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the novel "Slaves of the Crystal Brain"

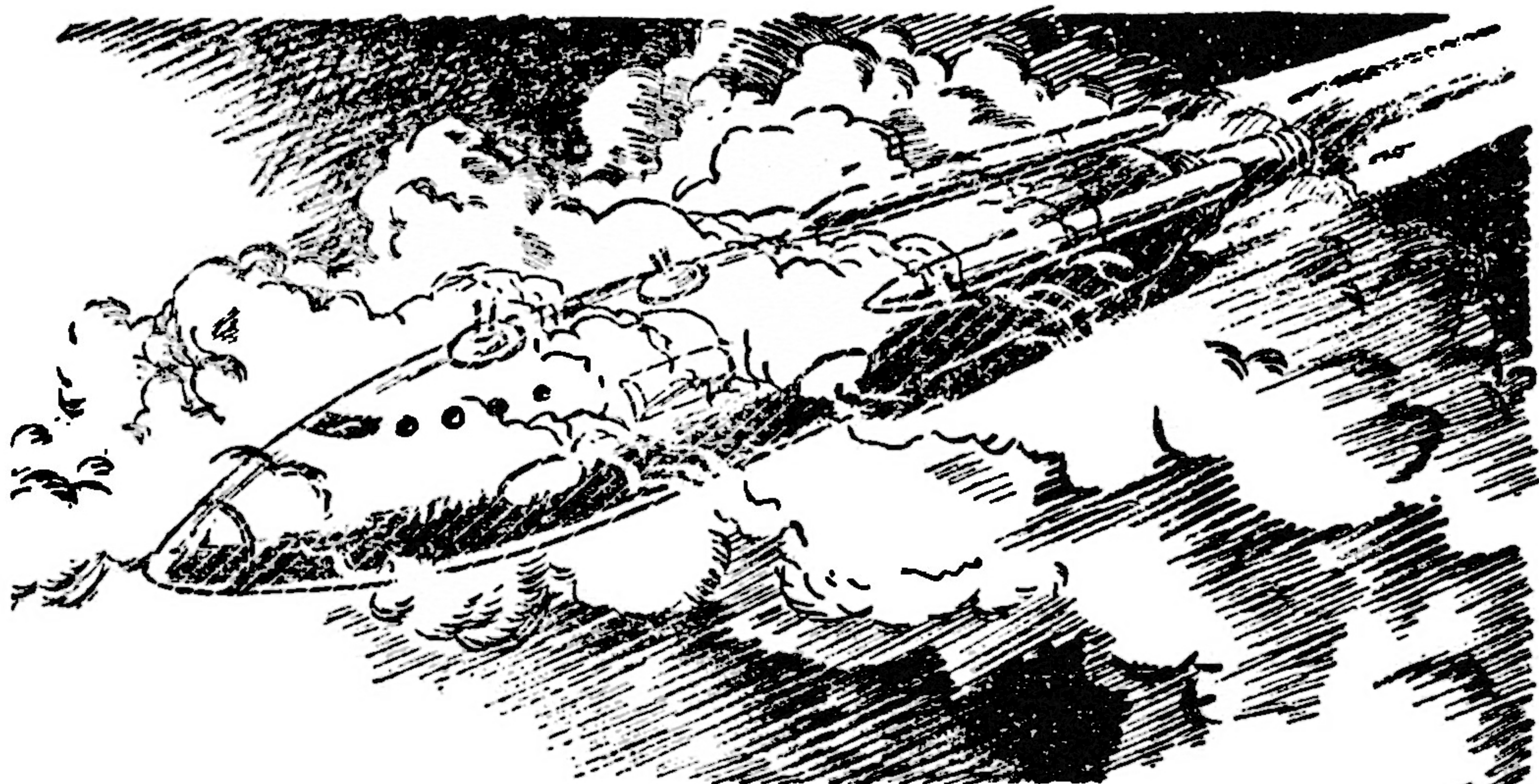
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UNITED WE STAND

