

KENNEDY

Fri. Mar. 31 - '61,

President Kennedy is having his first vacation -
since inauguration day. ~~Of course~~ ^{Of course} there's still official
business to attend to. Like - the phone conversation
with Secretary of State Rusk, who reported on the Seato
conference. And ~~the~~ ^{the} Chief Executive signed some letters
- and other documents.

But basically, President Kennedy is ~~busy~~ relaxing
over the Easter Holiday. ^{his family plus} Concentrating on golf and
swimming - with a possibility of some touch football -
at his father's home in Palm Beach.

Mr. Kennedy doesn't seem disturbed by reports -
of a kidnapping threat aimed at his daughter. Secret
Service Agents believe that a Castro gang - intended to
seize three year old Caroline Kennedy. And - the First
Lady too. ~~So~~ ^H security regulations are being strengthened
- around the President's family.

ALGERIA

An official in Paris remarked today with a Gallic shrug "so near and yet so far." He was referring to the snag -in the Algerian peace talks. The ~~CONFERENCE~~ conference between France and the Moslem rebels - was supposed to begin next Friday. But today ~~at~~ the rebels - postponed it.

The official explanation in Tunis - is that Paris is trying to split the Moslem opposition. Negotiating with more than one rebel group. Ferhat Abbas, leader of the F L N, considers himself - the only legitimate spokesman for Moslem Algeria. He demands that the French accept him - as such. And he's holding up the peace talks - until he receives that acceptance from Paris.

There's no official indication that the assassination of the Mayor of Evian - had anything to do with the cancellation. Evian, is the French town - where

the conference is due to be held. Today, Mayor Louis Blanc was killed - by a time bomb. Suspected assassins - right-wing French settlers ■■ who don't want the Algerian peace proposed by DeGaulle.

FLOOD FOLLOW WEATHER

In Moscow, the newspapers have just published reports of ^{the} a disaster that happened - two weeks ago; ^{near} ~~the place~~ Kiev, in the Ukraine.

The disaster - a flood caused by the bursting of a dike on the Dnieper, ~~river~~. The flood ^{hurtling} ~~hurting~~ down ^{that} ~~river~~ - in a solid wall twelve feet high. An avalanche of mud and water - smashing into East Kiev; ~~carrying~~ carrying away part of a cliff - with houses on the summit. Demolishing homes - and public buildings. A factory and a streetcar round house - ~~simply~~ disappeared.

The toll - damage in the millions. A hundred forty-three injured. A hundred and ⁴⁵ ~~forty~~ - dead.

WEATHER

At this stage of the war
The Governor of Iowa has declared half of ~~the~~ *the Hawkeye*
state - a disaster zone. Governor Norman Erbe, referring
to the area ~~stricken~~ *especially* by floods. ~~Above all~~ the valley
of the Cedar River. Actually, the sites can't be pin-
pointed on the ~~map~~ map - because the Governor doesn't know
what the pattern of destruction will be in the next few days.
That's the reason for - the blanket declaration. *proclaiming* Half
of Iowa ^a - disaster zone.

Today was
The crest of the Cedar River - ~~is~~ seven feet
above flood stage. Close to the twenty-foot level - that
set a record back in Nineteen Twenty Nine. Tonight, the
river is beating against the levee of sandbags - while
thousands of workers keep watch around the clock. Five
thousand people have been evacuated - from their homes.
While the damage already caused by the Cedar - is estimated
at seventy million dollars.

49
-
Meanwhile, quite a few other states are being
battered - by the early spring weather. In Mississippi -

more floods. In Louisiana and Georgia - tornadoes. In
Kansas and Colorado - another ten inches of snow.

CIVIL WAR

New York will be represented in Charleston, South Carolina, when the centennial of the firing ~~of~~ on Fort Sumter is commemorated. The Empire State's Civil War commission had threatened to boycott the ceremonies - because of segregation in Charleston. President Kennedy entered the dispute - by asking the national Civil War Commission to act against ^{disc}discrimination on so historic _{an} an occasion. As a result, the site of the celebration is being switched - to the U.S. Naval Base at Charleston. The base - is integrated. So New York's Chairman announces - his group will be there. Historian Bruce catton, ~~pointing~~ pointing out that now the circumstances - in his words, "represent the deepest meaning of the Civil War."

ANTARCTIC

The Icebreaker "Glacier" has blazed a trail in Antarctic waters & that may not be matched for another hundred years. So says her skipper - Captain Philip Porter.

The American icebreaker has just arrived in Montevideo Harbor, Uruguay - after the deepest penetration ever, into the Bellinghausen Sea, down ~~there~~ near the South Pole. The "Glacier" and her sister ship, the "Staten Island" sailed where no ship ever sailed before. To do it, they had to cut a channel twenty-four miles wide - through ice twenty feet thick. And they made it, all the way - to the Antarctic continent.

Captain Porter told newsmen in Montevideo - that he set up a landmark where they touch^{ed} the continental shelf. Then he and his crew turned around - and made the return voyage out into the Antarctic Ocean. They had set a new record for South Polar exploration - by sailing clear across the Bellinghausen Sea, and back.

SHIP

Out in the waters of the East Indies, the American ship "Hope" - is full of flowers tonight. ~~No~~thing unusual about that - on Good Friday. The unusual thing- is the donor ~~xxx~~ of the flowers. The Mohammedan community on Flores Island--helping ~~to~~ celebrate the sacred christian holiday.

Flores - the East Indian Island devastated by earthquakes. The city of Endeh - demolished. Twenty thousand people - fleeing to the hills. The toll of dead and injured - not yet estimated. But it's ~~km~~ known to be - high.

Enter - the "Hope." Our mercy ship - anchoring offshore. Taking the injured aboard for medical treatment. More than thirty operations - have already been performed by the American doctors. Twelve major operations today.

~~Will~~ most of the people of Flores - are Mohammedans. But for once their faith in the prophet -

isn't preventing them from celebrating Good Friday.

Thanking the Christians from the West for helping them -

when they needed help in the worst way.

HOLY LAND

In Jerusalem - the ^{usual} historic pageantry of Good ~~Friday~~ Friday in the Holy Land. Five thousand pilgrims, following the path that Jesus took from the city to Calvary. From the place where Pontius Pilate ^washed his hands - to the tomb where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre now stands. — *the Via Dolorosa.*

The Pilgrims began in the Israeli sector - of Jerusalem. Crossing over into the Jordanian sector - through an opening in the barbed wire. Continuing along - the Fourteen Stations of the Cross. A procession - lasting two and a half hours.

The vigil at the church of the Holy Sepulchre - will be maintained until midnight tomorrow. Then bells will peal, candles will gleam, joyful psalms will be sung - and the celebration of Easter Sunday will begin.

And now Dick Noel,

CUBA

That shooting near Havana - was not intended to hit anyone. Scene - Cuba's Good Friday passion play. The performance was on - when a car roared past. Machine guns opened up - throwing the crowd into a panic. But the gunmen fired over their heads.

The five thousand Cubans watching the passion play - scrambled for safety. Some - ducking under their chairs. Others - ~~ran~~ running into the woods. The rest - lying flat - until the shooting stopped.

Shortly afterward, hundreds ~~of them~~ surged toward the stage - shouting "Cuba Si, Russia No" and - "away with Communism."

Were the gunmen Castroites - or counter-revolutionaries? No word on that.