

60 MINUTES

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With CBS News Correspondents
Mike Wallace, Morley Safer and Dan Rather

"DO YOU 'TAKE' THIS MAN. . .?" - Produced by Marion Goldin

"POPS" - Produced by Mary Drayne

"CALCUTTA" - Produced by Igor Oganessoff

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MIKE WALLACE: For seven years film star Nick Nolte lived with aspiring actress Karen Ecklund. She now calls herself Luigi Nolte, a nickname she says Nick gave her in a moment of tenderness. They were never married. No matter. Luigi is now suing Nick for \$5-million, half what she says he is worth. What did she do to deserve it?

LUIGI NOLTE: Oh, I was just there being the old lady, cooking, cleaning, there behind him. Just with him.

[Boston Pops Orchestra playing "Stars and Stripes Forever". . .crowd clapping in time]

MORLEY SAFER: You would think that a man who gets this much attention, this much adulation, would be in love with people.

ARTHUR FIEDLER: Well, I think a great number of people are bores.

SAFER: Do you feel, or did you ever feel, that-- that you had some kind of mission in life to bring music to the people?

FIEDLER: No, I never felt that.

DAN RATHER: No city on earth is more crowded. No city has a worse climate - daily temperature often 115 degrees or above. Smallpox, malaria and leprosy are common. Life expectancy at birth is only 41 years, compared with 70 years in Europe and the U.S. But a lot of people die of malnutrition and disease before reaching 30. For years, democratic governments tried to cope with the worst city in the world; now it's the turn of the communists.

WALLACE: I'm Mike Wallace.

SAFER: I'm Morley Safer.

RATHER: I'm Dan Rather. Those stories and more tonight on 60 MINUTES.

[Announcements]

["DO YOU 'TAKE' THIS MAN. . .?"]

MIKE WALLACE: If you are currently living with someone blissfully but unmarried, or if your daughter is or your son or someone you know, keep watching. You may just learn something about the high cost of living - together.

"Do You 'Take' This Man. . .?" is a primer course on the implications of something called the Marvin decision. Actor Lee Marvin and a

SAFER: --real passion, huh?

FIEDLER: But this is a real nice one here.

SAFER: That is a beauty.

FIEDLER: Try it on?

SAFER: Arthur Fiedler's big hobby all of his life has been fires, firemen and firefighting paraphernalia. He's been made honorary fire chief by almost 400 fire departments. He never misses the chance to wear a fire hat. He's been given his own engine, Fiedler Number One, and his own alarm system, so he can get to a fire as quickly as the Boston fire department.

Up in heaven would you choose the company of ex-firemen or ex-musicians?

FIEDLER: Firemen. [Laughter] That's quite a question!

[Symphonic music]

SAFER: No doubt in the high councils of this orchestra people are making plans for the day when Arthur Fiedler's no longer here. Great institutions must think that way. In working on this story, just about everyone we spoke to said, "You better do it quickly. After all, he's practically 84." And so the inevitable seems to be on everyone's mind - everyone's but Arthur Fiedler's. He plans on making music forever.

[Music. . .fireworks. . .cheers and applause]

[Announcements]

ANNOUNCER: 60 MINUTES, a CBS News weekly magazine, will continue.

[Announcements]

["CALCUTTA"]

DAN RATHER: India is the world's second most populous country, and Calcutta is India's largest city - an urban nightmare of incredible poverty. The jungle that surrounds it is the State of West Bengal, best known as the home of the Bengal tiger. The city and the state now are ruled by a new breed of communists, who see themselves as true believers in Karl Marx, but in ways different from the comrades in Moscow and Peking. For one thing, India and Calcutta represent a reality communists have rarely faced.

No city on earth is more crowded. Population density is four times that of New York; and out of eight and a half million people in Calcutta, nearly a million are unemployed. No city has a worse climate: daily temperature often 115 degrees or above; relative humidity 100 percent. Calcutta has long been known as the cholera

capital of the world, with epidemics that kill thousands. Small pox, malaria and leprosy are common.

