

PRISONER AIRLIFT IN FINAL PHASE



HAPPY RETURNEES—Cuban repatriates exult in foreground as they spot familiar faces in the crowd on hand to greet them as they arrived at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida today. Other prisoners are shown coming down the plane ramp in the background. (UPI)

Castro May Free 23 Imprisoned U. S. Citizens

Miami—(UPI)—An American Red Cross official said Sunday that 23 United States citizens now imprisoned in Cuba may soon be released if Fidel Castro is "in a good mood."

Cuba's return of invasion prisoners in exchange for food and medical supplies may have set the right "psychological atmosphere" for bringing the jailed Americans home, according to Raymond S. Eaton, vice president for international relations for the Red Cross.

Donovan Seeking Release

It was reported that James V. Donovan, New York attorney who negotiated the Cuban prisoner swap, is attempting to obtain the release of the U. S. captives.

Eaton said the 23 men and women have been held on a "variety of charges." Reports from the Swiss embassy in Havana have said some of them are in "poor shape."

He said the Red Cross "has been unable to form a basis for negotiations with the Cuban Red Cross for the Cuban government" on the releases, despite year-long efforts.

SAILOR KILLED

Gorman, Calif.—(UPI)—Michael R. Williams, 22-year-old sailor from Gladstone, Ore., was killed Sunday when a car in which he was riding swerved off California route 138 in the mountains east of here and overturned.

NEWS BRIEFS

BUS CRASH IN MEXICO KILLS 11
Mexico City—(UPI)—Two interurban buses collided on a mountain highway near Queretaro today. At least 11 persons were killed and 20 injured.

CUBAN SETTLEMENT HOPES DWINDLE

United Nations, N. Y.—(UPI)—Hopes of settling the Cuban crisis by Christmas dwindled today with the failure of another round of talks between U. S. and Soviet negotiators.

SENATOR BYRD IN HOSPITAL

Baltimore Md.—(UPI)—Sen. Harry F. Byrd spent Christmas Eve in Baltimore's Union Memorial Hospital. A spokesman said the Virginia Democrat was in "quite satisfactory condition."

FOOD POISON HOSPITALIZES MANY

Andalusia, Ala.—(UPI)—Seven persons were listed in critical condition with food poisoning Sunday resulting from a Christmas party at a textile plant. Officials said 168 persons were stricken.

Safest Christmas Period on Record Seen on Highways

By United Press International
With the quiet of Christmas Eve at hand, Americans were on the way to celebrating their safest Christmas holiday period on record.

The National Safety Council had estimated between 650 and 750 persons would die in traffic accidents during the 102-hour holiday period from

Portland Victims Receive Gifts

Portland—(UPI)—The Air Force played Santa Claus Sunday to residents of several homes in east Portland that had been wrecked by a crashing jet fighter.

Top Air Force brass delivered presents to 17 children whose Christmas may have been ruined by the crash of the Air National Guard fighter Friday night.

No one was hurt in the crash. The pilot and co-pilot parachuted when the plane had a flame-out.

The gifts were presented by officers including Brig. Gen. Gordon Doolittle, chief of staff of the Oregon Air National Guard, and Col. Donald H. Lynch, Portland Air Force Base commander.

Each gift was selected after the officers had conferred with parents of the children.

6 p.m. Friday until midnight Tuesday.

"If the present trend holds," said Howard Pyle, president of the safety council, the total would be as low as 550. This would be the safest Christmas holiday on record," based on miles driven and cars on the road.

The council has been keeping records for 26 years.

At 9:30 a.m. (PST) United Press International had counted 334 traffic deaths since the holiday period started at 6 p.m. local time Friday.

The holiday traffic death breakdown:
Traffic 334; fires 51; planes 8; miscellaneous 40; total 154. California led the nation with 30 traffic deaths. Illinois had 29 fatalities.

Other states' traffic toll included Texas 24, New York 14, Georgia and Florida 13 each and Indiana 12.

Huss Files Report On Campaign Costs

Salem—(UPI)—Walter Huss, director of Portland's Freedom Center, filed a statement of campaign expenses with the secretary of state today, and civil action brought in Marion County Circuit Court was dropped.

Huss filed the statement late Friday with Marion County District Attorney Hatle Kremen. She asked the case be dropped, and turned the information over to State Elections Director Jack Thompson.

Huss did not appear in court.
Huss' statement said 250 copies of the pamphlet "Edith Green Supports Mothers for Peace March" were printed at a cost of six-cents each. He said 142 were distributed, and listed campaign expenses of \$8.52.

Until filing the list of campaign expenses, Huss had insisted the pamphlet were educational rather than political.

PROTEST PLANNED

Buffalo, N.Y.—(UPI)—A handful of American students, angered at U.S. and Canadian government moves that have killed their plans to spend Christmas as guests in Cuba, planned today to protest to Canadian officials.

