

Thursday, July 8, 1971

YUCCA FLATS

Yucca Flats, Nevada - another underground nuclear blast today; with an explosive device about the size of a dinner plate - buried about a third of a mile down - rocking the desert floor for hundreds of miles around. This - we are told - the first nuclear explosion - specifically designed to release underground deposits of natural gas; with project director John Kelly predicting that five years from now - we may be heating our homes and cooking our meals from gasses so obtained.

NEW YORK

From near and far - they came by the thousands today; the fans of Louis Satchmo Armstrong - paying their last respects to the famed trumpeter - as he lay in state - in a New York armory.

At the same time - in Moscow - the newspaper Soviet Culture, paying Louis Armstrong a rare tribute observed: That "perhaps his most beautiful feature" - was his humility. Soviet Culture noted: "He repeatedly said he was just a trumpet player who had only one aim and dream - to give joy to people; and as such," said the Moscow magazine, "he will remain in the memories of his fans."

JEDDAH

At Jeddah - the commercial Red Sea capital of Saudi Arabia, seaport to Mecca - it was extremely hot and humid today a hundred and over in the shade . Nevertheless, there was a royal reception with all the traditional pomp and ceremony in honor of U S Vice President Agnew. Crown Prince Kahlid Al-Saud was in Jeddah for this formal welcome.

The Vice President in stressing U S friendship with Saudi Arabia, said the U S government "is committed to seeking a just and lasting peace" in the Near East, which he spoke of as of "such importance to the world." After which in an air conditioned limousine he drove to Jeddah's Hamra Palace.

BEIRUT FOLLOW JEDDAH

Elsewhere in the Near East - at Beirut - the Al-Fatah Palestinian guerrilla group - was claiming credit today for the rocket attack on a Tel Aviv suburb. A spokesman saying the attack force - was one of Al Fatah's special units operating inside Israel.

While in Cairo there was a meeting of the Palestinian National Council. This is referred to as a parliament in exile; with its goal - we are told - to coordinate the efforts of all guerrilla organizations.

PARIS

At Paris a North Vietnam attempt to give the appearance of something encouraging. Madame Binh offering to meet separately and privately with U S officials; supposedly to facilitate a settlement.

Hanoi's LeDuc Tho also is spreading the word - that North Vietnam's latest peace proposal was not a "take it or leave it" package. Suggesting that troop withdrawal and prisoners issues - can be resolved quite apart from a political settlement. But today's session of official peace talks another story. David Bruce for the U S - posing a series of questions about the latest Communist offer; noting that it contains "new elements" - but still leaves much to be desired; adding that the Communist proposals were "so sweeping and categorical in nature" - that we cannot possibly accept them without discussion or negotiation; "therefore, urging a fresh start - by means of private talks; "free from the glare of publicity - and without the need to make public statements except as mutually agreed upon."

Bruce later admitted that all he got from the Communist side was "a decided no; which led him to believe - said he - that the Communists "wish to continue to use these sessions - as a forum for propuganda."

HELSINKI

Rising hopes in Helsinki. With fifth round Salt talks beginning there today - in an atmosphere said to have been just "great". Gerard Smith for the U S and Vladimir Semenov for the Soviet Union - conferring for nearly two hours; according to conference sources, with their presentations today said to reflect "the same optimistic note expressed in their arrival statements."

All of which indicates that "substantial talks" will begin immediately; and the prospect of what is referred to as a "limited treaty."

WASHINGTON

From the committee of one million against the admission of Communist China to the United Nations - an announcement today that it plans to sponsor a "free China week," starting Monday. Spokesman Lee Edwards calling this - an attempt to off-set the effects of "ping-pong diplomacy" by pointing out the many reasons we should continue to support Nationalist China - as opposed to Peking.

MARTHA

From Martha Mitchell, the wife of Attorney General John Mitchell a blast today at so-called side-walk diplomats. Mrs. Mitchell asserting that "no one outside the government can tell the government what to do - it's ridiculous."

This - in New York; where she boarded the liner Queen Elizabeth Two along with her husband - for a voyage to London. Mrs. Mitchell also saying she expects to meet the Queen at a party but she won't have to curtsy - it's not done any more. She noted - however, Warren - "the Queen must speak first." Then she added: "I'll probably have to be gagged."

SENATE

For the first time in the history of the U S Senate - a woman cleric was allowed to give the opening prayer today. The Reverend Doctor Wilmina Roland of Philadelphia - an official of the United Presbyterian Church - saying in her prayer: "As our nation plays its part in the life of the world - help us know that all wisdom does not reside in us; and that other nations have the right to differ with us - as to what is best for them."

Later on, reporters asking the Senate Majority Leader - what he thought of Doctor Roland's prayer. Mike Mansfield replying: "All I can say - is 'amen'.." *And, as usual we say s-l-u-tomorrow!*