More than three centuries ago the British East India Company opened trade with Calcutta - mostly tea and spices, but a first step towards colonization. About one century ago the company built this building as its headquarters. Now the British East India Company and the whole British Empire are gone. Today what remains in these same offices is a communist government, not just for Calcutta but for the whole state around it. The State of West Bengal, with a population of more than 55-million, is bigger than France, but per capita income is a meager sum - only about \$150 per year.

And this is the bottom of the economic barrel - the incubator of epidemics. Slumlords run these living quarters where residents pay up to five dollars a month to put a whole family into one room. More than one-quarter of Calcutta's population lives here in the slums.

The water from this pump is sanitary right now, but it can turn polluted or dry up any day. Human waste drains into gutters like this, and a few yards downstream people wash in it. The dilapidated quarters along the alleys are like ovens, and mosquitoes and malaria breed quickly here. Life expectancy at birth is only 41 years, compared with 70 years in Europe and the U.S; but a lot of people die of malnutrition and disease before reaching 30. The slums' Disneyland is a rickety ferris wheel, which the kids love when it's not broken down.

For years democratic governments tried to cope with the worst city in the world. Now it's the turn of the communists. [Crowd chanting]

It is not difficult to see why the communists have such a strong hold on Calcutta. Any solution for the very poor, who are the majority here, is seen as better than no solution. The communist movement is highly visible, but it's split into several parties and splinter groups, all drumming up support; some aligned with Moscow, some with Peking. This is the only Indian state run by communists, and it's probably the most difficult to manage.

The chief minister of West Bengal is Jyoti Basu. A London-educated lawyer, 64 years old, he's become a more moderate Marxist of late. As the head of the state government, his powers of course are limited by India's democratic constitution.

To an Occidental's eyes, the problems of Calcutta are absolutely insoluble. Are they?

JYOTI BASU: Well, it would look like that to any outsider. We have got used to it because we are inside. But they're formidable problems, and-- but we are trying to tackle it. I don't say the entire problems can be solved, but much of it can be. With all the schemes that we have on hand, if we get a few years time I think we could do something with Calcutta.

RATHER: All progress here is very relative. Poor may go to less poor, but is still very poor. This is the next step up in Calcutta from what you just saw. It is still a slum by any standards, including India, but here they now have a sanitary latrine - an outhouse - for every 25 persons, and a clean water supply - one tap for every 100 inhabitants, running one hour a day. There's even a part-time health clinic and, in the community center, a primary school. Even in the slums of Calcutta, at least in this slum, a new generation will finally learn to read and write.

But no matter how much education these children get, the customs that began long before the communists took power slam the door on their ever getting to the top rung of the ladder. The top rung in Calcutta is the Tollygunge Club, a holdover from British colonial days that still persists even in this now Marxist society. No average Indian could hope to join this elite. The communists don't owe the old establishment anything, but they tolerate it.

MAN: Yes, but we have racing in the winter. That is much more pleasant than this.

RATHER: This is old wealth and new wealth out to bet on the horses on a Sunday afternoon.

MAN: The trophy this afternoon. . .

RATHER: On this occasion, the old Indian nobility and the old British Empire are both represented in the person of Her Highness the Maharani Gina of Cooch Behar, the English widow of a maharajah, who presents a special cup.

MAN: Three cheers for the Maharani of Cooch Behar. Hip, hip, hooray!

CROWD: Hooray!

MAN: Hip, hip, hooray!

CROWD: Hooray!

MAN: Hip, hip, hooray!

CROWD: Hooray!

RATHER: But there's nothing "Hip, hip, hooray!" about the rest of Calcutta. During the summer rainy season, the monsoons, Calcutta and much of the rest of India turns into a sea of mud. The sewage system can't handle it, and in a lot of places there is no sewage. The result is flooding and disease. So another small step - they paved some of the alleys.

