

VIETNAM

Wed. July 9<sup>th</sup>. 69

On the war front - Vietnam - the news continues ~~to~~<sup>to</sup>  
~~improve.~~ <sup>improve. That is,</sup>  
~~tonight.~~ U.S. intelligence reporting <sup>S</sup> a drop in the Communist  
infiltration rate - to its lowest level in four years. With  
fewer than a thousand North Vietnamese troops - said to have  
entered the South during the month of June; as compared with  
a monthly average of nearly eight thousand earlier this year -  
and upwards of twelve thousand last year.

<sup>Also,</sup>  
~~Butter still~~ an advance report on the weekly casualty  
toll <sup>S</sup> setting American combat deaths for the past seven  
deaths - at their lowest figure in more than two months.

<sup>this</sup>  
And what does ~~it all~~ mean? ~~Well, it is certainly~~  
<sup>"It's</sup>  
premature - to assume this is a de-escalation on North  
Vietnam's part" - said one American <sup>spokesman.</sup> ~~official.~~ But then  
he added: "The significance of these figures - is being  
studied."

WHITE HOUSE

Here at home - on the economic front - President Nixon steps up his attack on that persistent "dollar drain." Ordering today a reduction of twenty thousand - in the number of American military and civilian personnel in non-essential jobs overseas. Saying the affected persons will be brought home - "as soon as possible." With <sup>eventual</sup> ~~possible~~ savings in the U.S. balance of payments - expected to run about Seventy-Five Million a year.

In the same vein - a new agreement today between Washington and Bonn - we hear. One in which West Germany reportedly agrees to offset - about eighty per cent of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops there. That cost, incidentally - running <sup>now</sup> ~~currently~~ about One Billion a year.

## CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - with the start of the final countdown for Apollo-Eleven just a day away - the pressure begins to build. Space workers and space watchers - swarming all over the U.S. moonport today, ~~Creating~~ - in the words of astronaut Mike Collins - a "tremendous hubbub."

Hubbub or no though - the three moonmen proceeding ~~ing~~ today with a full-scale takeoff rehearsal. Mission control at Houston - supervising the test; just as if they were actually setting out - on the first leg of their historic moon-landing expedition.

By the way - a footnote to the flight of Apollo-Eleven  
Space officials ~~today~~ calling the spacecraft's lunar landing module - man's first true spaceliner; in essence, an airplane turned inside out - with nothing in its design to give it any aerodynamic symmetry. As one space scientist put it: "Why think about air - when you're designing a craft to travel only in the vacuum of space?"

KREMLIN

Meanwhile, Apollo-Eight Commander Frank Borman - was *real busy* ~~busy winning friends~~ today at the Kremlin. He and his wife Susan charming, among others - Soviet President Podgorny; who arranged for this *I* his first meeting with a U.S. astronaut - in a setting friendly, relaxed, almost unique for the Soviet capital.

At one point - the President offering Mrs. Borman a Soviet cigaret; ~~and~~ then ~~he~~ reached across - and lit it. At which Colonel Borman observed, in effect: "You'll spoil her." And they all laughed.



CAIRO

From Cairo comes a report ~~today~~ - telling of an Arab drift farther and farther <sup>towards</sup> ~~to the left;~~ to the point where Egypt is expected to become soon - the fifth Arab state to establish full diplomatic relations with Communist East Germany.

This - we are told - a direct result of the breakdown of Big Four peace talks on the Middle East. With Egypt's Colonel Nasser said to be incensed - at what he calls U.S. "blind support" of Israel.

At the same time - Syria was renewing its appeal to the Kremlin for more military aid. Including a few additional planes, no doubt - to replace the seven lost in that dogfight yesterday with Israeli jets.

SELASSIE

~~The White House~~ again - President Nixon met today with visiting Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. Discussing - the President said later - "not only relations between the United States and Ehtiopia; but also the agony of Nigeria and Biafra - and the problems of the Mideast which are so much in our minds."

As for the seventy-six-year-old Lion of Judah - he, too, called it a worthwhile meeting. Ending with an invitation to the President - to come visit Ethiopia some time soon.

CHUR

A week-long meeting of European Catholic bishops -  
in session again today at Chur, Switzerland. There changing  
its stand - for the second time in as many days. Refusing  
to meet with a group of newly-arrived liberal priests  
demanding church reforms on celibacy, birth ~~control~~<sup>control</sup> and so  
on. A spokesman for the bishops saying: "No one has a right  
to force" a change - in the conference agenda. Adding that  
many of the bishops would have stayed at home - had they had  
~~any~~<sup>a</sup> advance knowledge of such ~~planned~~ confrontation.

BOSTON

0 1/2  
The case for DDT insecticides - presented forcefully today at a meeting of the World Health Organization in Boston. WHO Director-General M.C. Candau asserting that the world cannot afford to outlaw DDT - as many <sup>scientists & conservationists</sup> health-faddists have urged. Cannot afford to do so - said he - because DDT has proven the most effective deterrent to the World's most disabling disease; namely - malaria.

Dr. Candau going on to say - that WHO is trying even now to find a substitute for DDT. One that will not accumulate in the environment - one that will also prove cheap enough for widespread use. In the meantime - DDT is "irreplaceable" - said he. Adding that any "limitation on its use - would give rise to grave health problems in the majority of the world's developing nations."

lx  
And so - an A-O.K. for DDT from WHO. And now - here's Warren, PDQ. etc & so on. I hope!



WICHITA FALLS

~~Before I go any further - a special salute to CBS~~

CBS

Radio station K-W-F-T in Wichita Falls, Texas; today

celebrating<sup>es</sup> ~~ing~~ its thirtieth anniversary on the air. So <sup>here's</sup> ~~happy~~

~~birthday~~ <sup>to</sup> K-W-F-T! - and now <sup>a</sup> ~~this~~ final item.

WASHINGTON

Winner of this year's Powder Puff Derby - a California  
cutey - Mrs. Mara Culp of Newport Beach. So named by judges  
today - on the basis of a time-power ratio. ~~With~~ second-place  
in the ~~famed~~ <sup>is great</sup> cross-country race - to another California flyer -  
Mrs. Marian Banks of San Diego. ~~Indeed~~, The first ~~five~~ <sup>four</sup> - all  
from the Golden State. <sup>This afternoon they were</sup> At the White House - with fifty or  
so who also finished - sharing tea ~~this afternoon~~ with fellow  
Californian Pat Nixon.