

TASHKENT

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Dallas Townsend

At Tashkent in the Soviet Union - Soviet Premier

Kosygin intervened a second time today - in stalemated peace talks between India and Pakistan. Kosygin conferring privately with Indian Prime Minister Shastri - following a secret meeting between Shastri and Pakistani President Ayub Kahn. According to informed sources - the Russian leader attempting to budge India from its iron-clad stand - that the subject of Kashmir is non-negotiable.

GOLDBERG

U. S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg submitted a brief report to the United Nations today - on the state of America's continuing world-wide peace offensive. A report stating that the effort - was not a "propaganda exercise; the lull in U. S. bombing of North Vietnam - no "ultimatum."

Sole purpose of the American peace offensive - said Goldberg - is to find "an acceptable formula to restore peace and security" to Southeast Asia. It is our hope - he added - that "the United Nations and all states - would give even more earnest thought to what they might do to help achieve these ends."

EGYPT FOLLOW GOLDBERG

Meantime, at least one concrete result of the peace offensive - reported today from Cairo. Where Egypt is said to be ready to renew its contacts with Communist countries - as well as non-aligned nations - directly concerned with the war in Vietnam. This as a direct result of talks earlier this week - between Egypt's Nasser and roving American Ambassador Averell Harriman.

The Cairo newspaper Al Ahram - semi-official spokesman for the Nasser regime - commenting that Egypt intends in no way to serve as a mediator between East and West. Observing, however, that cessation of American air raids on North Vietnam - was "a hopeful sign."

As for Harriman himself - he's bound for Thailand next and then Japan - on the final leg of his round-the-world peace tour.

BOMB

From Warsaw - the story today of a Polish war veteran who turned himself into a human bomb. All because of a fight - with his wife.

The man - identified solely as Andrzej L. - strapping four dynamite detonators under his arms - as part of his plan to end it all on a public street. Only to change his mind - at the last minute. Tearing the detonators from beneath his arms - disarming them - and hurling them to the sidewalk.

End of story? Not quite. The detonators exploding with a roar that blew a hole in the local library - scattered books in every direction - and frightened passersby half out of their wits.

Disarmed or not - it would seem that the underarm bomb - was only half-safe at best.

STEEL

On the home front - a cease-fire today between the White House and the steel industry. Based on a new price scheduled - satisfactory to both.

U. S. Steel paving the way to the truce - by announcing an increase averaging two dollars and seventy-five cents a ton - in the price of structural steel. This only slightly more than half - the five-dollar-a-ton price hike announced last week by Bethlehem Steel. The one denounced by the White House as inflationary and unnecessary - in view of booming steel production and fat profits.

Result this time: Immediate White House acceptance of the two-seventy-five increase - as perfectly justified by existing wage-price guidelines. Coupled with a call for Bethlehem and those firms that had followed Bethlehem's lead - to pull their prices back to a similar level. Which they did.

The President's love affair with big business - apparently once again in full bloom.

VIETNAM

*In far-off Vietnam - Communist ground fire today
downed a mammoth "flying crane." One of but six in existence
in the entire world - at least, as far as we know.*

*The giant craft - a twin-turbine Army helicopter -
whose primary function is to haul damaged combat helicopters
from the Vietnamese jungle. In use today, however, as a cargo
ship - ferrying ammunition to American troops in the Central
Highlands of Vietnam - when it crashed in flames.*

*Shells and bullets aboard the "flying crane" - exploding
for hours afterward - thus preventing rescue efforts. Of the
five men aboard - all presumed dead.*

*American ground forces later destroying an abandoned
Communist base camp - not far from the scene of the crash.
But except for a few snipers - Viet Cong forces had long-since
fled the area.*

HANGOVER

Good news for New Year's week - comes today from a team of Baltimore and Washington scientists. Who claim to have developed a cure for one of mankind's oldest ailments - the hangover.

Dr. Irving Freed of Baltimore reporting that the treatment consists of two pills - one red and white - the other blue. Which are to be taken immediately on arising - the morning-after. And which work - said he - in from twenty to thirty minutes.

Dr. Freed adding that the pills have been tested since nineteen-sixty-one - with good results. And are available even now - in a few stores in the Baltimore area.

What will they think of next? Well, how about a quick way to get to Baltimore?

BAKER

Former Senate aide Bobby Baker was indicted by a Federal grand jury today in Washington - on charges of tax evasion, conspiracy and several related offenses.

The government charging specifically that Baker understated his income by nearly fifty-five thousand dollars - for nineteen-sixty-one and nineteen-sixty-two. Thereby evading payment of more than twenty-three thousand dollars in federal income taxes - for those two years.

Also, that he stole or converted to his own use - some █████ sixty-seven thousand dollars from two California savings and loan executives. And allegedly received by fraud another thirty-three-thousand dollars - from another California businessman. The alleged crimes - committed for the most part while he was secretary to Democrats in the U. S. Senate.

Baker - if convicted - liable to a maximum penalty of fifty-eight years in prison - and fines totaling sixty-seven thousand dollars.

TRANSIT

Mayor John Lindsay jumped into New York's transit tie-up today - with both feet. Meeting with labor and management negotiators in joint session - to urge at least a temporary end to the subway and bus strike that has paralyzed the city. Based on the "general framework" of a preliminary agreement - with details to be worked out at a later date.

But no such luck. New chief union negotiator Douglas MacMahon - promptly branding the mayor's proposal as "unacceptable." And so the strike heads toward its sixth day - at an estimated cost of a hundred million dollars a day with no end in sight.

By the way, the mayor has appealed to employers - not to dock workers who are absent from their jobs because of the strike. However, an official of the Commerce and Industry Association asserted today - that an increasing number of firms are taking the position: "No show - no dough!"

LAWFORD

An announcement today here in New York - that actor Peter Lawford and his wife - the former Pat Kennedy - have agreed to an amicable separation. The announcement following reports from Hollywood - that the couple will shortly seek a divorce. First ever - in the Kennedy family.