Small improvements are relatively easy, but others are more ambitious and much more difficult. Calcutta is short of water, for example, so they're building a new waterworks a few miles south. This project is the epitome of India's problems. If the state government had the

money, or the central government gave more, they could have modern earth-moving equipment to speed this job; instead, human labor in its most primitive form is the only answer. Egypt's pyramids must have been built in something like this fashion. It's worth a moment just to look at these pictures of how you build a waterworks in India. Slowly. Very slowly.

ASHOK MITRA: You must first persuade the working class in other parts of the country to think in the manner as we think. That means persuasion over a long haul.

RATHER: Ashok Mitra, the communist finance minister.

MITRA: We have to be patient, and we have to organize ourselves well. We have to set ourselves up as a model administration so that at the end of five years ordinary people, the toiling people in the rest of the country, will be able to say that, yes, in West Bengal, here there is a Marxist government and they try to do certain things for the poor people.

B. M. KHAITAN: We have to see for a couple of years just how they-- what they say, whether-- what they preach, whether it happens or not.

RATHER: We visited the plush rooms of the exclusive Bengal Club to talk with B. M. Khaitan, a leading Calcutta executive of tea and jute enterprises.

KHAITAN: They have changed their stance quite a lot. They're not upsetting the business houses very much. They are taking into account what development can be done. And if they try any terror tactics, which they did seven years ago, the public of West Bengal or the eastern region suffered very badly. And that suffers, we are still facing it, with airlines and tourists not coming. And this government has realized this aspect, that it is not good for the state.

RATHER: In one way the problem of Calcutta parallels that of New York and other American cities with financial troubles - getting the federal government to help out. The central government in New Delhi only in recent years has begun to provide substantial aid, particularly for financing sewage and water supply projects. There also is some foreign aid coming into Calcutta, some of it backed by the United States. Besides improving life in the slums, where their voting strength is, the communist state government is also trying for a long-range solution - trying to improve life in the villages enough to get the slum dwellers to return to the farms.

But the ruling communist party finds its closest ties and greatest support among factory workers. Calcutta businessmen say this has been an advantage, that there are fewer strikes now. One that was going on while we were there was a strike in a major shoe manufacturing and retailing company. Staunch communist or no, Jyoti Basu told the union delegation in his office that the company simply couldn't afford all they demanded. "Management has limits," he told

them. "Keep your demands reasonable, or else you'll drive the firm out of business."

You seem moderate, not only in speech but also in policy. You say that you recognize what you call the realities. You can do business with businessmen. Does this mean you've compromised your Marxist principles?

BASU: No, not at all. That is what I have learned from Marxism. That is why again and again I say how exactly Marxism is-- has got to be applied depends on the study of the concrete situation.

RATHER: Do you think communism is the answer for India, long-range, on a national basis?

BASU: On a national basis and on a long-range, certainly. There's no doubt about it. In such a vast poverty-stricken country, there is no other alternative.

PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI: I don't think communism can ever take hold of this country.

RATHER: India's Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

DESAI: This country is a deeply religious country, and therefore communism cannot thrive much here.

BASU: Where revolutions have taken place, the people there were also religious, including the first socialist state - that is, Russia.

DESAI: It's not mere religion. See, the very basis of this culture is democracy. And I'm not at all worried about it, because they must be there so they keep us also in a proper part.

RATHER: Exactly what Calcutta's communists want is not very clear, except to eliminate what they call the "evils of capitalism" and "corruption in government". If they succeed in improving life in Calcutta, however, their popularity may bring them closer to their ultimate goal: to govern all of India.

[Announcements]

["A FEW MINUTES WITH ANDY ROONEY"]

MORLEY SAFER: Most Americans think that this is the best country in the world, even though there are a few things they'd like to change. Andy Rooney takes a look at some Americans who, when they want to make a change, go right to the top.

ANDY ROONEY: Very few of us ever get to influence the President, except once every four years by voting for him or against him. This impersonal arrangement is so frustrating to some people that they can't resist trying to influence the President personally by going right to his house.

