GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

According to an Air Force announcement today -- their first B-Fifty Two attack on North Viet Nam was the greatest single bombing raid since World War Two. Far surpassing anything -- in the Korean war. With destructive force -- equal to more than a million tons of TNT. Roughly comparable to the atomic bomb -- that leveled Nagasaki in Nineteen-Forty-Five.

More important -- the raid called a huge success, in that it set off a massive landslide -- effectively sealing off strategic Mu Gia Pass; thereby blocking the Communists! vital -- Ho Chi Minh supply trail.

VIET NAM FOLLOW BOMB

Meanwhile, in Saigon -- Premier Ky is said

to be determined today - to preserve his government at

all costs. Including the use of force, if necessary
to put down the Buddhist uprising.

Ky quoted as saying -- "we simply can't afford to have another government overthrown by beatniks." Ky Adding -- 'if I backed down - I would be a coward; and, if I stepped down - I would be a traitor."

DeGaulle of France -- reported seething today; at American charges that he is welching on international agreements -- in his determination to dump NATO. The more so at America's claim - that it will take two years to withdraw NATO forces from French soil. DeGaulle said to have told his Cabinet - he will not wait "forever" to get rid of American troops.

Nevertheless, DeGaulle's stand somewhat subdued when presented for debate later today at the French

Parliament. Premier Georges Pompidou-speaking for

DeGaulle - saying that France is ready and willing to
discuss with both Washington and Bonn - conditions of
its planned withdrawal from NATO.

This - said Pompidou - because France believes

its NATO pull-out -- will best serve the interests of

that alliance. Adding that France remains - a loyal

friend of the United States. And has no intention of

switching alliances - between East and West.



SHRINE FOLLOW FRANCE

Be that as it may - the French government today refused permission - for use of its Invalides National Shrine; as the site of traditional ceremonies - honoring American servicemen killed in the liberation of Paris during World War Two. As a result - the ceremonies will be held this year - at an American military cemetery in a suburben Survey.

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That Soviet mystery jet - the one that crashed last week in West Berlin - turns out to be a major prize. The craft identified today - as a new Yak-Twenty-Eight.

A twin engine all-weather jet -- of advanced design,

Never before seen close-up - by Western experts.

Identification made official - as salvaged parts of the plane were returned to the Russians. The parts said to include - top-secret Soviet anti-radar device; that was photographed and studied by British authorities - before they gave it up. A case of finders - takers.

American intelligence agents in the Far East accused today of trying to kidnap a Soviet diplomat.

According to Moscow - the intended victim was Georgi

Pokrovsky - first secretary to the Soviet Embassy in

Tokyo. The Kremlin adding cryptically - that American
intelligence "already has resorted more than once to such
rude provocations."

The protest - delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow -- for relay to Washington. American reaction for now - no comment.

AFRICA FOLLOW TOKYO

Another kidnap story from Johannesburg, South

Africa. Police today disclosing the abduction two weeks

ago - of the wife and baby son of a man identified only

as a South African millionaire. Ransom - set at a hundred

and ninety-six thousand dollars. Which was paid. - the

mother and child later released unharmed.

Three men and two women who allegedly took

part in the venture - have since been arrested in

Johannesburg and Cape Town. A sixth suspect plunging

to his death from a Johannesburg apartment building
as police closed in. About half the ransom money recovered

with

the rest still missing.

Sukarno -- of Indonesia -- stripped of power in recent

weeks -- now reported gravely ill as well. The secret

"Voice of Free Indonesia" -- somewhere in Central Java -
today asserting that Sukarno's is a matter of "much concern."

From London - a report today that Russia has ended a temporary lull - in arms shipments to the Middle East; that the Soviets have resumed a large-scale arms flow -- to Egypt and to Yemen; that they are currently negotiating another big arms deal - with Iraq; Ryria next on the list.

The new wave of Soviet weapons is said to be based in part - on recent British and American military aid to Saudi Arabia. Also current talks with Jordan - for more western arms supplies.

The Peace Corps -- getting bigger and better every day -with no end in sight. According to a report today -- from
Peace Corps Director Vaughn.

The Peace Corps now twelve thousand strong -- said

Vaughn. Twenty times as big -- as when it was first created

in Nineteen Sixty-One. With an expected enrollment of

anywhere from fifty to a hundred thousand volunteers -
"within the foreseeable future."

And it's work is -- fully appreciated, says Vaughn.

Noting that India, for example -- has requested a fifty

percent increase in volunteers. Further predicting that the

Peace Corps will be operating in Eastern Europe -- perhaps

even behind the Iron Curtain -- by the Nineteen Seventies.

To sum up, says Vaughn: "The Peace Corps has come of age -- and has become an effective means of communication between countries and cultures at its most significant level -- people-to-people communication."

Another tremendous stride in American air travel

-- assured today by Pan American World Airways; through

a purchase order for Twenty-five new Boeing Seven-Forty
Seven jets - at a total cost of half-a-billion dollars.

The Seven-Forty-Seven - a double-decker jet; with twice the capacity - of the biggest long-range jets now in service. Capable of carrying four hundred and ninety passengers - at nearly the speed of sound; at a saving of as much as thirty-five percent - per passenger mile.

Delivery to start - in the fall of Sixty-Nine, Warren, double-decken

The new jets to be in full service - by May of Nineteen

Seventy.

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This next - from the department of vital statistics. The Soviet News Agency Tass today reporting that Russia - has a current population of two hundred and thirty-two million people. An increase of eighty-five million - over the last forty years.

Much of the growth - in urban areas. Tass

listing eight Russian cities in all - that now have

populations of a million or more. These including -
Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Baku, Tashkent, Gorky,

Kharkov also
Novosibirsk. Which sounds like a population

explosion - all by itself.