

Friday, February 9, 1973

PENTAGON

For American prisoners in Vietnam - about a quarter of them; at least - freedom is finally at hand. The arrangements completed today in Saigon - and later set forth at the Pentagon. Time of the release - set for late Sunday, Washington time. The Communists agreeing to release in South Vietnam - twenty-seven prisoners apparently held in the South. The remainder - about a-hundred-and-fifteen - to be set free in Hanoi - a Pentagon spokesman adding tht some of these men could be back in the U.S. - within three or four days." As for just who the first batch will include - the Pentagon saying "we do not know specific names yet." Suggesting however that "some civilians will be in the group."

VIETNAMESE FOLLOW PENTAGON

Meanwhile, Henry Kissinger was arriving today -
at Vietnam in Laos. Dr. Kissinger later conferring with
Laotian Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma. What they talked
about - not disclosed. Earlier though in Bangkok - Dr.
Kissinger reportedly saying that "peace is on the way in Laos;
"that a cease fire will come soon, in both Laos and Cambodia".
Dr. Kissinger flies tomorrow to Hanoi. And after that
- Peking.

MANILA

RETAKE

For Vice President Agnew the final stop of his eight nation Asian tour. The Vice President departing Manila today enroute home - after a lengthy talk with President Marcos of the Philippines. The Vice President also issuing a public statement. After completing my tour, said he:

"I am quite optimistic that we will not resume those unproductive hostilities that enervated and dissipated all of us." "I think" - he added - "we have finally learned that people can live together in peace - if they have real motivation to understand ~~each~~ and compromise with one another."

KATMANDU

Earlier this week - you may recall - an official policy statement from India's Madame Indira Gandhi; in effect, an indictment of U.S. policy in Vietnam. And, indeed in all of Southeast Asia. This leading to a delay in the departure of Daniel Moynihan - to take up his post as new U.S. Ambassador to India. A state Department spokesman further saying that Madame Gandhi's remarks - were "difficult to comprehend and understand."

Now - an attempt at making amends. The lady Premier traveling to Katmandu - where she addressed today a session of the Nepal Council of World Affairs - along the way, noting that her previous speech - had "attracted some adverse reaction." But these remarks - said Madame Gandhi - "were in no sense meant to be a criticism of anybody or any country." She also expressed hope that the "truce reached in Paris - will bring durable peace in Vietnam and Indo China." Adding that "our task is to cooperate in the development of that region."

BONN

The U.S. dollar was under increasing pressure today in the Netherlands, in Japan and especially in West Germany. The West German Central Bank - finally forced to pull out the stops; buying up a record two billion in U.S. currency - in a desperate effort to maintain the German Mark at its present value.

And then - when the money markets had all closed - an emergency meeting in Paris; drawing the top fiscal experts from Britain, France and West Germany. This - we are told an attempt to "work out a common European position." Observers adding that some sort of revaluation - now seems almost certain.

EAST BERLIN

On the Eastern Front - a diplomatic one-two. First Britain - and then France - granting diplomatic recognition to Communist East Germany. This leaving the U.S. as the only one of the four occupation powers still with-holding official recognition.

HELSINKI

At Helsinki - the final session of second round talks - aimed at clearing the way for an all-European security conference. Today's meeting - ending with an agreement to meet again two weeks hence.

Britain's Anthony Elliott later expressing satisfaction with results obtained thus far. Adding: "When we return after the break - we shall have a good basis for further constructive work."

VIENNA FOLO HELSINKI

Reverse side - from Vienna; where nine days of "quiet diplomacy" has proved a disappointment; as yet, failing to clear the way for East--West talks on possible troop reductions in Central Europe. A Western spokesman saying today we are now awaiting consideration by the Soviet Union - of positions it has taken on certain questions." Adding: "The ball is in the Russian court."

WASHINGTON

Government checks totaling more than six million - were mailed out today to Indian and Eskimo tribes throughout the U.S.; the first payment of Federal revenue sharing funds - no strings attached. The money assigned to each tribe - that has a "recognized governing body" - performing "substantial governmental functions."

Number one - the Navajo tribal council for Arizona, New Mexico and Utah - getting one-point-eight million - or nearly a third of the total amount. At the other extreme - the Cortina Rancheria of Colusa County, California getting a grand total - of twenty-six bucks.

ATLANTA

From the National Center for Disease Control at Atlanta comes today the latest on London flu, Government doctors reporting the disease has now claimed nearly fifteen hundred lives - adding that London flu is still at epidemic levels - in more than a hundred and twenty cities.

But they also say that "most regions - are reporting a decrease in cases;" which means - we are told - the worst is apparently passed.

SAN FRANCISCO

*From San Francisco - the story of an Irish Setter
by the name of Lulu who turns out to be - a lollapalooza.
Lulu giving birth to nineteen puppies one of the biggest
litters ever recorded; in so doing - also creating something
of a feeding problem. Owner Ursula Hamilton explaining:
"There are nineteen pups - and Lulu is equipped to handle
only eighteen." Which means for one at least - rough,
rough."*

HONEY

Question: What is it that Solomon, Aristotle, Julius Caesar, the ancient Vikings and Pygmys - all had in common?

Answer: A craving for honey.

"Eat thou honey - because it is good." said Solomon. Why? Because it's "the dew distilled from the stars and rainbows," said Aristotle. While Julius Caesar prescribed honey as good for "grumbling in the guts." And the Vikings spiced theirs with fruit - which then fermented - making the longer nights just a bit more bearable.

All this coming to mind - with a report today that U.S. honey production was up another thirteen percent last year. Total output - coming to more than one hundred million pounds; due in part, to a booming interest - in so-called "natural" - foods.

By the way, most of this honey - coming from the nectar of sweet clover. But you can also buy honey now - drawn from everything from orange blossoms to lima beans

to onions. Best of all - we are told - that from Greek
Mount Hymettus; according to legend - the original
"nectar of the Gods."

POTTAWATTAMIE

Out in Iowa, a truck driver was stopped recently at the Pottawattamie County weighing station. His truck was overloaded with paint - he was detained briefly. When he later told his mother about it - Mom firing off a letter to President Nixon, charging "police brutality." And thereby setting off a full investigation by Federal and State officials. Results - announced today by Iowa Attorney General Richard Turner. The truck driver in question - "received better treatment than he deserved"- said Turner." Adding that officials "never put him in a cell - they let him make all the phone calls he wanted - treated him to a steak dinner and kept checking his paint to make sure it was all right." Turner also telling the trucker's Mom: "I suppose your son is now too big for you to turn over your knee and spank; but he is obviously still a cry baby - and maybe you ought to try clobbering him once in a while instead of fighting all his battles for him."

With that - case closed.