

MOSCOW

L.T.-DELCO. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 1958

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

The latest Russian suggestion - is getting little welcome in the capitals of the West. The new twist of Soviet propaganda - talking up the notion of an East-West conference on European security. Which would ignore - the question of German reunification.

Moscow takes advantage of a statement issued by the conference of Nato powers in Paris. And does a bit of misinterpreting. Twisting the statement - so as to make it mean what it doesn't mean at all. Pretending to read into it - an assumption that the Western powers will be willing to try for a settlement of cold war issues, without considering the problem of a divided Germany. Moscow saying, fine, okay. Da, da.

~~Much as if you say something, and I twist the meaning into supposing you want to give me ten dollars. So I say - euro, hand me the ten.~~

In Washington, today, the State Department ridiculed the new Russian twister, and pointed out that the Nato

declaration states clearly - that there can be no European settlement without the reunification of Germany.

CHRISTMAS - BERLIN

Tonight, there was a city aglow - with thousands of candles. Flickering lights - in the windows of houses along the streets. West Berlin - celebrating the Feast of the }
Nativity with an especial fervor.

Today, the West Berliners got a Christmas present that gave them - added hope and courage. A Yuletide message from the Western powers - that Britain, France and the United States will back the freedom of West Berlin against any sort of Communist pressure. A Christmastime guarantee - against Red aggression.

So that's what the candles, tonight, were hailing.

Householders - putting lighted tapers in the windows of their homes.

All the more symbolical - because behind the Iron Curtain, the Communist authorities do all they can to discourage the religious ^{observance} ~~observance~~ of the joyful Christian feast.

EGYPT

In Cairo, today, U.S. Ambassador Raymond Hare signed an agreement - for shipments of American wheat and flour to Egypt. Twenty-five million dollars' worth of foodstuffs - from our Mid-western farms.

The Land of the Nile has to import wheat - and had been getting it from Soviet Russia recently. Now - switching to the American product. An indication - of improving relations between this country and the United Arab Republic. ^{We're} patching things up, apparently - with Nasser.

Actually, this transaction is the second step recently, in that direction. Last week, the United States agreed to let Egypt have the use - of the largest dredge in the world. The Cairo government wants to enlarge the Suez Canal - to permit the passage of new giant oil tankers, and that huge American dredge will be a lot of help.

ATLAS

At Cape Canaveral, Florida, the shout is - three cheers for the "guidance" system." The control - that regulates the course of the Atlas missile. They tried it out again, last night - and it worked perfectly.

The new fangled guidance system was used first - when the four and a half ton satellite was put into orbit, last weekend - and it worked so well that the record-breaking man-made moon has been going around and around ever since.

Last night, the test was with an intercontinental missile - such as might carry a hydrogen bomb warhead. The rocket went soaring to a target area four thousand miles away, down the South Atlantic - the guidance system ^{sent} sending it just where it was supposed to go.

Meanwhile, that satellite Atlas is getting something of a Christmas vacation. It's been sending and receiving messages constantly, but the schedule will be reduced until next Monday. The scientists now believe the Atlas will stay in orbit until mid-February - longer than had been anticipated.

STRIKE

In the New York newspaper strike, negotiators had a meeting today, ^{and made some progress - but didn't reach a} ~~but didn't accomplish anything much.~~ ^{settlement} With a federal mediator presiding, representatives of the Union and the newspapers talked for three hours, and ended by scheduling another meeting for Friday morning.

The fifteen-day walkout of newspaper deliverers has, of course - passed the most important time of all. More than two weeks - of the Christmas shopping season. So the major part of the damage has already been done.

The nine great New York dailies - losing millions in Christmas advertising. Retail stores - sustaining huge loses. Because the lack of newspaper advertising resulted in a sharp decline of Christmas buying. Ten thousand out of sixteen thousand New York newspaper stands - forced to close, because they have no papers to sell. Thousands of newspaper employees, not counting the forty-five hundred strikers - idle without wages/.

A mighty expensive affair - a New York newspaper tie-up in the Christmas season.

AIRLINE STRIKE

In the airline strike - an attempt to get a truce for Christmas, and put the planes of American Airlines into service for the holiday travel rush. But the effort failed - and, at the same time, the tie-up of Eastern Airlines continues.

Eastern mechanics have ratified a new contract - but there's no settlement with the flight engineers.

INTRO. TO RECORDING

Last night we had a report from Lowell Thomas about a bullfight at Zanzibar - that fabulous island off the coast of East Africa. Tonight, Lowell continues the story. Most exotic - for Christmas Eve.

(Recording: 2:16)

L.T. - ZANZIBAR BULLFIGHT #2

The bulls are raised specially for this sport. They have their horns blunted so they'll not spear the comic looking matadors. The latter, for a half hour or so before the first bull is brought in, dance and cavort, to show you how they are going to frighten the bull.

At 3:00 the Number One bull - his name, "Son of Satan", was led in by twenty or thirty men, dragging him on a long rope. The rope is also so, if the bull gets out of the ring - and he always does - they can catch him and haul him back.

The main thing is to annoy the bull so he'll charge. A dozen or more bullfighters surround him with their capes. As he charges the matador spins out of the way just as the bull is about to hit him. At any rate, that's the idea. But often a bull will send a matador spinning in the air. Sometimes a bull will do this to two or three of his tormentors in one charge. And often a spectator as well. For in the excitement, the spectators leap into the ring.

When a bull tires, another is brought in. Sometimes one hundred or more women sing to it - a song that they say annoys the bull. After listening I could understand. Listen! Maybe you'll see why the bull not only goes after the matadors, but after the spectators too!

(Singing)

If you were a bull - what would you do? At any rate, the matadors of Zanzibar don't throw the bull - except before the show - it's the bull that throws them. And everybody gets so excited that at one time I counted over 500 spectators who climbed down into the ring. I was one of them! So long.

TREES

It looks as if some people in Pittsburgh may have a smelly Christmas. They'll hold their noses, as they gaze at the Christmas tree.

It seems the Pittsburgh Housing Authority imported a number of pine trees from Austria. Trees of an extra special type - worth a hundred dollars each. And these were planted - as part of a project for beautifying the city.

Some folks, apparently, were not clear about the special value of those Austrian pine trees. Nine of which - were cut down and carted away as Christmas trees.

Today, Authority Administrator Alfred Tonzo said that those Austrian pines were sprayed with a special kind of insecticide - not noticeable, out in the cold. But when the trees are in a warm room they will produce a terrible odor. Which certainly will mean a smelly Christmas from those nine stolen trees in Pittsburgh.