

L. T. OLDS, FISHER: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1963

(Richard C. Holtelet)

SOVIET

Russia jolted the world - and especially the United States - back to the realities of the Cold War today with harrassing tactics against American convoys along the highway to Berlin. One convoy - 61 soldiers and 18 vehicles - still blocked by Soviet troops and armor outside Berlin. For more than a year, Premier Khrushchev had been content to let the issues of Berlin and Germany simmer in comparative quiet. Those items have been discussed at various times - even as recently as yesterday, when President Kennedy received Foreign Minister Gromyko at the White House. Today there was a hurried White House conference - the President calling in his top diplomatic and military advisors to decide the next move from Washington. There had already been a strong protest to the Kremlin - our country calling the

autobahn incident "entirely unwarranted". With the recent successes in relieving East-West tensions and the Soviet's internal economic problems - it had seemed unlikely that another Russian challenge was in the wind. But Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer voiced an opinion tonight - said the Soviets were flexing their muscles to regain the prestige they lost in having to buy wheat from the United States - said the Chancellor - if you do business with the Soviets, collect payment in advance.

SPY TRADE

Two Americans return to these shores tomorrow - one of them having spent the last twenty-three years somewhere in Russia under arrest for espionage. Their homecoming was announced by Federal authorities in New York today - as they disclosed details of the latest spy trade deal with the Soviets. The man who was gone the longest is the Reverend Walter Cimzek, a catholic Priest, who was arrested in Russia in 1940. His traveling companion is Marvin Mahinen, a former Fulbright scholar who was arrested in Kiev in 1961. Their freedom is exchanged for the two accused Russian spies, Ivan Egorov and his wife Aleksandra. The Egorov's are flying back to Moscow tonight. The Americans are due to arrive in New York tomorrow.

INTRODUCTION TO TAPE

Now it's time for our nightly report from

Lowell Thomas.

ABORIGINES

GREETINGS DICK AND GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Some more rambling thoughts from a traveller.

In these days of high speed communications, this jet era when some people actually fly around the world at almost the speed of sound, it's still a terrific shock to me when I hear of human beings still living in the Stone Age. From time to time we read about primitive peoples of that sort. But somehow it is still difficult to believe that what we read is true. But, here's another expedition that has found another group of people in a remote part of Australia, people who had never before encountered a white man. I happen to be doubly interested in this expedition because the Australian aborigine who was the tracker for them, who led them to this Stone Age group - he was the head tracker for our expedition some years ago when a group of us went into the Central Australia desert to see if we could solve the Lassiter mystery.

find out what happened to an American gold seeker and explorer named Harold Bell Lassiter, who vanished in Central Australia.

We called our tracker Nose-Peg, for the obvious reason that he wore a peg through his nose. And he was fantastic. He could lead us across deserts, over mountains, in a straight line, with the same instinct that we think only birds possess, homing pigeons, and the Arctic Turn. And now Nose-Peg has done it again.

In the vast empty heart of Australia, four hundred and seventy miles from the nearest sign of civilization, a hundred and fifty miles west of the West Australian border, deep in the wild desert, he caught up with a nomad group entirely naked who had never even heard of Australia or the Australians; a people just the same as the aborigines were in the days of Dampier, and Captain Cook, and other navigators who were the first to visit Australia three centuries ago.

No implements except spears, digging sticks, woomeras, stone knives, and other articles made of wood and stone.

No clothing. And they live in a region where summer temperatures soar even above a hundred and fifty degrees farenheit, and where it's bitter bitter cold in winter.

Two of the nomad leaders named Anatjari and Jalyuri actually went into hysterics when the explorers suggested that they all go hunting. The aborigines knew, because they saw the food there, that the strange white visitors had plenty of food and for anyone to suggest a hunting party as long as there was any food around - huh - they dismissed that as complete madness and they wouldn't budge.

Actually, there are Stone Age groups of people living in many remote parts of this planet. And I wish I had the energy, and I wish I could live long enough to visit all of them. For they invariably turn out to be remarkable fascinating people.

Solong,

KURDS

The Kurdish people inhabit an area of the Middle East which sprawls across the borders of four countries - Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Soviet Armenia. There are some six million Kurds, and their great desire for the past two thousand years has been to become an autonomous nation. For this they have fought, most recently in Iraq. They have never been defeated, but have never won their independence. Today, perhaps, they decided to stop fighting. The leader of the Kurds in Iraq, Mustafa Al Barzani, reportedly surrendered his Kurdish rebels to the Iraqi government - and swore allegiance to the current regime. Baghdad Radio says Barzani agreed to become a ward of the government.

UNITED NATIONS

There was only one negative vote cast today as the United Nations General Assembly condemned South Africa for its racial policies. South Africa, of course, voted "no" to the Afro-Asian resolution - which also demanded the release of anyone held in that country's jails for opposing racial segregation. The Western Powers, which abstained in a preliminary vote yesterday, were led by the United States in supporting the resolution. South Africa's delegate was greeted with dead silence when he declared the Assembly was violating the U.N. charter by attempting to interfere with his country's judicial processes. Condemnation of South Africa has been voted many times before in the Assembly, but never by such a large vote - 106 to one.

OBITUARIES

One came up to international fame from the squalor of the back streets of Paris, the other was the son of a rich lawyer. Both found their inspiration in the fafs and people, and both were identified with Paris in their artistic triumphs. Today, both of them died - a few hours apart. Songstress Edith Piaf died from internal bleeding after long unhappy years of illness. Poet playwright Jean Cocteau succumbed from a relapse of a heart condition, brought on, say friends, by Piaf's death. Edith Piaf was known as the sparrow of the streets. Her husky voice put the little man's hope and love and longing into song. She appeared to have little in common with Jean Cocteau - a member of the cultural elite - the Academy of France, whose members are called the immortals. But they were close friends - right up to death. She 47 - he 74. Both immortal in their own way.