since there was an international community. It could happen again."

SOVIET FOLLOW CONGO

The Soviet Union today condemned the United States - for meddling in the affairs of the Congo - through Undersecretary Bunche. According to Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin - Bunche was told by the US government to take orders from Edmund Gullion, the US Ambassador in the Congo. Zorin didn't elaborate on the charge - and tonight Dr. Bunche coldly and completely denied it.

The United Nations was told today that opponents of Tshombe in Africa - are quickly massacred by Katanga soldiers. This report - still unconfirmed - says that Katanga gendarmes at the capital city of Elisabethville - have staged a series of house to house slaughters of African families hostile to President Tshombe. The killings - reported to have taken place yesterday - were described as indiscriminate. UN Swedish and Irish troops are busy - not fighting - but defending - battle-scarred houses around Elisabethville - which thousands of Baluba

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tribesmen have been looting. Until the massacre reports - a prospect of peace through Christmas - then possible trouble - once more in the Congo.

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SAFETY

Here in our own country - a surge to the highways - to the airways - by millions of homeward bound Americans - in celebration of Christmas. Railroads - buses, airlines report record crowds - the transportation companies pulling out the stops on the schedules to handle the crowds - expected until Tuesday morning - when most of the country will be back at work. A blustery snow storm has made travel hazardous in the Midwest - icy roads throughout much of the country contributing to dangerous conditions. One reason for increased crowds rushing home - furloughing servicemen - their numbers boosted this year by the Berlin crisis callup - adding to the crush of holiday motorists and travelers.

The National Safety Council issues its annual warning - to which many people each year pay no heed: Says the Council - five hundred persons are expected to die in traffic accidents during the three-day Christmas

weekend. Scores of others are expected to perish in fires. The Council says twenty-three thousand persons might suffer disabling injuries in mishaps that would erase the joy of Christmas. The culprits - says the Council - as if we didn't know - are too much speed and took much alcohol.

Glenn and his family - his wife Annie - and their two children Lyn and David - plan to attend services on Christmas Eve at the Little Falls Virginia Presbyterian Church. It's back to Ranger 6 at Cape Canaveral for Glenn - Monday night or Tuesday morning - the launch in which he will stay before boarding his capsule for his historic trip into space.

ASTRONAUT

One person to whom speed means nothing - at least the speed to which we Earthlings are used to - astronaut John Glenn - he's home with his family in Arlington Virginia celebrating Christmas there. The 40-year-old Marine Lt. Colonel - scheduled soon to be the first American to orbit the Earth - possibly the first month of the new year.

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CHRISTMAS

Joseph Barnes - in Philadelphia - is spending is anything but a merry Christmas. The 25-year-old former bank teller - is charged by the FBI with over three-hundred-seventy-thousand dollars from the First Pennsylvania Banking and Trust Company. The FBI says Barnes admits taking the cash over the past ten months - spending most of it gambling on horse races and on athletic events - not on Christmas presents. Their loved ones - not far away - just across the wall. This barrier erected by the Communists last August - physically splitting the city - politically divided since after World War Two.

EAST GERMANS

The East German Communists - to whom Christmas is just a name - don't believe other people should observe the holiday either. East German police calling Christmas trees put up on the free Western side of the line of the boundary - a cold-war provocation. "Christmas trees", says an East German official, "don't serve peace at all."

In the divided city - thousands of Berliners will spend Christmas away from their loved ones - not far away - just across the wall. This barrier erected by the Communists last August - physically splitting the city - politically divided since after World War Two.

CROSBY

Bing Crosby is out of the hospital - and will spend Christmas with his wife Catherine. The ageless crooner was rushed this morning to a hospital in San Francisco - with abdominal pains - was released a short while later after an examination.

The diagnosis - only a touch of flu.

As Lowell Thomas would say - So Long Until Monday.