

BERLIN

L.T. - *Alde* Wed. June 7th '61.

The note on Berlin that ^{Mr.} Khrushchev is supposed to have handed ^{Mr.} Kennedy in Vienna - evidently contains nothing new. As we know, Khrushchev has repeatedly said - he intends to sign a separate treaty with East Germany, give the East Germans control of - the routes from West Germany to West Berlin. So President Kennedy couldn't have been surprised - to hear Khrushchev make the same threat again.

The real problem is just what it always has been - safeguarding Western rights in West Berlin. ^{Pres.} Kennedy told Khrushchev that we're going to do just that - even at the risk of war. A firm American stand that ^{actually} lessens the risk of war - according to most experts on Soviet affairs. It's still taken for granted, that Khrushchev ~~will~~ will allow his East German puppets - to harass the West, but not - to the brink of war. Khrushchev, still not feeling that the destruction of Moscow - would be a fair exchange for West Berlin.

GENEVA FOLLOW LAOS

Naturally, the Laotian events ~~a~~ - are having repercussions in Geneva. Today America's roving Ambassador took the extraordinary step - of calling at the Soviet villa. Averell Harriman, departing from the usual formalities - in order to make the Russians understand how serious the crisis is becoming, ~~serious~~ - because Khrushchev appears to be deliberately breaking his word.

After all, the Soviet dictator can show his good faith, if he has any ^{— and do it} ~~very~~ easily. All he has to do is let the International Control Commission - ~~investigate~~ investigate the situation in Laos. Instead of which, Khrushchev is keeping the Geneva conference deadlocked - while the Laotian Reds keep shooting.

LAOS

It seems ironic that the first post-Vienna crisis concerns the one place where it was thought ~~that~~ some progress might have been made in Vienna. As President Kennedy said last night - Khrushchev agreed on the necessity for a genuine cease-fire in Laos. But the President added that we would have to test the sincerity - of the boss of the Kremlin. Judging by today's dispatches - Khrushchev has already flunked the test.

Last night ^{you heard} ~~we~~ of a massive Communist bombardment - in Laos. Today, the Red infantry attacked - under cover of their big guns. Driving the Loyalist defenders back - ten miles, occupying a base camp - at Padong.

~~Not~~ ^{Hardly.} a great Red victory? Padong - comparatively unimportant. The government retreat - was orderly. And the defending lines - have been stabilized. ^{But the} ~~the real~~ point is -

that the Soviet-backed guerrillas are flagrantly violating the cease-fire, ^{and} This, only a ^{Few} ~~couple~~ of days after ^{Chairman} Khrushchev solemnly ^{Pres.} told Kennedy - that he too is anxious to see an end to hostilities in Laos.

DOMINICAN

A delegation from the Organization of American States - has arrived in the Dominican Republic. Its explicit mission - to investigate charges of torture and tyranny, following the assassination of Dictator Trujillo. Dominican exiles claim that Trujillo's son is conducting - a reign of terror. To which the young general replies - with an offer to let the O.A.S. see for itself.

General Rafael Trujillo, Jr. - has something else on his mind. He wants the O.A.S. sanctions against his country - lifted. He'd like to see the restoration of diplomatic ties - with the other nations of this hemisphere. Also - renewed trade. Trujillo-the-Second thinks he might get what he wants - if he impresses this O.A.S. delegation, Giving the members a display - of tolerance and democracy.

CONGO

There's a small ray of light in the Congo - following today's agreement between Katanga and the U.N. The Katanga army, ^(once) ~~was~~ the main support of dissident Premier Tshombe - is being shifted to the U.N. command, ^{to be commanded by} ~~accepting~~ French speaking U.N. officers from Tunisia, ^{and} sending home - the soldiers of fortune who have been in command, ^{of} Mercenaries - from Belgium, France, and Poland. Now the top man in Katanga is - Irish General McKeown, who won't have to fight the troops of the secessionist province any more. Instead - he'll be giving them their orders. One more step toward strengthening the U.N. - in the Congo.

