

At Bonn, West Germany - the socialists rise again. Social Democratic leader Willy Brandt - winning possibly decisive support of Germany's splinter Free Democratic Party; thereby assuring the Germans their first socialist government - in nearly fifty years.

If the alliance becomes final, it's expected, that Free Democratic leader Walter Scheel - will end up as Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister in the new coalition regime. In effect, filling the same role as Brandt - during the term of his "grand alliance" with outgoing Chancellor Kiesinger.

Coincidentally, Brandt's hand was also strengthened today - by a four-to-five per cent rise in the West German mark on European money markets. Said increase the result of yesterday's decision - which Brandt had long urged - allowing the mark to find its own level.

VIETNAM

War news from Vietnam - marked today by a series of B-Fifty-Two saturation raids - up near the D.M.Z. The big bombers flattening jungle areas recently vacated by U.S. Marines - under President Nixon's "Phase Two" troop withdrawal.

The long suffering of the Vietnamese people - has affected us deeply. And he added: "We cannot disregard war humanitarian principles - only to please anti-Semitic circles in the United States."

STOCKHOLM

A related item - from Stockholm; where the government of Sweden today announced plans to provide North Vietnam - with Forty Million DOLLARS in economic aid over the next three years. Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson observing that "the long suffering of the Vietnamese people - has affected us deeply." And he added: "We cannot sidestep our humanitarian principles - only to please anti-Swedish circles in the United States."

WHITE HOUSE

Here at home, President Nixon continued today - his efforts to build public support for U.S. policy in Vietnam. In a meeting with key Republican leaders - denouncing as a "bug out" any attempt to set a deadline for U.S. withdrawal. The President going on to say that peace - when it comes - will be "due to the fact that Americans, when it really counted, did not buckle, did not run away, but stood fast; so that the enemy had no hope but to negotiate a fair peace - which is all that we ask of them."

A few minutes later - the Chief Executive presented a Presidential Unit Citation to the First Marine Regiment. There expressing his hope that American political leaders - in the interest of peace - will "match the sacrifices" of our fighting men in Vietnam.

WITHDRAWAL FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

In the meantime - and in any case - another six thousand American troops will be coming home soon from Southeast Asia. These to constitute the first U.S. withdrawal from Thailand - as announced today by the White House; which added that the status of our remaining forty-two thousand troops in that country - will depend, of course, on developments in Vietnam.

HOUSE FOLLOW WITHDRAWAL

Elsewhere in Washington - Defense Secretary Melvin Laird was appearing today before a special House Armed Services subcommittee. There asserting that draft reform legislation - including the adoption of a lottery system - is "urgently needed." However, committee members expressing open skepticism. At least one observing that the Nixon plan - could lead to "a wide open game."

MIDDLE EAST

In the tense Middle East - Arab commandos were out again in force today. Attacking Israeli targets along a sixty-mile front - on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River. At the same time - hitting a number of Israeli installations - deep within the Sinai Desert.

NEW YORK FOLLOW MIDDLE EAST

Meanwhile, here in New York - Secretary of State William Rogers was meeting today with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. This marking their third such conference - in hopes of achieving a workable Mideast peace formula. As for progress, ^{though} ~~slowly~~ - we'll just have to wait and see.

ELECTORAL

Turning to the domestic front - a sudden switch today at the White House. President Nixon dropping his opposition to a proposed Constitutional amendment - calling for the direct election of American Presidents. Instead, urging the Senate to complete Congressional approval of the measure - "as promptly as possible." This in the hope that enough states can vote for ratification - in time for the Nineteen-Seventy-Two Presidential election.

Main reason for the change-of-heart - we are told - that deluge of bipartisan support when the proposal first came to a vote in the House. The President asserting that electoral reform is a must - and "contrary views now a luxury" we can't afford.

LONDON

The seventy-second edition of Jane's Fighting Ships - so-called "bible" of world naval power - just out today in London. Asserting that the U.S. Navy - is "first and foremost among the top ten, qualitatively and quantitatively." Adding that it "ought to" remain so - "for several years to come."

Lest there ~~is~~^{BE} any complacency though - Jane's went on to say that Russia is rapidly developing - one of the most sophisticated and largest navies in the world. In the process, rapidly filling the void left by the dwindling British Navy - in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific and even the North Atlantic.

VENICE

55

The question of how to save Venice - a mystery that has plagued engineers, scientists and politicians for centuries. The famed "City of Canals" testing countless "solutions" - and still it continues to sink into the sea.

Enter now - Lawrence Lerner; a top U.S. industrial designer - with a plan so obvious it's a wonder that nobody ever thought of it before. Lerner asserting, in effect: "The sinking cannot be stopped - so let's lower the sea." This by means of a series of locks and causeways - connecting the various islands and peninsulas that surround the Venetian lagoon.

Only trouble - it will cost a lot of money - says Lerner; maybe more - than Italy alone can afford. He adds, however, that "the airlines, the steamship companies and all the tourist-oriented companies in the world" - could and should join in the project. It's only "good business" - says he.

*calls the news this is not
more news just insight*