

At the top of the news this evening - here at home, in Moscow, in Peking - the President's "Journey for Peace" finally begun today.

In a departure statement at the White House - President Nixon saying: "We, of course, are under no illusion - that twenty years of hostility are going to be swept away by one week of talks." But he added - in a quote from Chou En-Lai: "The American people are a great people - the Chinese people are a great people;" and "the fact that they are separated by a vast ocean and great differences in philosophy - should not prevent them from finding common ground."

The President went on to say that Red China and the United States - have had great differences in the past; and will - said he - have differences in the future. "But we must find a way" he continued - "to see that we can have differences without being enemies in war;" for thus the chances of our children - "to grow up in a world of peace -

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will be infinitely greater."

And then - a concluding note. The President saying: "If there is a postscript that might be written with regard to this trip - I hope it would be the words on the plaque which was left on the moon by our first astronauts. "We came in peace - for all mankind!"

Next stop - Hawaii; to be followed by Guam - Shanghai - and, Sunday night, Peking. The President's "Journey for Peace".

SAIGON-PARIS

In Vietnam - the war goes on; including today a series of U.S. air strikes - against enemy targets in the Communist North; another attempt - we are told - to preclude the possibility of a belated Tet offensive.

In Paris - a Communist demand today for resumption of peace talks - as of next Thursday; by which time, coincidentally - President Nixon will be nearing the end of his Peking visit. However, the U.S. and South Vietnam - refused to accede to the Communist demand. A Saigon spokesman saying: "When we have taken" our decision to resume - "we will inform the Communist side."

BRITAIN

It was a close vote in Britain's House of Commons but the government of Prime Minister Heath won - ratification of Britain's treaty with Common Market-- approved by a vote of three-hundred-nine to three-hundred-one - a narrow majority of only eight votes. And THAT - only after Heath warned that his government would resign - and force a general election free-for-all if it lost the ratification vote.

As it was - when the close vote was announced - some of the Labor party opposition members - shouted demands that Heath resign anyway. They were drowned out - by noisy cheers from the Tory side of the House.

TORONTO

The capture of one of the FBI's ten most wanted criminals - is reported today from Toronto, ~~at~~ in Canada. Karleton Armstrong - a prime suspect in that fatal bombing at the University of Wisconsin - back in Nineteen-Seventy. Captured by Royal Canadian Mounted Police - acting on a tip. Officials adding that Armstrong will face an extradition hearing - "within a day or two."

CAPITOL HILL

Labor Secretary James Hodgson - the main witness today before a House-Senate Joint Economic Committee; there noting that total U.S. employment - has increased by one-point-three million since just last July. Hodgson adding that this trend, "if continued - will soon begin to have an impact" in reducing unemployment.

At the same time - a meeting of the prestigious U.S. Business Council; which today expressed "strong concern" - at Administration attempts to stimulate the economy; charging that therein lies a possible return to "more rapid inflation - later this year and in Nineteen-Seventy-Three."

BELFAST

At Belfast in Northern Ireland - a rare display of unity today. Hundreds of Roman Catholics and Protestants alike - demanding a restoration of law and order in that strife-torn land. A spokesman for the demonstrators adding: "There are many people, Catholic and Protestant, who feel as we do - but they are afraid to express themselves because of intimidation."

CAIRO

In the Middle East - at Cairo - Egypt's

*President Sadat was given a solid vote of confidence today -
by that country's sole political party; and, therefore, no
need to resign, as promised - if his leadership were in
doubt.*

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "SOUTH SEAS"

**Next - Lowell Thomas; checking in tonight -
with another tale from the South Pacific. Lowell...**

SOUTH SEAS

L. I. Hope in a nut

When I opened my mail today I found a letter from Tahiti, an invitation to join an expedition. How I wish I could accept! I'm sure many of you would like to be included in this venture too. So, I'll tell you about it. One of my most successful books was "The Sea Devil", the story of Count Luckner, the jovial German who raided the seas in a most unusual way during World War One, with a sailing ship.

The Allies chased von Luckner for months, and finally, as you may recall, his Seeadler - Sea Eagle, went aground on a coral atoll in the South Seas. Later it slipped off the beach and sank.

Various divers have been down to try and salvage things from von Luckner's raider. They were not successful. But it looks as though their present expedition knows what it's doing, and undoubtedly will come back with parts of the Sea Devil's ship, his cannon, and whatever else is down there. The ^{leader} ~~leader~~ of the expedition is a Frenchman named

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Jean Claude Mathio. At the moment he and his party, with their yacht La Licorne are at Papeete, capital of Tahiti, in French Polynesia. He sent me pictures they have made of parts of the von Luckner raider down there on the ocean floor.

So, if you want to get in on an expedition you might drop a line to Jean Claude Mathio at Papeete, Tahiti.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW THOMAS TAPE "SOUTH SEAS"

For Captain Mathio and me, too - thank you,

Lowell.

A final note - in a moment.

MANAGUA

From Nashville, Tennessee - the country-music capital of the world - a new record today entitled: "Howard Hughes Is Alive and Well." And living in Nicaragua - it might be added tonight.

The famed billionaire recluse forsaking his hideaway in the Bahamas - as the result of an immigration hassle with local officials, we are told. Later passing through Miami - en route to Managua, Nicaragua; where a government spokesman said the purpose of his visit - is strictly business; adding that Hughes and Nicaragua's President Somoza - had been in contact for some time.

How long will Hughes remain there? Nobody is saying - Nicaraguan officials are delighted with all the attention they're receiving - one of them said - this will really put us on the map - this is as important as Nixon's trip to China - will maybe for Howard Hughes it is.

Now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow.

BLACKPOOL

*A grisly story - reported today from Blackpool ,
England; where a wild-eyed man burst into a hospital -
demanding sleeping pills; when he was turned down - forcing
his way into a children's ward. The man there stabbing
to death - three small children; also critically wounding a
fourth child - and slashing two nurses.*

TOKYO

For Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts - en route home from Bangladesh - a brief stop today at Tokyo.

Kennedy conferring with Japan's Prime Minister Sato - as well as opposition political leaders. The Senator later quoted as saying - the war in Vietnam will probably be over within a year. Kennedy also quoted as saying that America's hard-line policy toward North Korea - will not be changed in the near future.