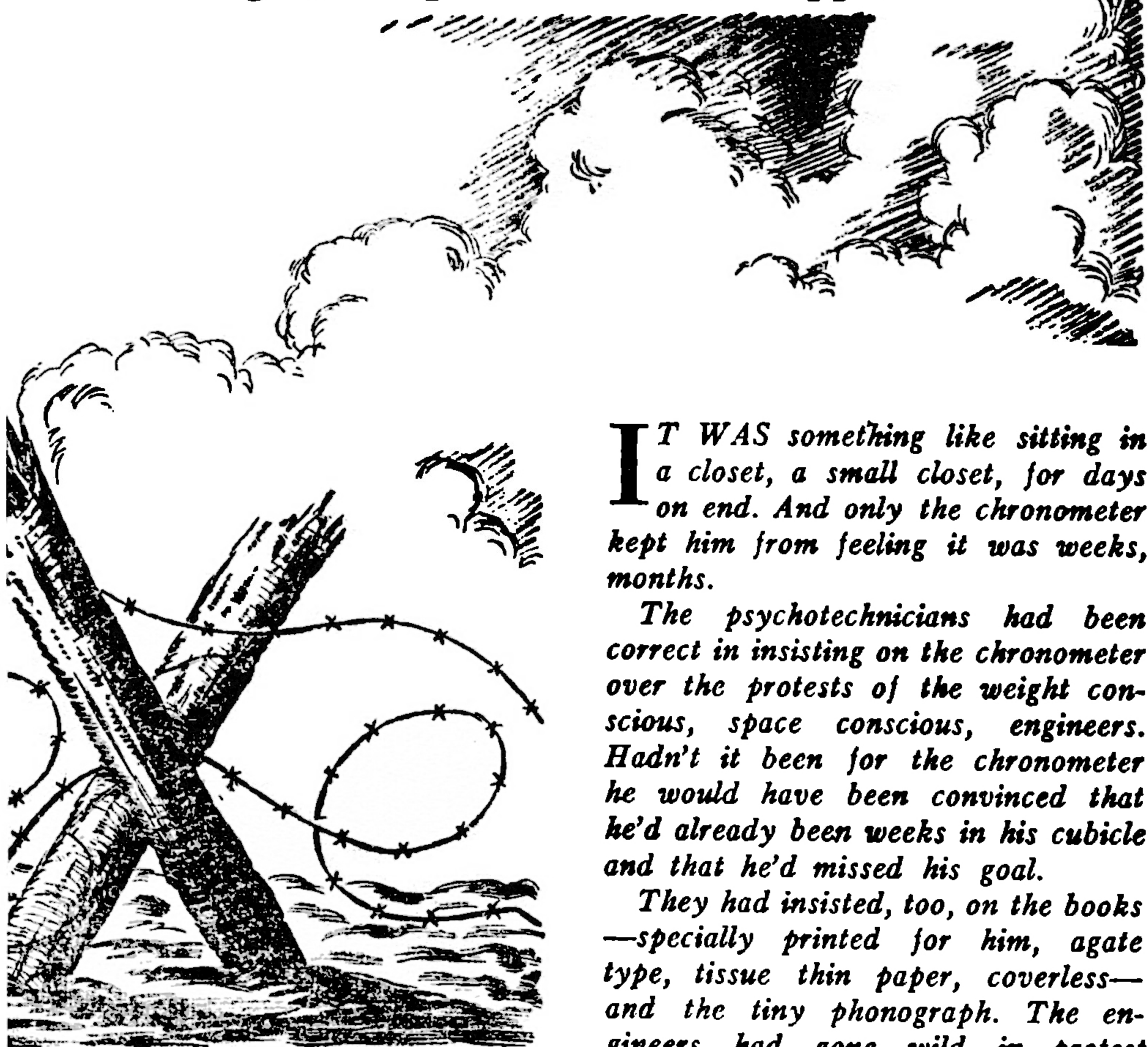
By Mack Reynolds



Earth's armies forgot their enmity at the appearance of this phantom ship



To save the peoples of Earth, a young man prepared to die a hero's death in the toughest way of all — without appreciation!



IT WAS something like sitting in a closet, a small closet, for days on end. And only the chronometer kept him from feeling it was weeks, months.

The psychotechnicians had been correct in insisting on the chronometer over the protests of the weight conscious, space conscious, engineers. Hadn't it been for the chronometer he would have been convinced that he'd already been weeks in his cubicle and that he'd missed his goal.

They had insisted, too, on the books — specially printed for him, agate type, tissue thin paper, coverless — and the tiny phonograph. The engineers had gone wild in protest

over the books and the phonograph, but the docs had been right. Without them he would have been raving mad by now. As it was, he had something to break the monotony of just sitting and waiting and thinking of the world he had left behind and the one he was approaching.

* * *

Excerpt from announcement by Arch Donnelly at Madison Square Garden, July 8: "Ladees and Gennulmun, before we bring you the principal bout of the evening, the contest for the Heavyweight Championship of the World, I would like to remind you that alone in space tonight, more than thirty-five million miles from the home he loves, Lieutenant Philip Albright is attempting the first flight from Luna to Mars.

"Ladees and Gennulmun, I am going to request that this here audience stand and hold a moment of silence in honor of an American hero who is carrying the stars and stripes to..."

* * *

From Associated Press: Moscow, July 8. — Commissar of Defense Andri Goroloff, in a statement today, accused the Western Alliance of taking steps that would inevitably lead to war. He contended that the establishment of bases upon Luna, and the further exploration of space toward Mars, were motivated solely by military expediency.

