

PERSONAL FOLLOW OVERSEAS

L.T -
June 5, 1968 - Wednesday
Hughes Rudd - Sub.

For most though -- reaction was deeply personal. Especially in the case of Jacqueline Kennedy -- forced to relive in her mind the horror ~~of~~⁹ of Dallas four ~~9~~⁹ years ago. When told of the shooting -- Mrs. Kennedy crying: "No -- it can't have happened -- it can't have happened."

Mrs. Coretta King -- widow of the slain Martin Luther King -- another stunned by the news. Offering, nevertheless, "to do anything" -- which might "be of some service or consolation" to the Kennedy family.

For the rest of us -- reaction perhaps best summed up by a Marine corporal fighting in Vietnam. Robert Wolfe of Dodge City, Kansas, saying: "The guys over here are fighting -- and people back there are killing each other. It just ain't right."

OVERSEAS FOLLOW REACTION

Overseas -- Pope Paul decrying the shooting -- in his regular weekly audience at St. Peter's Basilica. Speaking in English -- for the benefit of hundreds of visiting Americans -- the Pontiff saying: "We deplore this new manifestation of violence and terror -- and we pray for this young man who was offering himself to the service of his country."

More scathing -- the comment from Russia; where Radio Moscow blamed the shooting on what it called -- the "notorious freedom of capitalist society -- the freedom to kill."

PARIS

Meanwhile, life goes on. Life in Paris including today -- a seventh meeting between U.S. and North Vietnamese peace negotiators. Apparently just as fruitless -- as all the rest.

North Vietnam's Xuan Thuy saying he finds "nothing new" -- in President Johnson's recent pleas for mutual de-escalation. This -- an "absurd demand" -- said he; again insisting on a complete bombing halt -- a complete cessation of U.S. "hostile acts."

U.S. Ambassador Averell Harriman firing right back -- with a charge of North Vietnamese aggression in neighboring Laos. "It is a fact" -- said he -- "that North Vietnam is waging not one war -- but several wars -- in Laos."

FRANCE FOLLOW PARIS

Elsewhere in the French capital -- another day of steady gain today -- in efforts to get millions of strikers back on the job. Railroads running again for the first time -- in Northern and Eastern France. Remaining railway workers -- also subway and bus operators -- voting today on a new labor contract; with expectations they, too, may be back at work -- as early as tomorrow.

President DeGaulle was also taking additional measures -- aimed at ending the nationwide paralysis. First -- the firing of the director of state-run French radio and television. Second -- the calling up of Army technicians -- to man broadcast control panels. This-- to ensure nationwide transmission; when DeGaulle goes on TV Friday -- to appeal again for an end to the economic chaos.

ROME FOLLOW FRANCE

But if one crisis is ending in Europe -- another is apparently just starting. In Rome -- Premier Aldo Moro resigning today -- as head of Italy's current coalition government. This largely because of Communist gains -- in last month's general elections. Threatening Italy now -- with political chaos.

SAIGON

Halfway round the world -- the latest battle for Saigon draws slowly -- agonizingly -- to a ~~conclusion~~^{close.}

In the Cholon district -- Allied tanks blasting their way today -- into a six-block guerilla stronghold. Their big guns ripping gaping holes -- in a number of houses that had served as Viet Cong fortresses. Reducing the enemy sanctuary -- to a scant three buildings. With South Vietnamese ground troops following right behind -- trying to finish the job.

More of the same -- on the northeast edge of Saigon. Where South Vietnamese Marines today decimated a force of Viet Cong -- menacing the key Binh Loi Bridge.

SPEECH

A final note - again from Los Angeles. Recalling Robert Kennedy's victory speech last night, looking back on the last three months of Campaign Sixty-Eight. His words - perhaps a hope and a guide for the future.

"I think" - said Robert Kennedy - "I think that all these primaries have indicated - we can" overcome the "divisions, violence and disenchantment within our society;" we can overcome the gulf - "between black and white, between poor and affluent; we can start - working together."

And the echo answers back tonight: "Would that it were true."

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And as Lowell Thomas would say, this is Hughes Rudd saying So long.