

Mon. July 5, 1971

OSLO

An ominous note - from Oslo, Norway - that country's new Prime Minister, Trygve Bratteli tells of a massive Soviet build up on Nato's northern flank. Bratteli adding that, indeed, "there are more Soviet military forces in the North today than ever before - possibly with the exception of World War Two." "And it is quite clear" - he goes on - "that this is part of the Soviet's global deployment of forces."

SINGAPORE

Singapore had a visit today from Vice President Agnew. When asked to comment on the recent government closing of a local Singapore newspaper, the U S Vice President said: "I don't think there's anything other than a healthy result - to be obtained from criticism of the government. But I also believe," said he - "that's it's impossible for a nation to conduct its business in the public press. There must be some security."

Next question: What about the future U S roll in the Far East? To which Vice President Agnew replied: "The U S remains a Pacific power. We have no choice in the matter."

SAIGON

From Saigon - word that recent checks of returning G I's - show a drug addiction rate of about two percent; which is bad enough admittedly; but still a far cry - from what was feared. Meanwhile, U S Presidential advisor Henry Kissinger was departing Saigon after talks with South Vietnamese officials.

This followed by diplomatic reports that President Nixon has informed Saigon - he intends to test fully the extent of Hanoi's apparent new peace offensive. But the President also is quoted as saying that the U S is "not going to be stampeded out of Vietnam."

And now this: A report tonight that the U S is "actively considering" - the possible speeding up of American troop withdrawals, from the present figure of some fourteen thousand a month - to perhaps as many as twenty thousand a month; till all's that left are "residual" forces - advisors - supply troops, technicians and so on.

WHITE HOUSE

President Nixon today witnessed the official certification of the new Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the Constitution; which lowers the voting age - as you know to eighteen. Those in attendance - including a group of about five hundred youths; including a singing group soon to leave for Europe. The President urging them to tell Europeans - that "America has never used its strength to take away freedom, only to preserve it."

WASHINGTON follow MINNEAPOLIS

The U S Census Bureau reports today that fourteen new cities - became predominantly black during the decade of the sixties. Atlanta and Newark among the larger cities; also, St. Louis, Illinois; Compton, California; Gary, Indiana; and East Orange, New Jersey - as well as eight smaller communities. This in addition to Washington, D.C. and Bessemer, Alabama, which already were predominantly black.

The City of Charleston, South Carolina, which had a black majority a decade ago again has a white majority.

NEW YORK

Some straight talk in New York. At a meeting of the American Bar Association - Chief Justice Warren Burger delivering today his second "State of the Judiciary" message. Charging that a "small minority of lawyers - have exploited uninformed laymen - and thereby abused - their public trust.

The Chief Justice adding: A profession ought to be able to regular itself - but the truth is that the legal profession has not done so; whereas "it must" said he - if it "wants to avoid regulation from the outside."

The Human Race enjoys races. This is true in all lands. With us we even have sack races, potato races, obstacle races of all kinds and so on - even international pancake races. One of the most unusual - and spectacular is an up and down mountain race in Alaska. It takes place at the head of great fjord Resurrection Bay, from the center of the city of Seward and down again. It's a test of stamina with several hundred contestants: Appropriately, it's on a peak named Mt. Marathon. This rugged race is made all the more so because the runners are forced to negotiate old avalanche snow near the base, a stretch of forest, and even an area of loose rock called "scree" that slides back with you when you take a step. Then more snow near the summit, and back down this steep mountain again. Some two hundred contestants one of whom my fifteen year old grand-daughter Anne came in second in her class. Also, Warren, sharing first prize in the team category.

HOLLYWOOD

One of the brightest and most enduring of French film stars along with Brigitte Bardot - the lovely Leslie Caron observes that "theoretically, American women have more prerogatives than any other women in the world." But, she adds, "perhaps not in practice," "because they just haven't taken advantage of their opportunities." In their careers for example, refusing "to take the necessary steps toward achieving success - just as a man is expected to do." Also, says Mademoiselle Caron: "We have no trouble about the identification of sexes, for in France "Men are men and women are women - and everyone can see that and appreciate it." Whereupon she repeated the old French cliché, "Vive le difference."