

VIETNAM

Tues. July 8-'69.

The first American troops to leave Vietnam under President Nixon's withdrawal program, flew back to the United States today -- some of them wearing boots still smeared with Mekong Delta mud. ^{They are now at} McChord Air Force Base in the State of Washington ^{- home on} American soil once again. ~~For more than~~ ^{Some} eight hundred ~~soldiers~~ ^{coming as the} ~~from Vietnam~~ ^{the} vanguard of ~~some~~ twenty five thousand to be pulled out of ~~that embattled country~~ ^{Viet Nam} this summer.

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Just after the first contingent of American troops left Saigon, the Communists launched a series of rocket attacks only three miles from the heart of the city. No casualties, but the rockets set fire to a fuel storage tank, sending flames into the night sky and casting a flickering glow on ~~city's~~ streets. The attack came as allied military sources predicted renewed Viet Cong ~~terror~~ terrorism on the heels of American troop withdrawals.

General John P. McConnell, Air Force

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Chief of Staff - told a Senate committee ~~meeting~~ today
that North Vietnam has repaired at least seventy-five
percent of the damage ~~inflicted~~ inflicted by American bombing
attacks. ~~Said he~~ - "practically everything in North
Vietnam has been rebuilt" ^{said he -} "highways, bridges and
what little industry they have ~~what little~~ which isn't much."
McConnell estimates the repairs were made within
five months after a total bombing halt was ordered
last October. He also says the Communists are now
moving supplies with impunity and that Allied troops
are "more in jeopardy" as a result.

MIDEAST

Israeli and Syrian jet fighters - staging a spectacular battle at super-sonic speed, high in the skies over their common border today. Biggest air battle since the Middle East War two years ago. Both sides give conflicting reports -- the Israelis claiming seven Syrian Migs were shot down and all Israeli planes returned safely. In Damascus, a Syrian spokesman admits losing three planes, but says four Israeli jets were shot down in a ninety-minute battle. Both sides also reported ground fighting during the day, including Egyptian commando strikes and artillery duels across the Suez and ~~Libya~~ along the Jordan.

ECONOMY

Senate leaders say they^are determined to consider tax reform measures ~~along~~ along with any extension of the income surtax -- even though the White House doesn't like the delay in passing the surtax bill. President Nixon authorized one spokesman to say - "those who delay the tax bill must assume responsibility for cost of living increases and inflation."

Treasury Secretary ~~David~~ Kennedy tried today but failed - in an effort to speed the surtax bill through Senate committee before it becomes bogged down with tax reform amendments.

Mean^{while}~~time~~, Health and Welfare Secretary ~~Robert~~ Finch warned of - what he calls - "galloping inflation in medical costs," which he says, are running more than twice the over-all rate of increase in living costs.

The White House promises an important

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announcement Thursday on the subject of the medical
cost of living.

INSURANCE

President Nixon today asked Congress to make nearly five million new workers eligible for ~~un~~ unemployment coverage. Also, to raise the general level of benefits, and guarantee ~~a~~ longer periods of payment if a recession should occur. His goal - to assure unemployed workers at least fifty percent of their los^t wages.

CHINA

The U.S. Navy is conducting regular

The new China News Agency says Soviet troops made two amphibious landings on a Chinese island in the Amur River today, opening fire, on Chinese soldiers and civilians before being driven back. The Russian troops were supported by a gun boat say the Chinese, and by military planes which violated Chinese air space. In Moscow a Soviet spokesman said one Russian "river man" was killed in the incident.

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In London, Communist diplomats were quoted as saying the Cuban trip is the Kremlin's reminder to President Nixon that Soviet influence extends close to American shores. The Soviet leadership is reported surprised by the President's decision to visit Roumania next month ^{what the} ~~will~~ consider it an intrusion into Russia's political sphere.

FLOTILLA

The U S Navy is conducting regular air surveillance of seven Russian warships ~~which~~ ^{now} ~~are~~ heading across the Atlantic for what the Kremlin describes as a "friendly visit" to Communist Cuba. The Soviet ~~fleet~~ flotilla includes a rocket cruiser, submarines, a tanker, and three other vessels, all more than two hundred miles off the U. S. coast as they head for Cuba. Soviet sources say the ships will be in Havana for seven days, beginning July twenty.

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Nairobi, Kenya, scene of much violence

today - as thousands of rival ~~tribes~~ tribesmen clashed among themselves and with police., at the funeral ~~services~~ for slain government leader Tom Mboya.

Tear gas ^{even} seeped into the cathedral where services were held. Luo tribesmen, followers of Mboya

who believe he was shot by a Kikuyu, threw rocks

at Kenya President Jomo Kenyatta as he entered the

church. When the Kikuyu ~~waded~~ waded in for revenge

police charged the rival group with night sticks.

Scores were injured as the crowd of ^a ~~one~~ hundred thousand

^{or more} smashed shop windows and car windshields, trampled

flower beds and stoned automobiles. ^{with} ~~first~~ fights ^{going} ~~on~~

^{on} ~~out~~ all over ^{Nairobi} ~~the city~~ Warren.

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STATION

The first pop radio station to broadcast behind the ~~ix~~ Iron Curtain went on the air today in Belgrade, Jugoslavia, after overcoming some initial technical trouble. Radio Avala! -- its signal coming through loud and clear all over Belgrade - playing a wide ~~can~~ assortment of western ~~pop~~ popular records. And what do you think those Communist disc jockeys are talking about in between ^{records?} ~~times?~~ Would you believe it? They're giving bits of information on such matters as smog, and traffic, washing machine^s, restaurant commercials and baby sitting services.....