

L.T. COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Another crisis may be building tonight in the Middle East; with both Arab and Israeli armies -- rushing troops into front-line positions. Both staging their biggest military build-up -- since the Suez episode a decade ago.

All the sabre-rattling -- in the wake of a formal demand from Cairo; for withdrawal of that U.N. peacekeeping force -- now stationed in Egypt. Cairo calling for "departure of these troops -- in the shortest time possible." A move that would leave the frontier wide open once again -- wide open for combat.

At the United Nations -- Secretary General U. Thant promptly called a meeting of the seven countries -- that make up the peace-keeping force. Promising a reply to Cairo in a matter of hours.

Meanwhile, the United States is saying it will
"fully support any U.N. action -- required to help keep
the peace."

The Americans in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy --
when at last reports they called for artillery strikes on
their own position. Later reports indicating at least
three U.S. dead -- twenty-four missing -- and twenty-one
wounded. There's a break in radio contact -- with the outcome
at least reports still in doubt.

VIETNAM

As for the war there was a bitter battle today near the Cambodian border in Vietnam. With a platoon of U.S. infantrymen -- over-run by a force of Viet Cong that outnumbered them ten to one.

The Americans in hand-to-hand combat with the enemy -- when as last resort they called for artillery strikes on their own position. Later reports indicating at least three U.S. dead -- twenty-four missing -- and twenty-one wounded. Then a break in radio contact -- with the outcome at last report, still in doubt.

MARTINSVILLE

A footnote to the war in Vietnam -- comes today from Martinsville, Indiana; home town of Lance Corporal Russell Evans -- who left a letter for his wife when he went overseas -- telling her to open it -- if anything happened.

Mrs. Evans was notified this week that her young marine husband had died in Vietnam. Whereupon -- she opened the letter. Lance Corporal Russell Evans telling his wife:


"I didn't want to die -- I wanted to build a happy home for my family. But I feel that I have given my life -- for something I believe in -- for the protection of my wife and child and my country." In the hope he added that his son "will not have to do the same."

PARIS FOLLOW MARTINSVILLE

This in contrast from Paris; where the French government today granted sanctuary to an American soldier, who allegedly deserted his post -- to avoid being sent to Vietnam.

The soldier, Private Louis Armfield of New Haven, Connecticut, currently serving ten days in a French jail, on a charge of vagrancy. The French asserting that when his time is up they will not turn him over to the U.S. Army, as requested; but rather deport him to Switzerland.

A French spokesman saying Armfield's crime, if any, is considered "a political rather than a criminal offense." Further implying that the young soldier will be granted political asylum in Switzerland.

The Swiss, for their part, seem undecided on whether to take him or not. All of which further complicates already  strained relations between Paris and Washington.

HONG KONG

For the fourth straight day -- a leftist demonstration today in Hong Kong -- outside the home of Governor Sir David Trench. However, the governor refused to see the demonstrators -- in the interest, said he, of helping Hong Kong "return to its normal peaceful ways."

The crowd finally dispersing -- without incident.

The calm after yesterday's riot -- no thanks to Red China. In fact, Peking holding a giant anti-British rally today -- accusing the British of "serious crimes" against Chinese demonstrators in Hong Kong. The entire proceedings piped into Hong Kong -- and rebroadcast by loud-speaker throughout the city.

For the most part, however -- nobody listened. With everything so quiet that police were later able to suspend that week-long curfew -- on the teeming Kowloon side. Kowloon being on the mainland.

BATAAN

For the first time in some twenty years - the guns of battle resounded today across the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. Federal police clashing with Communist Huk guerrillas - just across the Bay from Manila. The fight leaving at least seven dead - four troopers and three rebels.

Back in Manila - Philippine President Marcos accusing the new Huk movement - of capitalizing on "ignorance, disease and poverty" in remote areas. Conditions born of "years of corruption, greed and neglect" -- said he. Vowing however, to crush the Huks once and for all, with "a massive, well-organized and well-financed program" of social reforms.

FORD

In Detroit -- some plain talk today from the auto industry. Henry Ford the Second accusing the Federal government - of bowing to what he called "intense political pressure; in drawing up some of the twenty new auto safety standards and anti-pollution measures - that go into effect January One. The result - said Ford - that his own company will "have to look to substantial price increases" -- for Nineteen Sixty-Eight model cars.

At the same time - a warning to the United Auto Workers. Ford telling union leaders there is "no justification whatever - for outsize gains" in contract talks this year. Further indicating that Ford will risk a strike, if necessary - "to win a settlement within,"
"quote, "reasonable and responsible limits."

PITTSBURGH

Automation for the pulpit. At the American Baptist Convention -- in Pittsburgh; a new electronic -- "ministry for minister."

The plan to begin with three regional centers -- to counsel ministers on placement, continuing education and career development. Eventually a "centralized, highly sophisticated automated data system of personnel information."

To match the right minister -- with the "right church."

WEATHER

Why the spring we've been haveing -- across the nation?

Says the Weather Bureau, all the cold and rain caused by two persistant jet streams of westerly winds -- chilled by a cold thrust from Canada.

Result: Farm losses estimated at a hundred million -- in California|alone. Millions more missing from pay checks of construction workers and others unable to work when it rains. Also a slump -- in sales of spring and summer clothes; not to mention a sharp decline -- in home gardening sales.

Even so -- the clouds showing a silver lining for some. In the northeast, for example -- an end at last to five years of drought; and with heavy snows in the High Sierra they'll be skiing well into June; and alas I'm not there, Warren.

FASHION

Have you ever wondered where women's fashion designers -- get some of the goofy ideas they come up with? Famous Adele Simpson for one says she gets her ideas everywhere. Ideas for her newest line, from a recent world trip. Mini-kimonos from Japan -- harem pants from India -- and long, dangling earrings from the Masai in East Africa.

Some of the new fashions will stick; some won't perhaps because it takes a special flair -- a certain je ne sais quois -- to wear certain exotic fashions.

The topless -- for example. American fashion designers to be contrary -- it still looks right only where it began -- on the Island of Bali for one place.