BEN CRAWFORD

I've just heard, by wire, from General Conrad Necrasen, of the Alaska Air Command- confirmed by U.P.I. - of a tragic accident in southeastern Alaska. Ben Crawford, one of the best known figures in the Forty-Ninth State, in his own small plane, accompanied by his wife, their daughter Pat, and Ben, Junior, flying home from Puget Sound - bound for Anchorage, after attending the daughter's graduation in Seattle.

A fishing boat reported seeing their small plane circling in the overcast near Annette Island. Several hours later, another boat reported an oil slick on the water, and shortly afterward located the plane's wreckage, with the tail section partly out of the water, about three-quarters of a mile off the end of the Annette Island runway. The wife, Brideen and the two children made a miraculous swim for nearly a mile through icy water. Ben Crawford's body was found trapped in the wreckage.

BEN CRAWFORD - 2

Ben Crawford will be missed in the North. He was one of the leaders of life in our 49th state. His early background had been interesting, and at times adventurous. He never knew who his parents were, only that as an infant he was taken care of by an Indian woman, and then adopted by a white prospector, a mining man who is still living.

After his wartime adventures in Service, he and a companion managed to raise enough money to buy a war surplus oil tanker. Then, suddenly there was a demand for tankers, and they sold it to a South American country, all of which started Ben Crawford on his way to financial success - to the presidency of banks in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

He was a warm, generous, hospitable man - typically Alaskan in that respect, resourceful, able, public spirited, with the kind of imagination needed

in a vast new undeveloped state like Alaska.

The notoriously bad weather of the Alaska
Panhandle again takes its toll.

the desolate plain-- in the northwest corner of the
Lone Star State. The twisters, tearing up sage brush
and scrub oak; hurling debris hundreds of feet into
the air; suffocating - hundreds of jack-rabbits and
coyotes; falling up wells and leaving a layer of
dust across the towns of the Panhandle.

Thousands of Texans sitting it out in their stone
cellars. Said one man in Amarillo - "Every cloud
has a hook on it, and everything moveable is being
hooked." Titanic whirlwinds - sweeping the Texas
Panhandle.

TORNADOES

Tonight the Texas Panhandle is awirl with dust and sand. Forty tornadoes - already counted; with more - said to be developing. The big ones, belting across the desolate plains - in the northwest corner of the Lone Star State. The twisters, tearing up sage brush and scrub oak; hurling debris hundreds of feet into the air; suffocating - hundreds of jack-rabbits and coyotes; filling up wells - and leaving a layer of dust across the towns of the Panhandle.

Thousands of Texans sitting it out in their storm cellars. Said one newsman in Amarillo - "Every cloud has a hook on it, and everything moveable is being hooked." Titanic whirlwinds - sweeping the Texas Panhandle.

Then the two spectacular disasters - were off for Athens, where their reception was formal and impressive. Prime Minister Caramanlis's airport - along with a

FIRST LADY

International complications are still the order of the day - for the First Lady. Mrs. Kennedy, creating a traffic problem - wherever she appears in public. Today - in the Eternal City.

The First Lady landed at the Rome airport - with her sister, Princess Radziwell, en route - to Athens. As usual, spectators came swarming - led by Rome photographers shouting - "Give us a smile, Jackie!" The dispatch says the famous smile faded rapidly - in the midst of the jostling. It took an expert to clear the way. Colonel Vernon Walters - U.S. military attache in Rome; who was rewarded with a compliment from the First Lady who said:- "It's so nice to be protected by a big strong man!"

Then the two spectacular sisters - were off for Athens, where their reception was formal and impressive. Prime Minister Caramanlis airport - along with a

protocol officer representing the King and Queen of Greece.

We've heard "the Greeks had a word for everything."

I wonder what modern Greek is for - "La Belle Jacquie?"