"Such bases," Commissar Goroloff is quoted as having said, "have no possible use save as launching points for guided missiles directed against the peace loving nations of the Eastern Confederation. They are a dagger directed against our hearts."

He warned, further, that the Eastern Confederation would not long stand for such preparations for aggression against it. "If to survive we must take countermeasures," he

warned, "we will not hesitate to..."

* * *

From the Washington World: Washington, D.C., July 9. — In calling for increased military appropriations, Senator Warren Miles scoffed today at Eastern Confederation claims that the Western Alliance was planning aggression. "To their twisted minds, preparations for defense are an attack," he said. "Actually, they would have the world confused on the point of just who are the wolves and who the lambs. It has been done before and we do not propose to..."

* * *

From Station KIO: We interrupt this program to bring you a bulletin from New Albuquerque, Luna, take-off point for Lieutenant Philip Albright in his attempt to reach Mars. General Arnold Dwight, commandant of the Luna base, has just announced that a radar message has been received from Lieutenant Albright reading: LANDED SAFELY MARS. Stay tuned to this station for further news of...

* * *

From New York Telegraph: Washington, D.C., July 10. — Sources close to the White House made known today that appropriations for further enlargement of the Western Alliance military base on Luna would undoubtedly be doubled within the week. The rapidly developing possibilities of space travel, emphasized by the report of Lieutenant Philip Albright's successful landing on Mars, and the military advantages of the Luna base, are generally believed to be the principal reasons for the step.

The steadily darkening international outlook has spurred defense measures...

* * *

Excerpt from broadcast of Commentator Roy George: "There is both good and bad news tonight, radio

friends. And here it is!

"First, we have just been handed a bulletin from New Albuquerque, American base on the moon. A further report has been received from Lieutenant Philip Albright, who landed a few hours ago on the planet Mars. You will recall that Lieutenant Albright is restricted in sending, due to the necessity of conserving power, but that he is able to receive communications from Luna at all times. His message is brief but startling, friends. It reads simply: SIGNS OF INTELLIGENT LIFE. No more than that, but how much it says.

"Our second bulletin comes from Long Island where the United Nations Assembly is in session and making desperate last moment efforts to avoid the outbreak of hostilities which seem, at times, only hours away. Secretary of State Fuller Martin, in a strong verbal attack upon the warlike moves of the Eastern Confederation, stated that under no circumstances would this nation accept a situation in which..."

* * *

From Station KIO: Station KIO brings you the latest news flashes every hour on the hour... New Albuquerque, Luna. Nothing further has been heard from Lieutenant Philip Albright who landed on Mars yesterday. It has been ten hours since his last message which reported briefly that he had discovered signs of intelligent life on what had supposed to be a dead planet. Meanwhile, here on earth, a storm of conjecture in scientific circles has been raised by his disclosure... London, England. Prime Minister Winston Clement, in a press conference today, revealed that the full strength of the British army and navy would be thrown into the conflict immediately, if and when hostilities break out. He stressed the

fact that the colonies and dominions of the British Commonwealth are in complete accord with the...

* * *

From Station WBCD: We interrupt this program to bring you another flash from New Albuquerque, Luna. Lieutenant Philip Albright, first human to land upon another planet, has been heard from again. The message began, MARTIANS ARE TAK..., and broke off in the middle of the third word. It is unknown what caused the break in communication. Stay tuned to this station for...

* * *

From the Associated Press: Sofia, Bulgaria, July 11. —Premier Josep Kosloff, in a speech to cheering thousands gathered in a mass meeting in the city square today, announced that he has ordered the immediate mobilization of all Bulgarian forces.

* * *

From the United Press: Peiping, China, July 11. —Chu Mao, Commissioner of Defense, declared today that in the eventuality of hostilities between the Western Alliance and the Eastern Confederation, China would immediately march on all Southeastern Asia, "...as a measure of defense against the imperialistic powers of the West."

It is understood that the full military strength of Chu's armies has not been diminished since the recent termination of the civil war and that...

* * *

From Station KIO: Here's a news bulletin. President James Harford has just ordered that all stored elements of the American fleet be taken from "mothballs" and restored to active duty.

* * *

From the International News Services: Stockholm, Sweden, July 11. —

It was reliably reported today in diplomatic circles of this neutral capitol that Poland and Czechoslovakia have both secretly ordered mobilization of their forces to full war strength. There have also been rumors of divisions mobilizing upon the borders of Finland and Hungary, and large scale troop movements on the.

* * *

From the New York Telegraph: New Albuquerque, Luna, July 12. — There is still no further word from Lieutenant Philip Albright, whose last message from Mars was cut off after the words MARTIANS ARE. It is assumed here that Albright's radar set, used for communications with his Luna base, has failed. In such case it is unknown whether or not he will be able to repair it before his return since neither tools nor spare parts were included in his equipment.

