

Monday, April 28, 1975
Mitchell Krauss

From Saigon. . . .

From Washington. . .

From Johannesburg, South Africa. . . comes today's news.

*Good Evening Everybody. This is Mitchell Krauss, sitting
in for Lowell Thomas.*

The battle for Saigon may now be underway.

Within the past three hours - these developments:

A heavy Communist rocket and artillery attack.

*struck Tan Sahn Hot Airport, the main refugee and American
evacuation point for Saigon. Several big fires were set - at
least one plane on the ground was destroyed. A U. S. C 130
transport about to take on refugees. No one hurt. Several
rounds fell on the U. S. military compound at the airport -
killing two U. S. Marines who were standing guard at the
facility - a staging area for the evacuation flights. The
airport refugee flights have been suspended temporarily.*

SAIGON - 2

At least two South Vietnamese planes may have been shot down by surface to air missiles. Some ground action was reported in the area of the capitol but the latest is that for the past forty-five minutes there has been no gunfire heard in the city by the CBS News correspondents on the scene.

Saigon is said to be calm with a twenty-four curfew still in effect. On Monday, Saigon time, General Duong Van Mihn was sworn in as President on a pledge to seek a cease fire and negotiations. His effort was immediately rebuffed by the Communists - the Tuesday morning attacks the clearest indication yet that Hanoi and the Viet Cong may accept only unconditional surrender.

As for the Nine-Hundred-Forty-Five Americans still in South Vietnam - that may be the subject of the emergency meeting of the National Security Council now underway at the White House. The session was hastily convened by President Ford whose options include the use of U.S. troops to rescue Americans if the Saigon airport remains closed.

WASHINGTON

Earlier today demands grew for the immediate evacuation of all remaining Americans in South Vietnam - Republican Senate Leader Hugh Scott saying it should be done at once - Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield calling for action as quickly as possible.

Pennsylvania Republican Richard Schweiker charged the State Department is risking the lives of Americans as a subterfuge to evacuate South Vietnamese. The Congress has not yet granted the President authority to use American troops to protect South Vietnamese refugees.

As for the refugees already out of Vietnam - the Pentagon says it's readying three U.S. military facilities to serve as reception centers after the Vietnamese are flown from the Philippines and Guam to the Continental United States. The future refugee sites are Eglin Air Force Base in Florida - Fort Chaffee in Arkansas and California's camp Pendleton.

The U.S. Postal Service has announced a

temporary suspension of all civilian mail deliveries to Saigon. Over twenty-five-^{hundred} pounds of mail had been going to Vietnam from the United States every week this year.

From Phnom Penh still no word on the fate of the hundreds of foreigners holed up in the French Embassy compound. U N and French officials have appealed to the Cambodians to permit mercy shipments of good and medicine but so far no reply. Several Americans are said to be among the group. French officials report an epidemic of dysentery has broken out among the refugees.

SOUTH AFRICA

Carnage at the Israeli Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa today. Terrorists including Arabs and Japanese sympathetic to the Arab cause raided the Israeli building. They seized at least twelve hostages. In the gunfire, at least two people were killed and thirty-two wounded. The terrorists have demanded a helicopter able to carry up to twenty people. No word on where the guerillas want to go. South African troops and police are stationed around the building. The Government said it would not give in to any demands.

WASHINGTON
HELMS

Former CIA Director Richard Helms - was a witness today before the Rockefeller Commission, still investigating the CIA. His testimony, secret. But later on, Helms bitterly attacking CBS News correspondent Daniel Schorr - for airing charges that the CIA had plotted the assassination of foreign leaders. Helms said he didn't "know of any foreign leader - ever assassinated by the CIA."

WASHINGTON

Also in Washington - a meeting of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce; with President Ford - the main speaker ; drawing a standing ovation - when he said he opposes Congressional efforts to establish a Consumer Protection Agency.

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He later called for a repeal of Fair Trade laws. The President saying: "These Depression-era laws, which cost consumers an estimated Two Billion a year - should be laid to rest alongside the NRA Blue Eagle of the same period."

DETROIT

In Detroit - the Chrysler Corporation today announced plans for a new cash rebate program, starting Thursday. The firm to return Two Hundred Dollars each - to buyers of a new Dodge Darts, Plymouth Dusters and Valiants, and Tradesman Vans.

This in an effort to end - the current auto sales slump; and, if it works as it did earlier this year, expected to lead to similar cash rebates - by the other Big Four automakers.

KING HUSSEIN

Jordan's King Hussein had a close call late today. At the controls of his own Seven-oh-Seven jetliner, the King made a safe landing at Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington despite a smoking engine and a ruptured hydraulic line. The thirty-nine year old Monarch is beginning a week long private visit to the U. S. He plans to see President Ford tomorrow.