

February 15, 1968
Dallas Townsend

JERICHO

That shaky truce in the Middle East - marred by the growing possibility of a defeat for the enemy. The worst border clash in eight months. Israeli and Jordanian gunners dueling across the Jordan River - on a skirmish line stretching more than a hundred miles. Later reports from Jerusalem telling of a day-long drive by Jordanian raiders - apparently aimed at the Biblical city of Jericho.

According to Israel - this presumed to be the start of a major Jordanian offensive; aimed at retaking the West Bank of the Jordan - lost to Israel last June. Jordan accusing Israel jets - of dropping napalm on Arab villages and refugee camps. But if it was a Jordanian offensive it seems to have come to a halt - Israel announces ^{the} ~~that~~ fighting has stopped.

HUE

Reports from South Vietnam tonight indicate - the growing possibility of a defeat for the enemy. The scene - that ancient walled Citadel in the heart of Hue; where American firepower is slowly but surely annihilating - a force of about five hundred remaining Viet Cong. Communist die-hards who captured the stronghold sixteen days ago - who are now fighting from behind twelve-foot-thick walls.

Importance of the outcome - emphasized by reports that the enemy is sending reinforcements direct from North Vietnam. Upwards of a thousand men - supposedly in a desperate attempt to save their comrades. However, U.S. artillery blasting away at an approaching enemy truck convoy. American commanders further saying the Red unit faces almost certain destruction - if it tries to break through Allied defenses surrounding the city.

NEW YORK FOLLOW VIETNAM

U. N. Secretary General U Thant - today flew back to New York. His latest round-the-world peace mission - again - apparently for naught.

As he stepped from his plane at Kennedy Airport - Thant saying he did "not wish to make any statement." Behind him though in Paris - his last port of call - a French government spokesman asserting that: "Nothing - for the moment - permits us to think there is any preamble to real negotiations."

PUEBLO CASE

Also returning to the U.S. today - Cyrus Vance - President Johnson's special emissary at those talks with South Korean leaders in Seoul. Talks in which the two countries tried to patch up their differences - arising out of the Pueblo case. Vance telling reporters in Washington - the discussions were good and very useful. He'll have more to say after reporting to the President.

GRENOBLE

Today at Grenoble, Nancy Greene of Canada won the women's giant slalom. But it wasn't much of a day as far as competitors from the U.S. were concerned, and Lowell Thomas took advantage of the lull to present a bit of Alpine history - a la Rothchild. Lowell...

You've all heard, of course, of the Rothchilds, who long were and maybe still are the richest family in the world. In Nineteen-Twenty, forty eight years ago, the then senior Baroness de Rothchild was treated rudely, so she thought, at St. Moritz, famed Swiss winter resort in the Ingedee (phonetics). So what did the baroness do? She engaged a young Norwegian skier to search everywhere in the French Alps till he found an Alpine area more spectacular or at least equal to St. Moritz in those mountains where she had been given the brush-off. The Norwegian spent two years at his unique assignment. And then one day he sent word to the baroness. Eureka! We found it! In those days there were only a few skiers and Nejev (phonetics) an obscure village on a cow path in the remote valley of Savoy, near Mount Blanc - but surrounded by endless miles of unbroken snow. Vast, open snow fields in all directions. And from nearby summits, breath-taking panoramas of Mount Blanc, highest mountain in central Europe. On a spectacular height

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above the village, the Baroness and, of course the Baron, built one of the most elegant hotels in the world. And named it Mount Daagwa (phonetics). With a terrace overlooking Nejev - a terrace so spacious, the Baron de Rothchild today lands there in his helicopter when he flies down from Paris. As for Nejev - from a village it has become a picturesque small city of winding streets, some of which you can only traverse on foot or by horse-drawn sleigh. All this, all this because the Baroness de Rothchild was snubbed in Switzerland at swank St. Moritz. So long.

FOLLOW LOWELL

Lowell, maybe that story proves that it pays to be snubbed - if you're a Rothchild, that is.

SECRETARY RUSK

Secretary of State Rusk late today sent a sharp reply to Senator Fulbright - who had inquired about reports that nuclear weapons had been deployed in Vietnam. To ask such a thing, said Rusk, is a dis-service to the country. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee disagreed. Adding that the use of nuclear weapons would be a dis-service to the country - in fact a disaster.

While at Bedford, Governor Romney was accusing Richard Nixon - of becoming a "mopac" candidate on Vietnam. "He evades our present dilemma" - offering only vague solutions to future problems - said Romney. Also taking a backhanded swipe at Governor Rockefeller - for failure to call out the National Guard in that New York City garbage strike.

Warren Montag

MILFORD-BEDFORD

In the New Hampshire primary campaign at Milford - Senator McCarthy lashing back at Democratic Senator McIntyre of New Hampshire; who earlier demanded that peace candidate McCarthy explain in detail - his plan, if any, for ending the war in Vietnam. McCarthy replying - he had already done so - many times. Adding: "I'm beginning to think - the Senator can't read or hear very well."

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Warren Moran.

DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS

February 11, 1968
Dialer Townsend

Switch board operators at Democratic National Committee Headquarters in Washington have suddenly come up against a special problem. One of the lines coming into headquarters is - Three, Three, Three - and Eight-Seven, Six-Eight. Sounds ordinary enough - but that line has taken a flood of incoming calls. The reason - if you dial it, you also are dialing Fed Up Sixty-Eight. Take a look at your telephone dial, and you'll see why. One operator at Democratic Headquarters doesn't think it's so funny at all. As fast as they call in, she says, I plug them out.