

January 18, 1974, Friday
Reid Collins - sub.

KILOMETER ONE-OH-ONE

At Kilometer One-Oh-One on the Cairo-Suez Road - Egyptian and Israeli officials today signed an historic agreement; thereby pledging to disengage their troops - the full length of the Suez Canal.

Meantime, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger - conferring with Egypt's President Sadat at Aswan. Sadat later saying he intends to meet with fellow Arab leaders - to explain the terms of the new agreement. Adding that "the next step, before anything else" - must be a Syrian-Israeli disengagement. "The whole question of the Middle East crisis has now moved forward" - he said - "and it cannot brook any stagnation."

Dr. Kissinger then leaving for Luxor - where he will spend the night. He flies to Jordan tomorrow - and Syria on Sunday.

TAPE

Judge John Sirica said late today he will recommend that the case of the eighteen minute gap be given to a Federal grand jury.

The recommendation goes to Special prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Sirica implied his strong belief that someone may have purposely tampered with the tape.

Meanwhile, Sirica asked a panel of six technical experts to turn their attention to other tapes, including some dictated by the President which seem to have gaps in them.

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon met today with House and Senate Republican Leaders; at the same time - disclosing plans for a radio address at mid-day tomorrow. The President saying he intends to "lay out what our program is" - for dealing with the energy crisis in the months and years ahead.

ENERGY FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

From the Federal Energy Office - a report today that the "leakage" of Arab oil to the U.S. - has all but dried up. The report adding that the Arab oil embargo - is now "nearing full effectiveness."

STILLWATER

At Stillwater, Oklahoma - House Speaker Carl Albert was discussing the time - when he was a heartbeat away from the Presidency; after the resignation of Spiro Agnew as Vice President - while his successor, Gerald Ford, was awaiting confirmation.

Albert saying this was the most dramatic period - he has ever experienced. "I said to myself" - said he - "whatever else I do in life will be unimportant - if I do the wrong thing here." Albert going on to say: "It would have been wrong to have played politics with this situation - or to get personal gain; it would have been wrong to ^{veto an} ~~present~~ election, almost a landslide - because you've got the participants in a difficult situation."

MOORER

*From the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -
an admission today that he once received a number of
"unauthorized" reports - on White House military discussions
Admiral William Moorer saying these were "working papers"
- compiled by a clerical aide to Admiral Robert Welander,
who was then the Pentagon's liaison to the White House.*

*Admiral Moorer denied, however, that the aide in
question - had used "clandestine methods." He also said that
reports the Joint Chiefs had operated a military spy ring
in the White House - were "ludicrous, ridiculous and just a
lie." The problem "at that time" - he added - was not a
lack of information from the White House - but rather an
"excessive amount" of it.*

SAIGON

Continued fighting in Vietnam - is now said to have reached its highest level in three weeks. This - according to the South Vietnamese Military Command; which also says the Viet Cong have again rejected a call - for a Tet lunar New Year truce.

PHNOM PENH FOLLOW SAIGON

At Phnom Penh in neighboring Cambodia - a Communist rocket today scored a direct hit on a French-run school. Luckily ~~though~~ - it was just prior to the start of classes. Only one killed and two wounded - all adults.

Nevertheless, the French quickly launching an airlift - to Bangkok. Thus evacuating some fifty French women and children - within a matter of hours. French officials adding that the airlift will continue - until all French women and children are out of the country.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "CARROLL POEM"

As you may have guessed by now - Lowell Thomas is off on another jaunt. This time - up in Canada. But here now - a special report he left us. Lowell....

Tape January 18, 1974

CARROLL POEM

Up here in the mountains where I am at the moment I have been going over Christmas cards and here is one I'd like to share with you. It may express your sentiments instinct as it does mine! The verses are by George Carroll of the famous Lake Placid Club. Until the New York Daily Mirror folded each year they printed an annual Christmas or New Year's poem by George Carroll. Now his annual poem he sends to his friends. Here are just a few of the verses; a poem as a letter to Santa.

Dear Santa:

*No doubt you've forgotten, but long years ago
We sent you a letter, to make sure you'd know
On Christmas morning we hoped to see
A gleaming toy train underneath our tree.
Now we are writing to ask you again,
Santa, old boy, please bring us a train.
That's all we ask for, simple our plea.
Bring back the Century, the Commodore,*

CARROLL POEM - 2

*Super Chief, North Coast, Conquistador,
The Broadway, the Zephyr, the Cannon Ball.
And a dozen others we might recall.*

*Bring back the club car, the spotless diner.
(Never in history was travel finer.)*

*The snug compartment when night came down
Swift blur of light with each sleeping town.*

*Mournful wail of the engineer's whistle,
demanding the track for his speeding missile...*

England can do it, Canada, Spain.

Why can't America do it - again?

*What is preventing this most powerful nation
From reconstituting its rail transportation?
Fuel it with coal if we're short on diesel,
But let's have the last laugh on old King Feisal.*

MOSCOW

*Dissident Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn -
was lashing back today at his critics in the Soviet press.*

This in a statement - given to Western newsmen. IN MOSCOW

*Solzhenitsyn accusing ~~government newsmen~~ ^{Russian reporters} - of
lying about his latest book, "The Gulag Archipelago;" also,
juggling facts - and then hiding under a cloak of "cowardly
anonymity." Solzhenitsyn further insisting the book will
endure - whatever his detractors may say; that some day it
will become required reading in Russian classrooms - as
the one true account of the Stalinist purges.*