

L.T. - GM - BROADCAST

December 29, 1954

(Charles Collingwood substituting)

C.C.: Good evening, everybody! In the French National Assembly tonight all is confusion. The crucial vote on German rearmament has not been taken and the Deputies have put off a test until tomorrow. The decision to postpone the vote of confidence came as the result of a horrendous Parliamentary tangle. One of the clauses in the German rearmament bill, on which Mendes-France had staked the life of his Government, had been originally proposed by a follower of General de Gaulle. At the very last moment, just before the voting was to begin tonight, the Gaullist Deputy withdrew his proposal. This was interpreted as so changing the bill to permit German rearmament that the whole thing would have to be re-submitted, but, under French Parliamentary rules, a matter of confidence as Mendes-France had made West German rearmament in the association of West Germany in the European defense

system, a matter of confidence has to lie over for twenty-four hours so the Government floor managers had no choice but to put off the test until tomorrow. As this latest delay in French ratification of the Paris accords occurred, one of Mendes-France's aides told CBS correspondent Blair Clark in Paris that things were not looking good for German rearmament. The debate had been hot and heavy and tempers won't be any sweeter tomorrow when, finally, perhaps, the climactic vote will be taken.

Prime Minister Mendes-France won a confidence vote, however, on German's admission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, according to the unofficial account, but this is only one of the two crucial matters which were before the Assembly tonight.

VOLCANO

Off the coast of Italy the volcano Stromboli is in violent eruption tonight, that famous fire-mountain hurling a tempest of smoke, rocks, and volcanic ash, pouring a great

stream of incandescent lava down to the sea. The molten stone moving from the peak of Stromboli at the rate of twelve miles an hour. This eruption of Stromboli is accompanied by heavy earthquakes, which are shaking the near-by Lipari Islands. On the Island of Salina every house has been wrecked. More than a thousand women, children, and old men have already been evacuated from the rocking Island.

WEATHER

In this country, a violent winter storm is moving out of the Middle West. The center of the blizzard was in southern Illinois at last reports, pushing on in a northeasterly direction. The tempest of wind and snow created havoc on its way across the west and southwest. In northern Texas, two hundred and fifty motorists trapped by huge snowdrifts; tanks of the National Guard out on the rescue job. Same story goes for Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Today, Fort Scott, Kansas, was marooned under a seventeen-inch fall of snow. A detachment of the National Guard was

called in to help clear the streets choked with huge drifts of snow. In the wake of the blizzard an abysmal cold wave, temperatures far below zero. At Gunnison, Colorado, thirty-eight below. On the southern fringe of the blizzard and epidemic of tornadoes. Near Huntsville, Alabama, on the verge of a tornado an Air Force flying boxcar crashed; nine lives lost. The Weather Bureau calls it the most vicious winter storm this year. Everywhere throughout the Middle West a nightmare of snow, sleet, ice, and violent winds.

SPAIN

There was a meeting of state near the border of Spain and Portugal today, Spanish Dictator Franco confabulating with Don Juan, Pretender to the Spanish throne; subject - the future of a youth who may become King of Spain. Under Franco, Spain is in an ambiguous position, a kingdom without a king. The word is that the Pretender, Don Juan, is acting in behalf of his 17-year-old son, Juan Carlos. Franco

agrees that this youth would assume the throne if a monarchy is restored. Back in 1948 there was a meeting of Pretender and dictator and an agreement was reached that Juan Carlos should study in Spain. He's been doing so ever since so now another conference - to decide on his future from now on.

It was held in a castle owned by a shipping magnate in a Spanish village near the Portuguese frontier. There's no news of what may have transpired, all kept secret, as Franco and Don Juan talked over plans for a possible reestablishment of monarchy in Spain.

INDONESIA

The Colombo powers have invited Red China to a thirty-nation conference of Asian and African countries. This was announced in Indonesia today where the Premiers of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, and Indonesia have been meeting. They're called the Colombo Powers because their first get-together, some little while ago, was at Colombo, the capital of Ceylon. At their present meeting they discussed

ways of easing the tension of east and west in Asia; one project - a big meeting in April of African as well as Asian powers and the question was should they include Red China. Today, at their final session, they gave the answer - yes. The Chinese Communists are invited, but not the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa. The Colombo Premiers say their selection has been made on a basis of inviting all countries, Asian and African, with independent governments but in some cases it's hard to understand the whys and wherefores. For example, Israel is not invited though the neighboring Arab countries are, also Turkey. Why should they include the ... exclude, rather, the Jewish State? It's not clear. North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam get invitations, those two divided sections of Indo-China; Communist in the north, anti-Communist in the south, but the countries left out include North and South Korea. Again the question is why.

