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On the Space Front - America's amounts

Mariner-6, continues to close tonight on Mars. Pouring back a torrent of information - as it approaches a point barely two thousand miles from the planet's surface. In a matter of hours now - tell it tell answer the question of whether Mars is capable of supporting life as we know it? Probably not. But Mariner-b is delighting the ocientists.

says

In the meantime - Space officials here telow Earth are laying the groundwork today for Manned Wehrner Flight to Mars. Dr. von Braun calling the Mariner unmanned series - merely the first step in a "detailed plan on how to explore" the Red Planet. One that will prove in that Mars
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Richard Nixon comes to Saigon - as you no doubt have heard by now. The President today becoming the first U.S. Chief Executive - ever to visit the capital of embattled South Vietnam. His brief stay including talks with South Vietnamese President Thieu - followed by a glittering Palace reception; and later - an inspection tour of a nearby U.S. infantry base.

Along the way - the President saying: "We have gone as far as we can or should go - in opening the door to peace, - It is time now for the other side to respond."

While talking to the troops - he added: "Out here - in this dreary, difficult war - I think history will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours; because we took a difficult task - and we succeeded."

At the same time - First Lady Pat Nixon was steed to the same time - First Lady Pat Nixon was steed to the steed of the same time and orphanage in Saigon - where the children shouted "Long live Mrs. Nixon." Touring a military hospital at Long Binh - where she cut short an official briefing. Telling officials, "I don't really want to learn about the hospital - I want to see the boys" - which she then did.

Madame Thieu - who accompanied the First Lady later calling the Nixon visit a great moral booster. Adding
of Pat herself - "she disregarded the dangers to come here."
To which Mrs. Nixon replied: "I was protected."

As for Communist reaction - that was perhaps predictable. Viet Cong radio asserting tonight that the President's visit to Vietnam - proves his desire to intensify the war. Adding that it was further "an insolent challenge" - to those "who are struggling to overthrow the Thieu regime - in order to bring back peace." So say the Viet Cong.

Meanwhile, the Presidential party to the Bangkok tonight. The President winding up his stay in Thailand - with dinner at the stately residence of Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittakachorn. After a good night's rest - heading next for New Delhi and what promises to be another, reception.

Up at Boston - Senator Kennedy makes a judgement. Announcing today - he will not resign his Senate seat. Adding that he intends, instead, to return to Washington - there to resume his full official duties.

Basing his decision - said he - on the "expressions of confidence" he has received from the people of Massachusetts

Looking ahead - the sole surviving Kennedy

brother - went on to say - he will also run for reelection

to the Senate in Nineteen Seventy. In the process though 
apparently ruling out a Presidential bid in Nineteen Seventy
Two. Teddy Kennedy saying that if re-elected to the

Senate - he "will serve out his entire six year term."

Defection in London. Russian writer Anatoly

Kuznetsov - asking for and receiving political asylum today
in Britain. The British home office saying his application
was approved personally - by Nome Secretary James

Callaghan. Thereby solving the mystery of Kuznetsov's
disappearance from his London home - some two days ago.

Although principally a novelist - the forty year old writer has been working lately on a biography of Lenin.

That's what brought him to London - to research the London phase of Lenin's career. Of his earlier works though - most were concerned with the imperfections in Soviet life.

Kuznetsov's novels winning public acclaim - but setting off a running battle with official censors.

From Horsham, England - the story today of a legal name change. The name in question - that of Fred Hogsflesh; a young fellow who says he didn't mind all the jokes and teasing - while he was growing up. But now that he's planning to get married - said Fred - he just couldn't see his wife being called Mrs. Hogsflesh.

End result - Fred Hogsflesh taking as his new name - that of his bride-to-be, Miss Mamreen Casewell; who will now become - instead of Mrs. Hogsflesh - simply Warren Warren word you bey

Mrs. Casewell. all's well - that ends well.

Norwegian explorer-adventurer Thor Heyerdahl a guest of U-Thant today at the United Nations in New York. Bringing along his crew of six from that papyrus boat - the Ra - which he sailed marty across the ATlantic. U-Thant noting that the group included - besides the Norwegian - an American, an Egyptian, an Italian, a Russian, a Mexican and an African. Telling Thor Heyerdahl: "You have exemplified with your crew - the very Genesis of the U.N. Charter. " Adding: "Your achievement and purpose was a tremendous boost to the United Nations - and to the concept of humanity and our planet as one."

Incidentally, it's beginning to look as if the Ra might still make it to the New World - all on its own.

Latest reports placing the abandoned craft to the thankers bundred miles off the coast of Barbados. While it appears ready to take the final plunge at any moment - nevertheless managing somehow to stay afloat.