

Fri. June 13 - 69

For twenty five thousand U S fighting men-  
the long trip home is about to begin. The Pentagon today  
~~is~~ naming two army brigades and a marine unit <sup>as</sup> ~~the~~ the  
vanguard of returning troops. Defense Secretary Melvin  
Laird saying that some, at least - will be back on  
American soil in about a month. Adding that others will  
be ~~be~~ chosen shortly ~~to~~ to complete by August at the latest  
this long awaited first withdrawal of U S forces from  
Vietnam.

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VIETNAM FOLLOW PENTAGON

Reaction in Vietnam - of course, jubilation for those headed back. For the rest though - the war goes on and on with today's major ground action in a lush rice growing area south of Da Nang. A powerful Allied force - in another <sup>search</sup> ~~area~~ and destroy mission. Attempting to ease enemy ~~pressure~~ pressure on Da Nang - and also, hopefully, save the rice crop.

CAIRO  
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*Following three days of talks in Cairo -  
a joint communique today from Egypt's Colonel Nasser  
and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. Calling Israel's  
occupation of conquered Arab territories - "a continuation  
of the aggression against" Egypt, Jordan, Syria. Also -  
they charged - a clear violation of the U N charter.  
All of which is taken to mean that Gromyko's supposed  
peace mission - was apparently to no avail.*

*Meanwhile, the Middle East non-war continues,  
including gun duels again today - across the Jordan River  
across the Suez Canal.*

SUBIC BAY

At Subic Bay Naval Base - the Philippines -

Captain John Stephenson on the stand today. The skipper of the Australian Aircraft Carrier, Melbourne reliving that Naval ~~language of~~ tragedy of June third <sup>Asserting that</sup> ~~telling how~~ the U S destroyer Frank E. Evans - made two disastrous right turns while changing escort position. The second move - said he - nullifying a Melbourne maneuver to avoid contact - leaving no escape.

Captain Stevenson adding that he even turned up his navigational lights - to make the Melbourne plainly visible but too late. The crash that followed - as you ~~know~~ know, claiming seventy-four American lives.

PARIS BORDEAUX AND TOULOUSE

In the race for President of France it's all  
over but the counting. Under dog Alain Poher <sup>(poair)</sup> winding up  
his campaign today - with a flying tour to Bordeaux,  
Toulouse and then back to Paris; where he joined with  
favored Georges Pompidou ~~in~~ in a final broadcast appeal  
to French voters. The latter to have their final say -  
come Sunday.

By the way - one of Poher's final acts as  
interim President, the distribution of thirty thousand  
American <sup>dollars</sup> to three French charities. The ~~the~~ money - from  
a secret fund established under DeGaulle, strictly for  
Presidential use. Poher telling the French - he simply  
didn't need it.

LONDON

After twenty-four hours of non-stop debate - longest single session since the Korean War - Britain's House of Commons has finally approved a sweeping new divorce bill. The so-called "Casanova's Charter" - or "Jezebel's justification" -- passing at last by a margin of nearly two to one. The measure setting up as sole grounds for divorce in Britain - ~~and~~ "irretrievable break-down of marriage." Providing <sup>among other things</sup> ~~specifically~~ that a man or a woman can obtain <sup>an automatic</sup> a divorce after five years separation from his or her ~~spouse~~ spouse and this regardless of any objections - on the part of an unwilling mate. Still ahead - a tough battle in the House of Lords - which has the power to delay final enactment for one year. ~~However~~ However, Maverick M. P. Alec Jones who, ~~sponsored~~ sponsored the bill - ~~is~~ "Smart Alec" to some - calling passage inevitable. His supporters insisting ~~on~~ once more - it's long overdue.

LOUISVILLE

The lot of a Republican Governor in an otherwise Democratic State - often a ~~the~~ trial; as witness *the* story of Republican Governor Louie Nunn of Kentucky *who* is <sup>it</sup> telling today in Louisville.

The way it happened - says the Governor - he slipped into an old sweat shirt and started off to play ~~g~~ golf; driving his limousine himself - instead of calling for a prison trustee who ~~usually~~ normally handles the job. Along the way - picking up a young hitch-hiker - who immediately assumed the Governor was - indeed, a prison inmate.

"You new here?" said the youngster. "Yep" said the Governor. "How much did you get" - said the boy. "Four years" said the Governor; <sup>—</sup> a bit ruefully - <sub>—</sub> we are told.