


L.T. BUICK, FISHER. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

From New Delhi -- news today of perhaps a break at last -- in the Communists' iron-clad opposition to peace at Viet Nam.

President Ho Chi Minh of North Viet Nam -- is said to have addressed a letter to Indian President Dr. Sarvapalli^u Radhakrishnan; a letter attacking alleged U.S. aggression in Viet Nam -- but, also suggesting that India -- as neutral chairman of the Vietnamese International Control Commission -- could well initiate efforts to end the fighting.

No further details -- as yet. The next move -- apparently up to India.



HONOLULU

Meanwhile, President Johnson today announced at Honolulu -- that he would send Vice President Humphrey to Saigon this week. The Vice President there "to promote and carry forward" -- programs even now under discussion by U.S. and South Vietnamese leaders in Hawaii.

White House Press Secretary Bill Moyers later adding -- that Hubert Humphrey would also visit six other countries in the Far East; including India -- in all probability, said he. On a mission to "explain our purposes and our hopes -- for peace and progress in Viet Nam."

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam itself-- fierce hand-to-hand
combat, ^{reported} today--between American paratroopers and entrenched
Communist forces, In the Red-infested coastal plain--
about two hundred and thirty miles northeast of Saigon.

The first American attack halted dead in its
tracks--by intense enemy fire. The paratroopers pinned
down for hours--until they were finally freed by U.S.
artillery and air power. A second American attack--breaking
the back of the Communist defenses.

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More than a hundred Viet Cong reported killed--
in the day-long battle. American losses--called "moderate
to light."

GENEVA

That nuclear bomb still missing off the coast of Spain--cited by Russia today as a glaring example-- of the dangers inherent in a nuclear arms race. A Soviet delegate to the Geneva Disarmament Conference--asserting that only "a stroke of luck" prevented a catastrophe-- when the bomb was lost. The Russian adding that an American plan to give West Germany a voice in NATO nuclear policy --is the one remaining obstacle to a nuclear ^{treaty.} ~~non-~~ ~~proliferation treaty.~~

CONGO

From Leopoldville in the Congo -- news today of another clash between white mercenaries and Congolese rebels, in the last pocket of rebel resistance -- near Lake Tanganyika north of Albertville.

The mercenaries are said to have killed three and wounded six others -- in a brief fight, before the rebels took to their heels -- and vanished into the jungle.

At last report -- about six hundred more rebels are said still to be holed up in that lake region; where government troops as yet have been unable to smoke them out -- despite months of trying.

LABOR FOLLOW JOBS

Another resounding defeat today -- in the Administration bid for anti-right-to-work legislation. The Senate failing by a wide margin -- to provide the necessary two-thirds vote that could have ended a filibuster -- against even considering the bill.

The measure -- now apparently just one step from oblivion. With formal interment expected Thursday -- in a final vote for cloture.

AVELLA

Doctors at Avella, Pennsylvania, today began the mass inoculation--of about a thousand high school and elementary school children, ~~In~~ an effort to head off an outbreak--of infectious hepatitis.

At last count ^{there were twenty} ~~twenty known~~ cases, ~~of the~~ ^{with} ~~disease.~~ The outbreak traced to an Avella youngster-- who recently returned from a visit to another state.

ARABIA

From the Arabian Desert by way of Bonn -- a story today that recalls memories of another place, another time. A story of British and German engineers -- who have started to rebuild the famed "Pilgrim Express." That railway largely destroyed by the legendary Lawrence of Arabia -- in his fabled desert campaign of World War One.

The "Pilgrim Express" -- built originally by Germany for use by the Turks. So-named because it specialized in carrying Moslems from Damascus to Medina -- sacred Medina not far from the even more holy city of Mecca. In World War I it was a supply line for the Turks in the Medina area -- with traffic over it constantly interrupted by Lawrence and his Bedonin Irregulars and Arab regulars. For the last fifty years it was much the way they left it -- out of commission. Rails out for miles, and bridges down; trains wrecked. ~~The~~

The five-hundred-mile-line -- a desolate trail pock-marked with blown-up bridges, twisted track, and gaping holes

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in the right-of-way. Here and there -- a locomotive rusting in the sand. In a way, a lasting tribute through the years -- to Lawrence of Arabia, and the men who fought with him.

In recent years restoration of the line had been proposed by a German engineer -- Kurt Becker; with funds -- provided by the governments of Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. And the work has actually been done by a British construction firm.

When completed -- the new "Pilgrim Express" will travel virtually the same route that it traversed across the desert half-a-century ago. Only better -- and faster.

When that day comes -- wouldn't Lawrence enjoy being there? And so would I. In fact I have a part of one of the Turkish locomotives that Lawrence blew up nearly fifty years ago.

MALAYSIA

The first national monument of Malaysia -- was unveiled today at Kuala Lumpur. A tremendous work in bronze -- perhaps the biggest of the country, depicting seven giant figures -- in a scene from Malaysia's twelve-year-war against the Communists.

Central figure -- that of Malaysia Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman, sculpted from a photograph of Rahman -- when he was a young man.

The monument created by American sculptor Felix De Weldon -- who also did the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington. In addition to his commission -- De Weldon dubbed "Dato" by the present Malaysian king. The title -- Malaysian equivalent of "sir."

How would you like to be called "Dato," Warren?

JOBS

Here at home -- more signs today of increasing American prosperity. The nation's key unemployment rate for January -- falling to a record nine-year low of four per cent of the total U.S. labor force.

The figure finally marking achievement of the interim goal for unemployment -- set by the President's Council of Economic Advisers some four years ago; with Labor Secretary Wirtz further predicting an additional drop in the unemployment rate -- to three-and-a-half per cent by the end of Nineteen-Sixty-Six.