



Overcast, snow beginning about noon and changing to rain in the afternoon; much milder; light winds.

PILGRIMS IN BETHLEHEM

Redemption For Some, Work As Jsua For Reds

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. The Christian world celebrated the birth of its Prince of Peace Wednesday as soldiers stood with the Holy Land and new refugees swelled the ranks of those already left homeless by conflict.

It was a day of religious rededication for the Christian faithful, year-end frolics for millions more and business as usual in most of the Communist world.

There were relatively few white Christmas scenes in the northern hemisphere, but snow blanketed parts of Canada, area and other countries.

UNF CELEBRATES. The variety of observances by Christians—about one-third of the world's 2,500,000,000 people—was typified by activities of the United Nations Emergency Force in Israel's Gaza Strip.

Christmas cards in the native tongues of Brazilians, Canadians, Colombians, Danes, Finns, Norwegians, Swedes and Yugoslavs rang out in the lonely Sharn of Sishia area. Military headquarters of the various UN contingents had gaily-decorated trees and the troops ate elaborate meals of native dishes.

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, who has been inspecting UN operations in the Middle East, spent part of the day with his Swedish fellow countrymen. Then he went to Cairo for talks with Egyptian leaders.

Pilgrims from both sides of the Arab-Israeli border took to pray at Bethlehem, agencies told how the Christ Child was born to a Mary, Christmas services also were held at Nazareth, the town in Galilee where Christ spent his youth.

PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. Despite border tensions, the Middle East had its most peaceful Christmas in years. Yugoslavs in only a few hundred pilgrims were able to cross the frontiers.

At another one-bldy frontier, in Korea, U.S. troops ate holiday meals and received messages and packages from home.

A troupe including Bob Hope and Jayne Mansfield entertained 17,000 servicemen at two Korean performances and then left for Japan.

Francis Cardinal Spellman, Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, celebrated mass twice in Korea — once with servicemen along the Communist North Korean border and again with men as (san air base, 30 miles south of Seoul).

Suggests Tax Conference May Be Postponed

MONTREAL (CP) — The Gazette says it has learned that the proposed federal — provincial tax conference tentatively set for early January may be postponed until after the next federal election.

The newspaper says in a Quebec City dispatch that although no official statement has been made in Ottawa, "it is believed the federal government has found the job of pleasing all provinces not as easy as it had expected."

STILL GOING STRONG

LONDON, (Reuters) — The second Soviet satellite Wednesday completed 77 revolutions around the earth. Sputnik I completed 1248 revolutions, Moscow radio said.

Holiday Had Sad Overtones In Flood-Swept Beauveville

BEAUVEVILLE, Que. (CP) — Christmas came with sad overtones to this flood-ravaged community of 5,500 on the Chaudiere River 60 miles south of Quebec City.

Most of the 1,200 left homeless by the swollen St. Lawrence were distributed to needy families along its banks Saturday. They took time off from cleanup duty to relax and enjoy the holiday.

Midnight mass was celebrated at the damaged Roman Catholic church and 1,450 attended. Parcels of food and clothing were distributed to needy families and about 50 persons in the relief center set up in a school had a meal.

MEAT FEE SERVED. Candy and fruit were given to children and the men received cigars. All had tortierie—French-Canadian meat pie traditionally served Christmas Eve.

But relief workers said the gaiety was forced. The people could not keep their minds from their ice-eked homes and ruined belongings.

Mayor Paul Giguere, whose own home was ruined, said about 600 persons have been able to return to their dwellings. The others were staying with friends and relatives. About 25 remained in the relief center.

The mayor, his wife and three children were staying with brother, Gerard.

The mayor said heating the damaged buildings is the main problem. Many of the houses were heated by wood-burning stoves. But wood, carelessly stocked to last the winter, was soaked by the flood.

Crippled Plane Lands At Sydney

SYDNEY (CP) — A replacement British Overseas Airways Corporation Stratocruiser left here Wednesday night for New York with 22 persons stranded by the emergency landing of one of the company's planes earlier in the day.

The stricken Stratocruiser was shepherded into Sydney at 7:45 a.m. Wednesday by an Air France Constellation while a Pan American clipper kept in touch by radio and an RCMP search plane out to aid.

There was no indication when the 22 passengers would reach Bermuda, their destination on a flight from London.

Most of the passengers had been asleep when their plane developed engine trouble 220 miles south of here and changed course. Fire burned out one of the plane's four engines and the propeller dropped off. An S O S was sent.

Stewardess Edith Potts said it was only when the flight crew were aware of what was happening. There was no panic Miss Potts said the passengers appeared to get on well. "They would come out of it," she said.

The replacement plane landed here 10 hours after the stricken aircraft touched down in a down-town Sydney. The passengers were held in a downtown hotel.

Asked if he felt at any time the plane would not make it to Sydney, Capt. Valentine Croft said: "We sent out an S O S, didn't we?" He added the passengers were "extraordinarily good."

