

LAGOS

January 23, 1970
Allen Jackson

Ten days after the end of hostilities - confusion continues in Nigeria. The discord reaching it peak today - with Lagos denying that it ever asked for U.S. relief assistance. Insisting, what's more - that it doesn't want or even need such help. A Lagos newspaper adding on its own - that U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers would not be welcome in Nigeria on his forthcoming African tour.

Nevertheless, American help is on the way - with Washington convinced it will be accepted and, hopefully, put to good use. The U.S. State Department has also received official assurance - that William Rogers will be welcome in Lagos. The State Department, in turn, pledging full support of the Federal government of Nigeria - as the only "realistic" means of aiding Biafran war refugees.

CAPITOL HILL

Reaction to President Nixon's State of the Union message - still Topic A today in Washington. Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott, for one - asserting that the President's address outflanked the Democrats on every major issue. Scott adding: "All they can say now - is 'me,too,'"

Speaking of which - Senator Muskie of Maine presented today - his own blueprint for a multi-billion⁷ war on pollution. One that calls for clean-up spending of nearly Two Billion next year - and Three-and-a-Half Billion the year after that. Muskie asserting: "Expressions of concern and urgency will not improve the quality of the environment - but action and money will."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

A related item: Mayor Washington of Washington disclosed today - a Twelve-and-a-Half Million Dollar-a-year plan to fight crime in the nation's capital. One that has the wholehearted support of President Nixon - said he. The heart of the program calling for an increase in Washington's uniformed police force - from less than four thousand to more than five thousand by July Thirtieth. The additional men to help spearhead an all-out attack on armed robberies and drug addiction - said the Mayor.

Washington
PARIS FOLLOW CAP

The President's State of the Union message - was also drawing comment today from Paris. A Viet Cong spokesman challenging the President's assertion - that prospects for peace in Vietnam are now better than ever before. Merely an attempt to mislead the public - said he. Adding that the President's remarks cannot be taken seriously - "since his actions indicate just the opposite." That - from the Viet Cong.

A SHAU FOLLOW PARIS

Latest from Vietnam itself - tells today of another Communist build-up in the A Shau Valley. This - as you know - Hanoi's main funnel - for men and material headed into the northern reaches of South Vietnam. It was also the scene of major fighting - during the enemy's Tet offensive two years ^{ago.} All of which tends to bear out U.S. intelligence reports - predicting the possibility of another attack. In fact, a key intelligence officer today asserting flatly: "We have every indication - there will be an offensive this year."

A new set of guidelines for religiously mixed marriages - perhaps the first of its kind - set forth today at Cambridge, Mass. This according to the Massachusetts Commission on Christian Unity - an organization made up of Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy; which urges mixed marriage partners - to become, in effect, ecumenical couples.

They can do this - we are told - by worshipping together at each other's churches. The guidelines also recommend "ecumenical education" for any children - thus training them in the religious beliefs and practices of both parents. The clergy further telling mixed couples - their situations "in no way lessen the holiness" of their ^{marriages} unions.

SHADWAN

In the Middle East - Israeli forces finally withdrew today from captured Shadwan Island. Taking with them scores of Egyptian prisoners - also, a quantity of military gear believed to include the island's complete radar station.

AT the same time - Israeli planes, hitting twice today - within ten miles of Cairo. - & Egyptian planes

retired Israeli positions in Sinai

BONN

At Bonn - the West German government made public today - a note sent to East Germany earlier this week; a note calling for negotiations on a non-aggression pact - also, urging bilateral relations "based on equality."

However, the ~~note~~^{message} fail~~s~~^{ed} to comply with East Germany's demand - for full recognition as a separate, sovereign state. As a result, East Germany sharply criticizing ~~the note~~^{the proposal} - to the point where it now seems doubtful the talks will ever come off.

MEXICO CITY

Mexico City - the final entry today - ^Iin a remarkable story.

You may recall - Mexican workmen discovered an ancient Aztec Temple - during a recent subway excavation. A giant temple dedicated to "The White God of Q^uetzalcoatl" - ^{Ku^{et}. q. - CO - AH TL | Y. IN.} - laying deep beneath the city's Central Plaza. The government quickly assigning a number of archeologists - to survey the situation. And now - at last - their report is in.

The temple cannot be moved - they say. It's too big to get out - without demolishing a number of important buildings high overhead. These including the four hundred-year-old - Cathedral of Mexico.

End result: They'll simply cover it up again - bury it completely. "The White God of Q^uetzalcoatl" - doomed again to endless darkness.

Next up: Roy Wilkins, president of the N. Double-A.C.P. - discussing the so-called "black manifesto." That - as you know - a policy recently put forward by black militants; demanding "reparations" from white churches - for the wrongs inflicted on Negroes throughout U.S. history. And Roy Wilkins thinks - it's all wrong.

"In rejecting reparations" - said he - the N. Double-A.C.P. "Does not absolve the churches of their moral obligation - to effect sweeping change within and to give sacrificially to advance the goal of equality. We assert, however" - he went on - "that these obligations cannot be met by yielding to intimidation - or by guilt-ridden suspension of the critical faculties.

"To give money to black claimants who are without credential or competence for their professed aims" - he concluded - "is to show contempt for black Americans generally; because it says that where Negroes are concerned - incompetence and mediocrity are acceptable standards."

So says - Roy Wilkins.

reported from Chicago, suggesting that there, at
least - needs are becoming more acute.

Reason - hard to pinpoint. However, one suggested

one quoted as saying: "Too many people have learned

now - they're just too complacent." Another saying:

"I had a full heart for a year - and then I tried to

understand what I really meant." [unclear]

And that's the record on the Negro area - here today,

and tomorrow.

CHICAGO

30

Here's one - a survey of local barbershops - reported today from Chicago; suggesting that there, at least - beards are becoming passé.

Reason - hard to pinpoint. However, one ex-bearded one quoted as saying: "Too many people have beards now - they're just too commonplace." Another saying: "I had a full beard for a year - and then I kind of wondered what I really looked like."

And that's the latest on the beard craze ^{Werner} - hair today, gone tomorrow.

PHILADELPHIA

69 From Philadelphia comes another chapter today -
in the continuing saga of Willie Mae Burch Marshall.

Young Willie Mae first ^{came} coming to the attention of
police a couple of years ago - when she shot and killed
her first husband - Elijah Burch - during a domestic quarrel.
The verdict - justifiable homicide. Then - a year ago -
she shot and seriously wounded her second husband - Craig
Marshall; again getting off - when ~~the~~ ^{The} victim refused to
prosecute. And now - Willie Mae ^{has been} arrested again - for chasing
Craig down the street with a gun; and again he refused to
prosecute - indeed, it was he ~~who~~ ^{later} bailed her out.

As for Willie Mae herself - she blames it all on her
two husbands - ^{claiming} asserting that they hit her first. Willie
Mae adding that women "are supposed to be loved - not hit."

So much for the "gentler sex."

& for Lowell "So long until Monday"