MCCARTHY

Well, Senator McCarthy has asked for a seat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which might seem odd since the Democrats are taking control and Republican Senators are more likely to lose than to gain committee places. Presumably, the Wisconsin Senator would like to get on the committee dealing with foreign affairs to press his ideas on cutting off American aid to nations which ship goods to Communist China. Right now, Senator McCarthy is Chairman of the Government Operations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. He will lose both chairmanships when the Democrats take over, of course, after the first of the year but still will remain a member of both Committees. Today, he said he wants to retain his membership on the Government Operations Committee, which deals with questions of Communism, but is willing to leave the Appropriations Committee if he can get a place on the Foreign Relations group. It seems unlikely that he can.

A Republican Senator would have to step down to make place for McCarthy and that seems improbable. Today, the Senator from Wisconsin talked about the Eisenhower Administration again, but not in terms of all-out criticism, not quite. He said the President has done a substantially good job on foreign policy in Europe, but not in Asia. He calls our Asian policy a disastrous job. This declaration on international affairs appears to tie in with McCarthy's announcement that he would like to get on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

RAILROAD

There's a statement in Springfield, Massachusetts, that the New Haven Railroad may merge with the Boston and Maine. Patrick McGinness, President of the New Haven, indicates, however, that such a railroad merger would not come about for at least a couple of years. Railroad President McGinness discloses that a group of friends have been buying Boston and Maine stock, reported to have obtained

control of the railroad. The Boston and Maine has been having financial troubles, running in the red. Last year, the line took a loss of several million dollars. That's the background for the announcement of a possible merger, which, in fact, might be merely one angle of a huge operation. Today, the New Haven President suggested there might be a merger of thirty-seven eastern railroads, all east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio. They're all having financial trouble. McGinness pointed out that eastern railroads are now doing only about 90% of the business they did in 1941. Railroads in other parts of the country, like the west, have boosted their business by 26% in that same period. There's opposition however. Today, Governor Berter, of Massachusetts, announced an emergency

meeting of New England Governors in Boston, January 12, to discuss railroad problems.

Governor Herter says he'll oppose any attempt by one New England railroad to take over a nother New England railroad, which would seem to apply to the proposed merger of the New Haven and the Boston and Maine.

PEKING MAN

One of the curious puzzles of recent years came to a new turn today, which only made it more puzzling than ever. In the capital of Red China they put on an exhibition to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the discovery of the Peking Man. Back in 1929, American and Chinese anthropologists dug up fossils of an extremely primitive type of human being. Then the Japanese invasion of China and the fossils disappeared.

The Chinese Reds blamed it on the Americans. The Americans denied it, of course. Today, the announcement says that various fossils of Peking Man have been put on exhibition, but they're listed as nothing more than a few teeth and other minor fragments but no charge that the Peking Man had been stolen by the Americans.

WEDDING

There was a headline wedding in France today, two celebrities of stage and movies going to the alter, the ballerina Renee Jeanmaire and her dancing partner Roland Petit. Their engagement had been stormy. They had a series of quarrels - engagement off, engagement renewed. Once in a ballet based on "Carmen," Petit overdid the stabbing scene and inserted a bit of knife blade into Jeanmaire's delectable anatomy. Well, they wanted a quiet wedding and who can blame them

after so noisy a courtship? The ceremony today was at Petit's home town, a small place called St. Cyr - la - Riviere, but a huge crowd gathered. There were salvos of cheers, news photographers flashed their bulbs inside the church during the ceremony. Petit was annoyed by the rumpus which came to a thundering climax when villagers wheeled out an old cannon from a war memorial and fired a thundering salute of ten shots. It sounded like war, but it was only a marriage, or, is there a relation between the two? Anyway, for a quiet marriage, Jeannaire and Petit, Hugh, had a French version of bedlam.

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ANNOUNCER: Well, Charlie, I feel pretty poorly qualified to comment on that subject, but (commercial)