

Wed. July 14, 1971

MIDDLE EAST

Reports from Northern Jordan tell of heavy casualties today - in fierce fighting between the Jordanian Army and die-hard Palestinian guerillas. This following the first official confirmation from Amman - that an attack was underway. This an attempt - said King Hussein - to stop the guerillas from terrorizing Jordanian villagers. The guerillas though - calling it an attempt to "liquidate" the Palestinian resistance movement in Jordan.

Either way - Egypt expressing "much concern" over the fighting. At the same time, asking King Hussein to postpone for now - a scheduled visit to Cairo. The King replying, in effect - "a good idea."

A related development: Senator Jackson of Washington reporting today - that the Soviets now have nearly six hundred supersonic jets based in the Middle East; or about "five-to-six" times as many - as Israel. These - said he - including some that are so advanced - they "are not yet widely available even within the Russian air force." About half in Egypt - he went on - "where there are also close to two hundred fully trained Russian combat pilots."

The Senator's information - apparently ~~based on close ties with~~ ^{from} the Pentagon. ~~Usually pretty reliable - we are told. At any rate~~ ^{Sen.} Jackson adding: "The situation in recent days and weeks - has grown extremely grave."

WASHINGTON

Elsewhere in Washington - a couple of spokesman for opposing causes - were also having their "say" today.

First - Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts; who blasted the American Medical Association - in his strongest terms to date. Charging that the AMA has obstructed almost every major reform - intended to provide Americans with better health care. Kennedy adding: "The AMA puts the lives and well-being of American citizens - below its own special interest;" and therefore - "it deserves to be ignored, rejected and forgotten."

Next - Senator Buckley of New York; who charged that those afflicted with "compulsive anti-militarism" - have seriously weakened the nation's defenses, to the point - said he - "where the ability of the President to assure the defense of vital national interests - may be in jeopardy."

Buckley adding: "We have not simply cut the fat out of military budgets - we have been hacking away at the sinews and muscles as well," said he.

SAIGON

In Vietnam - just a week ago - the U.S. Army withdrew from its last big base up near the DMZ. Ah, but that was last week - and this week the G.I.'s are back. Setting up a new artillery site today - barely three miles from the old stand. This an added precaution - against the possibility of an enemy Fall offensive. Strictly ~~temporary we are told, and thus the base was~~ Officially ^{its} unnamed, ~~at last report,~~ Unofficially though - the men who man it calling it ~~simply~~ "The Hellhole."

Meanwhile, in Saigon - South Vietnam's Vice President Ky - was becoming once again his own man today. Breaking with President Thieu - in a bitter letter which he also released to the press. This apparently setting the stage for his long-awaited announcement - that now he, too, intends to seek the Presidency.

HONG KONG

For what it's worth - this next from Hong Kong. The leader of Australia's opposition Labor Party - Gough Whitlam - returning today from a thirteen-day visit to Red China; where he said he was told by Premier Chou En-Lai - that Peking would be willing to take part in a revived Geneva Conference on Indochina; providing only that it be held - under "a more Asian framework." Whitlam adding: "This is a real initiative by the other side - ^{and} I hope there will be a response from the U.S."

CAPE KENNEDY

On the space front - another mock launch of that Apollo-Fifteen moonship; this time - with astronauts Dave Scott, Al Worden and Jim Irwin - all in place. According to space officials - a perfect countdown except for one hitch; namely - a "glitch." ^{A what? A "glitch"} ~~And that we were told - a sudden,~~
a momentary drop in the spacecraft's electrical power supply; which occurred about a half-hour - prior to simulated blast-off. In itself - not very serious; but until they find out why - nobody leaves.

TELEPHONE

As you no doubt know
~~Here on our own shores~~ a half-million telephone

~~workers~~ *workers* walked off their jobs today. This in a contract dispute - with the Bell System. Causing a few minor delays reaching an operator - who sometimes turned out to be a man. Also, halting installations - as well as repair service. ~~And~~ ~~the~~ pickets were marching across the land - with placards ~~saying~~ saying: "The voice with the smile - will be gone for awhile."

BROWNSVILLE

Brownsville, Texas - the big sleep; with an epidemic of rare sleeping sickness - which has already killed ~~thousands~~ ^{hundreds} of animals south of the border - ^{is} ~~now~~ spreading across the Rio Grande; ~~Forcing~~ state officials - to order the quarantine of every horse in Texas; and that's a lot - about four hundred thousand, in all.

Officials adding that several children - have also shown symptoms of the disease. But they note, happily - it is normally ~~not, repeat,~~ not fatal to humans.

TREETOPS

For Vice President ~~SPRO~~ Agnew - the fulfillment of a boyhood dream today; as he watched elephant, buffalo and other wild animals - in their natural habitat. ~~This~~
After ~~during~~ a visit to Kenya's famed Treetops ~~Hotel~~.

^ The Vice President ~~later~~ ^{ed} returned to Nairobi - to prepare for the next leg of his round-the-world tour; resuming tomorrow with a flight to Kinshasha - formerly Leopoldville - in the Republic of Congo.

LAKENHEATH

At Lakenheath, England - U.S. Air Force Captain

*Thomas Culver was found guilty yesterday - of taking part
in a London anti-Vietnam war demonstration - also, inciting
other airmen to riot. And today - his sentence: An official
reprimand - and a Thousand-Dollar fine. When compared
to what he could have got^{ten} - up to four years in jail and a
dishonorable discharge - a mere slap on the wrist. Culver
insisting, however - he'll still appeal.*

BURGER

U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger - the keynote speaker today at a meeting of the American Bar Association in London. Asserting that "brute force" here in the U.S. - is currently threatening "the supremacy of law." And "if that peril is not so immediate or so discernible" to some - said he - well, that could make it "even more dangerous."

Another speaker - Britain's Lord Chancellor Lord Hailsham; who cited the common origins - of U.S. and British law. Adding that the U.S. Declaration of Independence - has actually "bound us together far more than it separated us." Therefore, telling the American lawyers - "welcome home."

LONDON

The definition of "healthy" - according to the World Health Organization - a state of "complete physical, mental and social well-being." But now comes a report from the British drug industry - suggesting that "healthy" is a relative term; and ought to be applied, henceforth, to anyone who can keep going - regardless of any physical disability or discomfort. And now Warren, keep fit!

SCIENCE

From the National Science Foundation - an announcement tonight reporting the first discovery of chemical molecules in outer space. These found to exist in two exploding star galaxies - ~~identities~~ identified as M-Eighty-Two and NGC-Two-Fifty-Three; suggesting - we are told - that chemical evolution - a prelude to the evolution of living creatures - is going on throughout the great universe. - far far far out in space.

But it's most unlikely - that any of these creatures will be dropping in on us soon. ~~And~~ The main reason - the scientists tell us - the fact that M-Eighty-Two and NGC-Two-Fifty-Three - are both about Sixty Billion^{Billion} miles from earth.

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