

MOSCOW

L.T.-DELCO. THURSDAY, DEC.11, 1958

(Given by Allan Jackson, L.T. in Zanzibar)

Today's blast from Moscow has a menacing sound. The Soviets declaring - they'd consider it an "act of war", if the Western powers tried to break through to Berlin by force. However, this "act of war" talk should be taken in relation to the whole Moscow statement.

Issued by Tass, the official Soviet news agency, the pronouncement concerns the Moscow proposal made a couple of weeks ago. That West Berlin be made - a "free city". With Russia turning over to the East German Reds - its authority in the Soviet Zone.

The Western Allies and West Germany have rejected the "free city" scheme for West Berlin. They take the view, likewise, that the Soviets are obligated by treaty - to continue their control in East Germany, under the four-power occupation. So the Moscow declaration, today, is an answer to this Western attitude.

The statement attacks the Western powers for their firm refusal to negotiate on the basis of the "free city"

suggestion, and adds that the Soviets now can only go ahead and turn Russian control over to Communist East Germany. Which, of course, would put the East German Reds in command of the roads to Berlin. Roads - the Western powers have to use in getting to and from the city. To keep their communications open, they'd have to deal with East Germany - and the Western powers have been refusing to grant any such recognition to the puppet regime.

So that's the background for today's Moscow warning against any possible Western attempts to "break through" to West Berlin. Which the Soviets and their satellites would regard as an "act of war." — But Khrushchev says he doesn't really think "war" will result — for the Berlin crisis.

Last weekend, the report was - that the United States had been on the verge of sending American tanks to liberate a convoy of U.S. Army trucks. Which - had been detained by Communist East German guards.

This incident passed without any particular trouble, but it ~~may be considered in connection with today's Moscow warning.~~ It points up the question - what would happen if

Communist East Germany took over the control of the communication lines? Would the Western Allies merely ignore the German Reds? ~~or~~ might they use force - to get through?

Such conjectures appear to be the background for today's belligerent blast from Soviet Russia.

Meanwhile, the Russians, today - rejected an American demand. That they procure the release of a U.S. Army officer, held prisoner by the East German Reds. After he made an accidental forced landing - in a small plane. The Soviets reply that it is none of their concern. That the Americans - should negotiate with Communist East Germany for the return of the prisoner. All part of the pattern - of trying to make the West grant some sort of recognition to the puppet regime.

GENEVA

The news from Geneva - is mixed. In the negotiations for a ban on test atomic explosions, the Russians, today - showed some sign of yielding. The United States wants a proviso - that nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes shall be permitted. Which seems reasonable, because how could you have progress along the lines of "atoms for peace" without scientific tests? Today, Russian opposition seemed to be - weakening.

But in the other conference, the one on precautions against surprise attacks - the Russian delegate delivered his angriest harangue thus far. Charging - that Western proposals would increase the danger of surprise attack, and saying, that the principal purpose of the West is to learn the location of Russian ~~miss~~ missile bases.

This ties in with a dispatch from southern Asia, the border of Tibet. Where the word is that the Soviets are constructing a network of missile bases on the high Tibetan plateau. The advantages are obvious - at an altitude of fifteen thousand feet, ~~the~~ missiles there would be three miles high - when launched.

They say that, from the roof of the world, intercontinental rockets with a range of six thousand miles - would be able to strike almost anywhere. Except - America. We, as it happens, are a long way from Tibet.

GERMANY - TRIAL

West Germany is now staging an exciting trial - with angles of puzzling mystery, and noisy courtroom scenes. The legal proceedings grow out of the case of Dr. Otto John, former Security Chief of the West German government. Who disappeared behind the Iron Curtain, and then came back to West Germany. Where he was convicted of treason - and served a term in prison.

At the trial now being held in Karlsruhe, the defendant is a physician, Dr. Wohlgemuth - who accompanied Otto John on his trip into the Soviet Zone. The former Security Chief declares that Wohlgemuth drugged him, and then took him over to the Reds. On the witness stand Otto John, today, accused the physician to his face. Wohlgemuth retorting - that there was no drugging, that Otto John voluntarily defected and went over to the Communists.

There was an angry exchange - as each accused the other.

ITALY

In Italy, today, an earthquake shook the cities of Siena and Florence. Nothing disastrous - no casualties, and not much damage.

However, the point is - the tremblor, today, was the thirty-seventh in central Italy in the past week. All - minor shocks. But thirty-seven are a lot of earthquakes - in seven days.

Some deep disturbance in the rocks - far down below such classical cities as Florence and Siena.

INTRO. TO RECORDING

0) And now let's go winging away to some strange exotic places - as Lowell Thomas gives us another report on his distant journey.

(SCRIPT NEVER RECEIVED IN OFFICE)

(Recording 1:58)

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Over in London, an official answer to ~~the~~^a question concerning - royalty and beer. Is it proper for a brewery, advertising its foamy product, to use a picture of Her Majesty, the Queen?

The problem came up when a Canadian brewery distributed Christmas cards in England. Yuletide greetings - from the brewery. The Christmas cards showing - Queen Elizabeth the Second and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh. The royal couple - dancing together.

Some sedate Britishers were shocked by the combination of royalty and beer, and the question was taken - to Buckingham Palace. Which now - gives a ruling.

It's okay, says the palace - for a brewery to use pictures of Her Majesty and the Duke. But there must be no drinks the beer - or her sort of intimation that the Queen ~~drinks beer with her~~ husband either.

~~neither with~~

The implication is, I suppose, that the royal family might prefer - some other brand of beer.