

VIETNAM L.T. - Am. Feb - Fri. Jan. 5 - '68
Pleangh
Prono

War news from Vietnam tells today of massive U.S. air strikes -- against North Vietnamese power facilities both north and south of Hanoi. These following an earlier raid on Haiphong -- with repercussions heard around the world.

In a stiff note delivered to the U S State Department -- Moscow today charging that a Russian ship was hit with "delayed action bombs" during that Haiphong raid. The Kremlin further threatening to take action by "appropriate agencies" - to ensure the future safety of Russian vessels plying North Vietnamese waters.

To this - the United States replying that if there was any damage to international shipping in the Haiphong area - "it was inadvertent and it is regretted." Adding, however, that vessels operating in a war zone - must do so at their own risk.

LONDON-BONN

Meanwhile, the search for peace goes on.

2 With the United States - working today through secret diplomatic channels; trying to determine whether Hanoi is really sincere - about its latest supposed peace move.

To some - no question about it. The cryptic nature of North Vietnam's offer to negotiate - seen ~~as~~ as merely an ~~effect~~ effort to save face as much as possible. ~~There remain~~ Others, however - not so sure. London sources contending, for example, that Hanoi is apparently ready to begin ~~and~~ only "talks about talks" - rather than a real peace conference.

Indeed, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson - today announcing plans to visit Moscow later this month. Main purpose - said he - to try to persuade Russia to reopen that Nineteen Fifty-Four Geneva conference - as still the best hope for peace in Vietnam.

West Germany's Willy Brandt - also getting

into the act today. At Bonn - Brandt's social Democratic Party demanding an immediate end to U S bombing of North Vietnam -- as a necessary first step toward peace talks.

Brandt himself emphasizing that he was acting as Chairman of the ~~par~~ party - and not in his capacity as West German Foreign Minister. The move though - expected to place a serious strain - on ~~western~~ Germany's present ~~to~~ grand alliance coalition government, ~~In~~as much as Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger's Christian Democrats - are generally considered strong supporters of U S policy in Vietnam.

PHNOM PENH

Whatever the outcome of the current peace offensive - one thing seems certain -- for the moment, at least: Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia - will not serve as an intermediary between Washington and Hanoi - as some had hoped; no matter what the results of his scheduled talks next week - with American envoy Chester Bowles.

This the crux of a report today - from Phnom Penh. With Sihanouk said to fear the Viet Cong would turn him down flat -- if he came forward with any U S plan for a "negotiated settlement." The Prince reportedly citing the experience of a number of neutralist leaders - and even Yugoslav President Tito; who were all branded "imperialist errand boys" - for past peace-making efforts.

We are advised though - that, as always, the Prince reserves the right to change his mind.

BOSTON FOLLOW PHNPM PENH

*Here at home - five leading critics of U S
policy in Vietnam ^{U.S.} indicted today a federal grand
jury in Boston, charged with taking part in a nationwide
conspiracy - ~~to~~ to aide, abet and counsel persons trying
to evade the ~~to~~ draft.*

*The accused including world-famed baby doctor
Dr. Benjamin Spock; - Harvard graduate student Michael
Ferber; - Yale University Chaplain William Sloan Coffin
Junior; -- Author Mitchell Goodman of New York -- also
Marcus Raskin co-director of the Institute for Policy
Studies in Washington. ~~Max~~ Maximum penalty on
conviction - five years in prison - plus ten thousand
in fines.*

UNITED NATIONS

While Israeli and Jordanian troops were clashing

~~still~~ ^{once} again in the Holy Land -- Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol

was a visitor today at the United Nations, conferring with

U S Secretary General U Thant - ~~on the~~ ^{in a} search for ^{real} peace

~~in~~ ^{for} the Middle East; ^{- this call} in advance of his scheduled flight

to Texas - for weekend talks with President Johnson.

Another related development from Washington,

where the ~~US~~ State Department today disclosed - it has

just presented ~~to~~ Israel with a bill for more than three

million dollars. Death benefits claimed for those thirty-

four American sailors - who died aboard the U S Liberty

when that vessel was strafed by Israeli ~~airmen~~ ^{airmen} during ~~that brief war~~ last June,

CAPE TOWN

*For the first time since he took on another
(bly)
man's heart - Philip Blaiberg has been able to eat solid
food. An egg and cereal - his breakfast today at Cape
Town. With Dr. Christian Barnard later reporting - that
"everything seems very wonderful" and nothing at all
now - to indicate ~~that~~ Blaiberg's body is rejecting his new
heart.*

*Looking to future - Dr. Barnard adding that
Blaiberg "is definitely going to live longer than he would
have without the operation." "I cannot say how many
months or years" - the doctor went on - "but he will have
a more comfortable life than he had before."*

LUSAKA

first

The city of Lusaka - capital of Zambia - today's [^]port-of-call for American Goodwill Ambassador Hubert Humphrey. The Vice President there pledging anew - continued U.S. support of Black Africa's battle for self-rule and prosperity. "We will continue to help where we can" - said Hubert Humphrey - "because we ~~are~~ in America firmly believe in the same things; in policy - and in fact."

~~At the same time - the Vice President taking a slap at neighboring white-ruled Rhodesia; also South Africa -- and the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique. These guilty of "retrogressive" policies - said he - because "they have turned their faces away from the inevitable triumph of self-determination; the right of all men - to live under governments of their own choosing."~~

Next stop - Ethiopia, where they have African one-man rule under an emperor - the veteran Haile Selassie.

ATLANTA

Latest from the U S Communicable disease center at Atlanta: News today that flu outbreaks have reached epidemic proportions - throughout the Middle Atlantic region; with the further spread of flu attacks rapidly nearing the epidemic level - in twenty-nine states; ^{right} ~~in all, clear~~ across the country. These ~~is~~ including four new entries in the flu sweepstakes - Wisconsin, Tennessee, Minnesota and Connecticut.

In New York City alone - an estimated one million persons now said to be suffering from the effects of influenza, including city Health Commissioner Edward O'Rourke ^{who is} home sick in bed. How about you, Warren?

~~How about it, Warren? Any good "home cures" you'd care to recommend?~~

CHEYENNE

A final item -- from Cheyenne, Wyoming; where it seems that men are still men - at an age when some of us Easterners are about ready for the rocking chair.

Case in point - that of seventy-two year old George Helzer; who answered a knock at his front door - only to find a man standing there holding a suspicious looking package. "This is a bomb" - said the stranger; "give me your money - "or I'll blow you up."

And what did seventy-two year old George Helzer do? Give him the money? Not on your life. Instead, he quickly shoved the intruder back outside - then popped him one on the jaw, knocking him into a ~~snowdrift~~ ^{whale} snowdrift - ~~finally~~ yelling to his wife to call the police.

When it was all over - George Helzer observing - "these people who think they can pull that ~~and bluff~~ ^{so it is} stuff - they've been watching too much crazy television."