General Arnold Dwight, New Albuquerque commandant, has revealed that a twenty-four hour watch is kept listening for further messages from the hero of the first Mars flight. The general also stated that failure of the radar set will not hinder the return flight of Lieutenant Albright to his Luna base. Although optimism is high, however, Dwight refuses to minimize the possibilities of...

* * *

From the Associated Press: Ankara, Turkey, July 13. —Military circles here have reported Eastern Confederation army leaders expect World War III to last less than three days. Present weapons they claim to possess, will mean complete destruction of all Western Alliance forces in that period.

* * *

From the United Press: Paris, France, July 13. —Marshal Henri Dumar, hero of Sedan in World War 1, predicted today that if hostilities broke out, the Eastern Confederation would be destroyed within forty-eight hours

under the impact of secret super-weapons developed by the Western nations. Calling upon his experiences of the first World War, the Marshal said....

* * *

From the International News Service: Washington, D.C., July 13. —It was revealed unofficially today that American military heads do not expect the pending war, if it develops, to last more than a matter of hours.

"Our defenses will hold until we have completely destroyed their military and industrial potential," one source close to the Pentagon is alleged to have stated. "Progress in the development of new and better..."

* * *

From the New York Telegraph: New Albuquerque, Luna, July 12. —There is still no further word from Lieutenant Philip Albright, pilot of the first rocket to reach Mars. More than forty-eight hours have elapsed since his radar equipment failed in the middle of a report to his Luna base.

General Dwight has revealed that Lieutenant Albright was scheduled to blast off for his return flight four hours ago. It is possible that...

* * *

From Station KIO: Ladies and gentlemen, in common with every radio and television station in North America, we interrupt our program to bring you a message direct from General Arnold Dwight, Commander of New Albuquerque, our Luna base.

Come in, General Dwight—

"Greetings, fellow Americans. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of the report I am about to make. I will state the facts barely and leave to my listeners the conclusions to be drawn.

"We have again, and for the last time, heard from Lieutenant Philip Albright. It would be impossible to convey to you just how much it means to me to reveal that it is now the late Lieutenant Albright, for we can only

suppose that he has perished.

"The omissions in the following message are his own; obviously he was hurried in getting the communication through. His last message reads:

"HAVE ESCAPED MARTIANS TEMPORARILY STOP STARTLED AT TERRA CONQUEST OF SPACE STOP HAVE DISASSEMBLED SHIP AND LEARNED SECRET OF SPACE TRAVEL STOP ARE PREPARING BUILD SPACE FLEET ATTACK TERRA STOP BEWARE OF..."

"Fellow Americans, that is all of the message. I need not point out to you the almost insurmountable difficulties Lieutenant Albright must have met with in his struggle to escape his captors and warn the human race of threatening disaster.

"I propose the following slogan to be used in man's struggle against these inhuman beasts from Mars.

"We Shall Come Again!"

* * *

Excerpt from the book "Inside Terra": President James Harford, of the United States, was about to make the shortest and the most effective speech of his career; a speech that would go down in the annals of oratory with the Gettysburg address, inspirational words of another president who fought for unity.

He stood before the assembled delegates of the United Nations. There was complete silence. He ran his eyes over them slowly, seriously. Then he spoke.

"Fellow Terrans," he said quietly, without inflection in his voice, "you are all familiar with the message received yesterday from the first human being to reach the planet Mars.

"I shall call Philip Albright, the man who sent that message, the first *Terran* hero. Not an *American* hero, fellow Terrans; Philip Albright is not of one nation, one race, one color, or

one religion. In his valiant and successful effort to warn earth, he represented *all* Terra. He belongs to all Terra.

"Fellow Terrans," President Harford paused for a long pregnant moment. "Fellow Terrans. United we stand..."

The rest of the sentence was drowned in the hysterical roar of cheers from the assemblage.

PHILIP ALBRIGHT flicked his cigarette away. *The things were too damned hard to smoke here anyway. If he smoked inside the ship, he soon had the confined space reeking with stale smoke. If he smoked outside, without his helmet on, of course, the thin air had him gasping for breath after one or two puffs.*

He looked out over the desolate waste that was Mars and grunted. What a planet! Not even the lowly lichens that the scientists had been quite sure would be found. Actually, Mars looked amazingly similar to Luna.

He glanced up into the sky and sought out Terra, and allowed himself a wisp of a smile. He didn't mind sitting out the rest of his life here on this barren waste, that part of it was all right; but he would have liked to have known whether or not he'd succeeded. After he'd sent that last lulu of a message, they'd cut off all radar sending.

He figured roughly that it'd be ten years, at the very least, before Terra even attempted to send another rocket here. The next time it would be a fleet, loaded for action.

And by that time earth would be welded into one, united against a foe that didn't exist. United to such an extent that world government and peace would continue even after it was discovered that Philip Albright's message was a hoax.