

LONDON

February 3, 1970

The big news tonight - from London - concerning the Middle East; where the plot thickens - as you no doubt know by now.

British sources reporting that the Kremlin has delivered identical warnings - to Washington, Paris and London. Warnings that the Soviet Union cannot stand idly by - if the current crisis in the Middle East should suddenly erupt into another full-scale war.

In reponse to this - the White House later admitting that President Nixon did receive a message from the Kremlin ; subject - the Middle East. Beyond that, however, the White House adding only that a reply will be made - in due time.

SUEZ FOLLOW LONDON

Meanwhile, Egyptian and Israeli forces traded air and artillery strikes today - across the Suez Canal.

Egyptian commandos also claimed to have destroyed an Israeli position - deep in occupied Sinai. A claim that was promptly denied - by Tel Aviv.

Nevertheless there has been an apparent end to heavy fighting on those strife-torn Golan Heights. For the first time in four days - neither side reporting any serious clashes there.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam - the fighting slackened off today right across that embattled land. Both sides apparently toning down their operations - in anticipation of the approaching Tet cease-fires.

Coincidentally, U.S. intelligence reports that Communist supplies have been flowing into the South at a rate about fifty per cent higher than last year: Does this mean another Tet offensive? It's more likely - we're told that the enemy is planning its next major drive later in the year.

SENATE

Here at home - a call for major draft reform.

With a Senate subcommittee headed by Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts - urging the elimination of practically all wartime draft deferments; including those for college students - men in critical occupations - even fathers. The subcommittee excepting only high school students - also, special hardship cases.

This new plan - said the panel - aimed at ending once and for all - the "enormous inequities" of the present deferment system; one that clearly favors registrants from wealthier families & who are most likely to attend college and then go on to protected occupations. The subcommittee observing that "many registrants have thus effectively obtained an exemption from all military service - while others less fortunate risk their lives in Vietnam."

FULBRIGHT

A related item: The Senate Foreign Relations

Committee today opened its long-delayed re-examination of our Vietnam war policy. Chairman Fulbright of Arkansas noting a "signal improvement" in the U.S. position - ~~statement~~ over the past two years. Adding that his aim has been ^{to} ~~help~~ not hinder, President Nixon - help him bring the war "to an early end."

NEW YORK

Treasury Secretary David Kennedy, - guest speaker today before a group of New York businessmen, ^{was} discussing his favorite subject - money. ^{Sec.} ~~David~~ Kennedy asserting "it would be unrealistic ~~A~~ to project a complete halt in price increases" in ^{to} the months immediately ahead. He added, however ^y: "We are clearly beginning to make headway - toward the President's objective of curbing inflation." And because of that progress - said he - the day may be lot "closer to hand than most people realize" - when interest rates will start going down again.

WALL STREET

Reaction in Wall Street - a sharp jump in stock prices. With the Dow-Jones industrial average - which started out on the downside - ending the day with a gain of more than eleven points.

CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill again - the Senate Judiciary Committee today completed its ^{session} ~~hearings~~ on Supreme Court nominee G. Harrold Carswell. However, the committee put off for perhaps a week or more - ^a ~~the~~ final vote on the matter. Chairman Eastland of Mississippi - blaming the delay on a wrangle within the committee. Explaining that backers of proposed electoral reforms - were demanding that their legislation be approved first. In effect, giving the anti-Carswell forces - additional time in ~~the~~ ² which to mount their case.

VATICAN

At the Vatican - Rome - Pope Paul suggests the possibility of an historic change - in the Catholic Church's nine hundred-year-old law on priestly celibacy. The Pontiff saying he would be willing to consider the possibility of accepting into the priesthood - married men of mature age and good reputation. But only in certain areas of the world - said he; areas where there are extreme shortages of priests - such as Latin America, Africa and parts of Asia.

At the same time though - the Pope rejected in strongest terms - the idea of optional celibacy demanded by ^{the} Dutch bishops. ^{He said} ~~Accepting~~ flatly he would not allow any change in church law ^{and} ~~permitted~~ young men entering the priesthood to marry. Indeed, the Pontiff urged the Dutch to reconsider their stand ^{- do it as he put it} "in prayer and charity."

TOKYO

The only nation ever attacked with nuclear weapons - became today the Ninety-Fifth signatory to that nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The Japanese Cabinet - meeting in Tokyo - ordering its ambassadors in Washington, London and Moscow to sign the document immediately. Making it clear though - that ratification by the Japanese Diet will have to await a later date.

Main reason - we are told - ~~is~~ the fact that two of the ^{world's} ~~nations~~ five nuclear powers - France and Red China - are not bound by the treaty. Because of this - Japan stressing it would quickly pull out - if its own "supreme interests" were ever jeopardized.

PLATTSBURG

A birthday salute to radio station W-E-A-V - at
Plattsburg, New York. Today celebrating - its thirty-
fifth anniversary on the air. In Plattsburg - it's W-E-A-V
- you better believe!

ALBANY

Albany, New York - the State versus the topless.

The New York State Assembly - taking up a new anti-nudity measure; spelling out in precise anatomical terms - just what it is that a woman can legally bare. The measure passing with overwhelming approval; - but, not before some self-conscious debate.

For example, one legislator admitted - somewhat red-faced - ^{Law} ~~he~~ was unable to understand the legal

hieroglyphics. Demanding to know in simple English - exactly where the bill would draw the line on nudity. A colleague replying it would draw the line - at that point

"where boredom ceases - where undivided attention begins." Where would that be? You tell me - Warren

TORONTO

From Toronto, Canada, news of a novel clean-up idea. Local officials deciding to paint some two hundred public trash cans in compelling colors such as shocking chartreuse, ice blue, sunshine yellow and terra cotta red.

This - at the suggestion of a panel of psychologists:

The idea to attempt to add a little sparkle to the city's anti-litter campaign.

Public reaction? The people of Toronto are said to be tickled pink.