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Striking Longshoremen Tie Up East Coast Ports

Union Turns Down Kennedy's Appeal For 90-Day Truce

Military Cargo Will Be Handled

New York—(UPI)—A strike by 75,000 longshoremen tied up ports from Maine to Texas today. They were joined by the 30,000 seamen of the National Maritime Union who said they would not cross any picket lines.

Leaders of the International Longshoremen's Association, confident of an early victory, turned down President Kennedy's 11th hour appeal for a 90-day truce and ordered their members to halt work along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

William Perry, assistant to NMU President Joseph Curran, announced today that NMU members would not cross the ILA picket lines.

NMU members make up the crews of ships but do not include officers necessarily. Perry said those crewmembers on board ships still at sea will work at their duties until their vessels make port. Cooling Period Expires

The dockworkers helped shippers load and unload cargoes in the feverish last hours of port activity, then walked off the piers at the appointed hour of 2 p.m. (PST). An 80-day "cooling off" period ordered under the Taft-Hartley Act expired at that time.

In answer to Kennedy's warning that the strike would "choke the economy and cut the nation's lifelines with the rest of the world," the ILA replied it would be "fruitless" to delay a walkout for three months of talks. The union promised to continue handling all military cargo.

The main issue in the deadlocked dispute was over the size of work gangs. The New York Shipping Association wants the gangs reduced from 20 to 17. The ILA claims such a reduction would result in 5,000 longshoremen losing their jobs.

Predicts Short Strike
Thomas W. (Teddy) Gleason, vice president of the ILA, predicted the strike would be short.

"They're very weak, we'll lick 'em fast," he declared. Similar views were expressed by ILA officials in other cities.

In New Orleans, ILA Local 1418 President Alfred Chitenden estimated the strike will last only 8 to 10 days because "the country can't take it" any longer.

A Virginia dock foreman said a settlement will come "after the holidays when everybody will be more suitable to concentrate."

Traffic Signals Are On Flashing Amber

Traffic signals in front of Jackson, Roosevelt and Hoover schools were put on flashing amber operation today, according to Vernon Thorpe, Medford public works director.

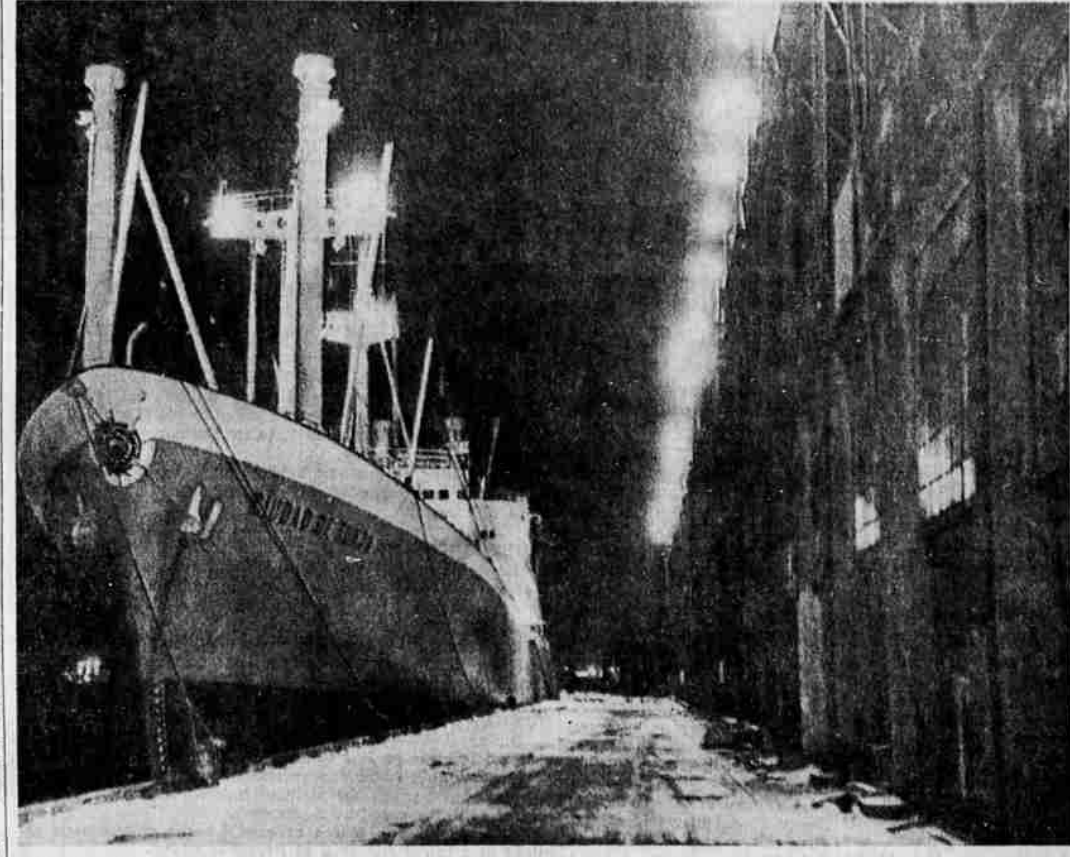
The signals will be returned to normal operation, Thorpe said, when the youngsters return to school on Jan. 2.