It's hard to tell what most demonstrators want from the President. Some of the signs they have are harder to understand than our foreign policy. You wonder what sort of person it is who wants to propagandize the President personally. This one feeds nuts to pigeons. The world is filled with people who think highly of themselves because they're kind to pigeons. In front of the White House you can't always tell the nuts from the pigeons. Often there are several of them who want to tell the President what they think at the same time. And of course, they don't always agree on what they want to tell him.

MAN 1: You take Jesus off of God. . .[indistinct]. . .see God. [Indistinct]. . .too much Jesus [indistinct]. . .see God!

MAN 2: I would rather die than to deny that Jesus Christ is God!

MAN 1: It's-- it's-- it's not even an intelligent conversation, because he want to very petty, minor, and very baby-like.

ROONEY: The President is unaware of what either wishes to say to him. He's concerned with worldly matters.

[President Carter dribbling basketball during white House reception . . .laughter. . .applause]

The closest White House window is at least 125 feet from the front fence. Well-organized demonstrators make their signs big enough so the President could read them looking out the window - if he looked out the window. Just to make sure, though, the demonstrators yell at him, too.

DEMONSTRATORS [chanting]: U.S. troops out of Taiwan! U.S. troops out of Taiwan!

ROONEY: Sometimes the demonstrators don't understand why they can't go right in and talk to the President.

[Man being surrounded and overcome on the White House lawn]

From time to time there are demonstrations that are better staged than others. For instance, when farmers circled the White House with tractors there was no doubt about what the farmers wanted to tell the President.

FARMER: Hey, Jimmy, we know you're a good ol' boy! Come on out and talk to us! You ain't kept nary a promise you made!

ROONEY: The Oscar award, if there was one for White House demonstration staging, would go to a group of Iranian students protesting the visit of the Shah.

STUDENT [as students stand tied to posts in file]: The Federation of Iran Students. . .

ROONEY: Exactly what any group of demonstrators is for or against is almost always clearer to them than it is to anyone else. Tourists are usually just puzzled. The regular cops on duty in front of the White House are unimpressed. They've heard that the world is coming to an end before.

Demonstrating in front of the White House seems like a silly thing to do to most of us, I guess, but I think we're all glad anyone who feels like it can do it without getting arrested. We don't have much film of protest demonstrations outside the Kremlin, as Jack Kilpatrick might say.

[LETTERS]

DAN RATHER: Last week while talking about right-to-work laws, Shana Alexander said to Jack Kilpatrick: "Baloney. . .you're wrong when you say that until the Buckley decision you had to be a member in good standing of our union or get fired." She then said that even before the Buckley decision, "As long as you paid your dues, you could even scab during a strike and the union couldn't force 60 MINUTES or any other TV show to fire you." And then she added: "Old Bill Buckley is just up to his usual dirty tricks with the English language."

Well, among those who were out there listening was "Old Bill Buckley". He wrote, in part: "Miss Alexander is suffering from a wild tongue and profound ignorance. . .(She) should distinguish between baloney and history. If she needs any help she knows where to reach me."

After our story last week about foreign investors buying up American farm land, we were deluged with phone calls. From people angry that foreigners loaded with cash were buying up American farms? No, from farmers - farmers who wanted the name of a real estate broker who could get them in on the deal. We also heard from a viewer who said, in effect, not only could a rich Arab buy an American farm, but to add insult to injury: "He'll probably strike oil in the cabbage patch."

And there was also this: "The ultimate irony is. . .that (we) might have to increase (our) balance of trade deficit to buy back from a foreign country food that is produced right here at home."

About our story on film director Roman Polanski, who had been arrested for having sexual relations with a 13-year-old, one viewer called it: "A low point for 60 MINUTES. I ended up liking Polanski more and 60 MINUTES less."

Our story on preachers who not only have become television stars but are planning to start their own TV networks brought this: "That new time religion is nothing but syrupy Elmer Gantry bunkum, hokum and slickum. I resent. . .these religious hucksters (intruding) into my living room."