

Good evening everybody.

Another ten thousand, five hundred U.S. combat troops - are destined for rush delivery to Vietnam.

Announcement today - from the Pentagon. Saying the reinforcements will be sent "for insurance purposes" - in the face of that continuing Red offensive.

The new men - expected to be airborne troops.

Raising total U.S. strength in Vietnam - to five hundred ten thousand, five hundred men. As against a total authorized strength - of five hundred and twenty-five thousand; a figure which is still on tap - for later in the year.

VIETNAM FOLLOW PENTAGON

Reason why - readily apparent on the other side of the globe. Where U.S. Marines are battling their way - inch-by-inch - through the streets of Hue; against a hail of enemy bullets - from that ancient, walled Citadel. While at Saigon - Allied troops have been fighting skirmishes with the Viet Cong - on both the northern and southern edges of the city.

Elsewhere in Saigon - government officials today reporting discovery of a body - believed to be that of North Vietnamese Major General Tran Do. The man supposedly commanding the Communist offensive against the capital - also deputy commander of all Communist forces below the Buffer Zone. Now apparently the highest-ranking Communist officer - to be killed so far in South Vietnam.

LONDON

**More on the war - from London; where U.N. Secretary
General U Thant conferred with British Prime Minister
Harold Wilson.**

**Wilson later telling the House of Commons - that only
"a very narrow gap" remains to be bridged; before the United
States and North Vietnam - can agree to begin peace talks.
"Unfortunately" - said he - "the fighting in the last two
weeks makes it more difficult for all concerned - to cross
that bridge."**

ADD LONDON

As for U Thant - tonight he canceled his scheduled return home - undertaking, instead, a hurried flying trip to Paris.

Reason - as yet unannounced. However, chief speculation centered on possible talks - with North Vietnamese or Viet Cong officials stationed in the French capital.

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE

In the Winter Olympics at Grenoble - another shutout today for U.S. athletes. With a combination of skiing and skating disappointments - adding still further to U.S. gloom.

As for the French - who won another gold medal today - there seems to be only one problem; and that - a matter of attendance; as we hear in this next - from Lowell Thomas.

Lowell...

LOWELL THOMAS LOG. . . . (Taken from tape)

Hello Dallas, and good evening everybody. I suppose the number-one mystery here at Grenoble, at the Winter Olympics, is why so few spectators? Fewer than at Innsbruck in Austria, four years ago. . . fewer than at Cortina, in Italy, when the games were there. Of course, there were many American cancellations, after President Johnson sent out the word some weeks ago, asking Americans not to travel abroad so much this year. But that doesn't explain it. Many thought that the French would swarm to Champ Rue, San Muster, etc, etc. . . for the hockey and skating, and for all the other events that are scattered around these mountains of Savoy. But instead, they - the French - and their neighbors - nearby Switzerland, Austria and other countries - not so far away - they are staying away in droves. Why? No one has come up with the real explanation. It can't all be due to DeGaulle. And the weather hasn't been too bad. Could it be television? It takes some of us fifty minutes or so to drive just to

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Grenoble, and the radio-TV press center each morning. Some days, we meet a steady stream of cars coming away from Grenoble...leaving, all filled with skis - all heading to "various French towns) or somewhere in the nearby Alps. All going skiing...just not bothering about the Olympics. Except to listen to the radio and catch a bit on TV in the evening. Why so few spectators? Still a mystery. So right now, I think I'll head for the Sal de Glace - perhaps watch the Russian pros play hockey a bit. And then - join the skiers who are heading for those vast Alpine snowfields, with their thrilling panoramas, over near Mount Blanc - Solong.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE

Thank you, Lowell. And we'll be looking forward to your next report - après-ski. Back to the news...

Americans for Democratic Action. Leon Keyserling - who has been a vice chairman of the ADA for the past fifteen years - blasting the group's endorsement of Senator McCarthy of Minnesota. Charging that the organization has been captured by a clique - dedicated to destabilizing President Johnson.

Others who have quit the ADA during the last two days including President J. W. Abel of the United Steelworkers - President Louis Stokberg of the Ladies Garment Workers - President Joseph Beirne of the Communications Workers - and Texas Congressman Harry Gonzalez.

ADA

A former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers - the latest to withdraw tonight from Americans for Democratic Action. Leon Keyserling - who has been a vice chairman of the ADA for the past fifteen years - blasting the group's endorsement of Senator McCarthy of Minnesota. Charging that the organization has been captured by a clique - dedicated to destroying President Johnson.

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CAIRO

For U.N. peace envoy Gunnar Jarring - another flying trip today to Cairo; where he is expected to meet with Egyptian officials for two days - trying to get Mideast peace talks off dead center. Coincidentally, a sudden lull - on that River Jordan truce line; after three consecutive days of gun duels - between Israeli and Jordanian troops.

A published report today that the U.S. intelligence ship Georgetown - was buzzed this week in the Mediterranean. The culprit - said to have been an Egyptian jet bomber. However, the Pentagon turning aside all questions - with a terse "no comment."

Word from Warren Moran.

GALLERY

The handwritten note left at the Sculptors Gallery in St. Louis was full of sound advice. "To whom it may concern" the note said. "In view of the recent crime wave in this fair city and across the country, we recommend a more cautious course of action. Hide the value of desirable masterpieces - install a burglar alarm - put a lock on the front door." And so on. The note ended - "all has been left intact." But it wasn't. Missing were numerous pieces of sculpture - also a typewriter. Perhaps so that the next note of advice can be typed instead of done by hand.

Good night.

State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey says

that Rest's statement "takes into account everything we know."

On the other hand, there are some brighter aspects to

the picture.