WEATHER

FORECAST: Clear skies tonight and Tuesday. Cold night time temperatures. Low tonight 18 to 20. High Tuesday 40 to 45.

Our Skies Tonight
Sunset today 4:42 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 7:39 a.m.
Moonrise tomorrow 4:17 a.m.
New Moon Dec. 29

PROMINENT STARS
Square of Pegasus, in the west, 9:42 p.m.
Alpheratz, highest and brightest of the four stars of the square, is in the constellation, Andromeda.



SILENT KNIGHT—Not a creature is stirring at Pier 82 South on the Delaware river at Philadelphia after members of the International Association of Longshoremen

ignored President Kennedy's appeal for a 90-day truce to protect "the national interest" and walked off their jobs. (UPI)

British Experts To Be Sent Here On Missile Deal

London—(UPI)—Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, under one of the heaviest attacks of his career, will send a team of experts to Washington early next year to settle details of his missile deal with President Kennedy, it was disclosed today.

Authoritative sources said financial and technical experts will work out the details "on a joint Anglo-American basis."

Macmillan, meanwhile, took advantage of the Christmas holiday to draft plans to fight back against the raging tide of criticism threatening to swamp his future because of the Anglo-American missile deal.

Month's Grace

The Prime Minister had a month's grace before facing a political showdown with representatives of all parties—including many of his own Conservatives—when Parliament reconvenes Jan. 22 after its Christmas recess.

The influential Times of London represented President Kennedy as having been "less than honest" with Britain in the reasons given for dropping the Skybolt missile program and replacing it with the Polaris. It also said the President was dismayed and surprised by the critical press reaction here.

Russian Transport Plane Intercepted

Miami—(UPI)—The U. S. Air Force has confirmed it intercepted a high-flying Russian transport plane over the Atlantic about 50 miles east of West Palm Beach.

Sleek F102 fighters scrambled from Homestead Air Force Base and "routinely" intercepted the Tu114 Russian plane late Saturday, the North American Air Defense Command said Sunday.

The plane was on its way to Havana, according to Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Gent, commander of the 32nd Norad Region.
He labeled the interception "just routine" and said the Red plane was allowed to continue on its way.

Mistrial Declared In Hoffa Hearing; Probe Ordered

Nashville, Tenn.—(UPI)—Federal Judge William E. Miller declared a mistrial Sunday in the conspiracy trial of Teamster President James Hoffa and ordered a grand jury investigation of "shameful" attempts to bribe jurors.

The mistrial was declared after the jury had deliberated 17 hours and reported they were "hopelessly deadlocked."

It was only after the final deadlock report that Miller disclosed that three efforts had been made to tamper with jurors during the nine-week trial.

He called the attempts "shameful" and ordered a grand jury investigation. The investigation was expected to get under way early in January with presentation of evidence.

The fiery little Teamsters boss said he was "naturally disappointed" at no acquittal and strode from the courtroom followed by his huge entourage of lawyers, secretaries and bodyguards.

Flys To Detroit

They flew to Detroit in two private planes.

Hoffa remains under bond in the case, charged with conspiracy to receive payoffs for insuring labor peace for a nationwide automobile transport firm.

The mistrial climaxed an involved, nine-week trial enlivened by one armed attack on Hoffa and two mysterious secret sessions.

It was disclosed Sunday that one of the secret sessions was called to hear reports from the Justice Department on jury tampering.

The other was to hear a request for a mistrial from Hoffa's attorneys on grounds that FBI agents visited homes of relatives and friends of the jurors.

Hoffa's lawyers charged that FBI agents told them there was a \$5,000 reward for information on anyone who had contacted the jury. Miller denied the motion.

Airlift of Ransom Goods to Castro Said Completed

Havana—(UPI)—The airlift of Cuba of the goods being exchanged for the Cuban invasion prisoners has been completed, a Pan American World Airways spokesman said today.

He said the last four cargo planes to arrive in Havana would be used to fly prisoners back. With four aircraft available for their transport, the airlift of prisoners was expected to be completed by late afternoon.

The morning newspaper Revolution meanwhile quoted Premier Fidel Castro as telling relatives of the prisoners still in Cuba that the government had no objection to their leaving the island with their kindred, but that they might have trouble with U.S. immigration authorities.

Woman Arrested in City for Vagrancy

A Venice, Calif., woman, dressed in men's clothing, was arrested by Medford city police on a charge of vagrancy early Sunday after she was found hitch-hiking on North Pacific highway.

