

U.S. Expects Soviet Reply to Cease-Fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Any further delay in a Laotian cease-fire agreement, a State Department spokesman said yesterday, "would be a matter of very serious concern."

This assessment came from press officer Lincoln White after Secretary of State Dean Rusk told reporters he expects a Soviet reply "within a very few days" to a British proposal for an immediate cease-fire in Laos.

'Man Needs Alcohol In Jet Age'

LONDON (AP) — An eminent British physician yesterday said he is convinced that man must have alcohol or tranquilizers to survive in today's jet age.

"The use of these drugs is necessary for man's continued existence in our so-called civilized world," he said.

"If he did not take them he would commit suicide when things got too bad for him."

The physician — Dr. B. G. B. Lucas — was elaborating in an interview on remarks he made in a lecture before the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

In the lecture he said: "Modern man cannot do without drink and drugs to survive. He takes drugs to overcome his mind and his problems."

By drugs, he said, he meant alcohol, sedatives and tranquilizers.

Explaining his startling views to reporters, Lucas said that civilization has produced many drunkards but few teetotalers who were geniuses. He said he could name only Albert Einstein and Albert Schweitzer.

H. Cecil Heath, secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Trade, took immediate exception.

"Geniuses who have been teetotalers?" he asked. "How about Thomas A. Edison, Henry Ford and George Bernard Shaw?"

Kennedy Says U.S. Must Aid Latin Nations

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy said last night "if we don't move now" to aid Latin American nations, Cuba's Prime Minister Fidel Castro "may become a greater danger than he is today."

The President also asserted that Latin America "is in a most critical period in its relations with us."

Kennedy made these remarks in a taped television interview.

The subject of Latin America came up in discussion of the roles of some of the President's aides. The interviewer, Ray Scherer asked about Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., author and Harvard professor of history who recently joined Kennedy's staff.

Kennedy noted that Schlesinger toured several Latin American countries about a month ago and has reported to the President on some of the problems dealing with the Cuban situation.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana called the situation "still delicate, dangerous, and a long way from settled."

Mansfield spoke in the wake of overnight reports, confirmed by the State Department, that the Soviet Union had increased its flow of arms and other supplies to rebel forces in Laos.

The British proposed several weeks ago, with U.S. backing, that the civil war in Laos be halted immediately and that an international conference be called to work out a permanent settlement.

A Soviet reply had been expected momentarily during last week's Washington talks between British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan and President Kennedy. It never came.

Rusk emerged from a closed-door session with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday and told newsmen: "I don't know, in view of all the circumstances, that there has been undue delay."

Asked whether the United States had stepped up its supplies to the Laos government, Rusk replied: "To a degree."

At the State Department, White said the United States is concerned about the stepup in Soviet arms deliveries to the Communist-led Pathet Lao forces.

He said "some increase," as he described it had developed over the past three days or so.

London Anticipates Powers' Release

LONDON (AP) — The London Daily Mail said last night U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers will be freed from a Soviet prison in the next few weeks and will choose to stay in Russia.

The Mail's Moscow correspondent John Mossman reported: "I understand he would like his wife, Barbara, to join him, and she is anxious to come here."

The Mail said Powers probably will walk to freedom May 1 — exactly a year after his reconnaissance plane was shot down.

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