Among the passengers was Theresa Robbins, famed violinist, and 10 men and crew will remain here until their plane is repaired.

FRIENDLY EFFORT. Here Tuesday morning's relief maintains 32 churches throughout the world.

By THE CANADIAN PRESS. Canadians in the far north and in distant parts of the world celebrated Christmas in many ways Wednesday. But though their surroundings differed, the spirit of the season prevailed over all.

There was no snow for Christmas for Canadian servicemen in the desert and in the mountains of the North Atlantic. For Canadians in Indochina, Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam, with ice commissions.

But although the grass was still green, the desert had bars and outputs were without Christmas. "Troops serving in the Middle East have had their share of their flows in from Italy. In Indochina, Christmas trees were cut far to the north, the Chinese border, by the North Vietnamese army for the Canadians.

Homeless In Troubled Time Gave Warm, Intimate Talk To The Commonwealth

SANDRINGHAM, Eng. (AP) — Queen Elizabeth for the first time delivered her annual Christmas message before the cameras and bright lights of television.

"I hope that 1958 may bring you God's blessing and all the things you long for."

"I cannot lead you into battle... But I can give you my heart."

Sitting at a festive desk in her rambling country home here the Queen read her greetings to the people of the Commonwealth in a warm, intimate way.

Three times she shot a wistful glance at Prince Philip who sat near her throne by the television cameras.

WROTE OWN SPEECH. Only one did she depart from her prepared speech which, it was reported, she wrote herself. This was at the beginning when she smiled and said simply: "Happy Christmas to all."

Then, with what amounted almost to a wink at her husband, she began, reciting what 25 years ago her grandfather, King George V, made the first royal Christmas message by radio. She added: "It is inevitable that I should see a rather remote figure to many of you—a successor to the kings and queens of history; someone whose face may be familiar in the newspapers and the films but who never really touches your personal lives."

"But now—at least for a few minutes—I welcome you to the peace of my own home."

Speaking of the world today she said: "We need the kind of courage that can stand the subtle corruption of the cynics so that we can show that we are not afraid of the future."

NEED COURAGE. "At this critical moment in our history," she said, "we need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle, but a kind which makes us stand for everything that we know is right, everything that we know is honest."

The Queen said the world's difficulties were not caused by modern inventions. "The trouble is caused by unthinking people who carelessly throw away ageless ideals as if they were old and worn machinery."

"They would have religion thrown aside, morality in personal and public life made meaningless, honesty counted as foolishness and self interest set up in place of self restraint," she said.



THE QUEEN

Sends Greetings To Antarctica

LONDON (Reuters) — The Duke of Edinburgh sent Christmas greetings by radio to Dr. Vivan Fuchs, leader of the Commonwealth transatlantic expedition, and Sir Edmund Hillary, head of a New Zealand party to the pole.

The Duke, in Antarctica at this time last year, sent his recorded message on the BBC program Calling Antarctica which is estimated to a potential 126 listeners in the south polar region.

FORMER PM DIES

LISBON (Reuters) — Gen. Domingos de Oliveira, 84, former prime minister of Portugal, died Tuesday. He was prime minister from January, 1950, until July 1952, when Dr. Antonio Goleira Salazar assumed the post.

GAS TRUCK EXPLODES

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A gasoline tank truck crashed into a wall and exploded Wednesday at Runaway Bay, 70 miles north of the capital. Five villagers were killed and 50 injured by the flames.

TREELESS LAND

Even far into Canada's Arctic at the outpost of Port Harrison on the eastern shore of Hudson Bay, there were Christmas trees.

For the RCMP at Metz, France, Christmas Day was business as usual for air and ground crews.

At Port Harrison, Chesterfield Inlet and other Arctic outposts the trees were marked by letters in French and English.

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500 Delegates Are At Cairo For Afro-Asian Conference

CAIRO (Reuters) — Five hundred delegates are here for an Afro-Asian conference opening today.

Conference sources said the meeting, following closely the Paris summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty organization last week, would be "an answer to Paris."

The conference is expected to produce an abundance of anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist pronouncements and resolutions.

The meeting, unlike the 1955 Afro-Asian conference at Bandung, is not on a government level. It will follow the pattern of a similar but exclusively Asian meeting in New Delhi in 1955 and will gather representatives of 100-odd solidarity committees from the two continents.

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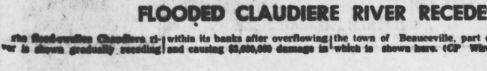
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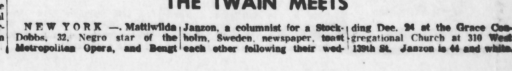
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FLOODED CLAUDIERE RIVER RECEDES. The floodwaters of the Claudiere River in Beauveville, Que., are receding. The town of Beauveville is shown in the background. (CP Wirephoto)



THE TWIN MEETS. Mattelville, Jamaica, a columnist for a Stock-Exchange newspaper, last night met with a group of 100-odd twin members of the Metropolitan Opera, and Bengt each other following their wedding. (AP Wirephoto)