Police said the woman, Barbara Joan Pushman, 26, is being questioned regarding some 130 pills and nearly 200 capsules found in her suitcase which officers believe to be drugs.

The woman admits to a number of prior arrests on a variety of charges in cities in Washington and California. She is being held in city jail.

Trying To Sail

Reports were current in government circles that mothers, sisters and wives who remained in Cuba to be near the prisoners were trying to sail aboard the African Pilot, the 10,000-ton freighter used to bring the first ransom cargo into Havana.

The air cargo was being stored in warehouses near the airport pending distribution. Antibiotics and other drugs needing refrigeration, however, were trucked into Havana hospitals with those facilities.

Decorations, Lights Taken From Yards

A number of Medford residents reported thefts of outdoor Christmas lights and decorations over the week end, according to city police.

Tow strings of lights valued at \$4 were stolen Saturday from a residence on Woodlawn dr., two reindeer from a South Oakdale ave. home, a Santa Claus from a yard on Old Military rd., and several lights from a residence on West 14th st., police said.

Sunday, 24 bulbs valued at \$4 were stolen from a residence on Fair Oaks dr., 14 bulbs valued at \$2 from a Plum st. residence, and between 60 and 100 lights valued at \$15 from a home on Acorn Way, according to reports.

A Sutter st. resident reported to police today that about 50 lights valued at \$8 were stolen from his yard sometime last night.

ASKED TO RECONSIDER

New York—(UPI)—Federal mediators have asked disputants in the 17-day-old newspaper strike to reconsider their positions over the Christmas holiday and start "moving together" toward a settlement when negotiations resume Wednesday.

Christian Pilgrims Flocking Into Bethlehem For Annual Observance

Bethlehem, Jordan—(UPI)—Thousands of Christians pilgrims flocked to Bethlehem today.

They included black robed priests, Christian Arabs wearing the traditional burnoose and Americans and Europeans in smartly cut suits and dresses.

More than 2,500 Israeli Christians took advantage of the biennial break in the dispute with the Arabs and passed through the Mandebeum Gate in the wall dividing Jerusalem for the pilgrimage to this birthplace of Jesus Christ.

At a signal from frontier guards on the fortified Jordanian-Israeli border, Israeli and Arab Christians boarded special buses for a ride through the famous gate and followed the path of the Magi to this little town.

In Bethlehem, they joined thousands of other pilgrims—some of them from as far away as the United States and Europe—to celebrate the birth of their Lord 1,962 years ago.

Besides the Israeli Christians, another 5,000 persons were due to arrive here today. The old streets already were jammed with a mixture of modern Western automobiles and the familiar donkey carts.

The Mandebeum Gate is the only break in the wall which divides the Israeli and Jordanian sectors of Jerusalem. The wall is fortified by sandbags, barbed wire and pill boxes because of the 14-year-old dispute between the Israelis and the Arabs.

Castro Delays Departure To Check Ransom

Relatives Wait At Auditorium

Miami—(UPI)—The mercy airlift bringing Cuban prisoners of war back to their loved ones entered the final phase today, ending a heart-stopping delay caused when Fidel Castro insisted on making sure personally that he had all the ransom goods.

The bearded Cuban premier demanded every promised pound of the first payment on a \$70 million ransom in drugs, medical supplies and foodstuffs before he permitted continuation of the flights to freedom. The Red Cross said that the goods finally all had been delivered.

After that, starting at 6:25 a.m. (PST) the first plane carrying 109 captives imprisoned in the aborted Bay of Pigs invasion was permitted to take off. It was followed by a second plane carrying 108 former prisoners. Added to the 425 freed Sunday, this left only 471 prisoners still in Cuban hands.

Clean Shaven

Today's first plane, the fifth in the two-day freedom airlift twice interrupted by long delays, touched down at Homestead Air Force Base near Miami at 7:23 a.m.

There, as before, the clean shaven but shaggy haired and slightly underweight prisoners were processed, fed, given new khaki clothing and a \$100 check and then sent by bus to meet their waiting relatives and friends.

Relatives barred from the air base waited impatiently at Dinner Key auditorium 18 miles away to end a separation of more than 30 months. The second plane of the day already was winging toward Homestead, the Red Cross announced, as the morning's trail blazer rolled up to its ramp bearing among its 109 passengers one stretcher case and one ailing prisoner who was, however, able to walk.

Waiting Relatives

At the Dinner Key auditorium, a skeletal and cavernous former clipper seaplane hangar now used for various types of exhibitions, relatives had begun to straggle in at 6 a.m.

The long wait of Sunday had taught them a lesson in patience, and by the time the first plane arrived at Homestead there were only 3,000 in the hall. They had, they knew, probably two hours to wait before the prisoners arrived by bus.

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