

KENNEDY

L.T.-Calds. Wed. 4/24 - '63.

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At his news conference today, with regard to Laos, President Kennedy left us with - a tantalizing hint that major international diplomacy is in the works. The President, turning aside - all attempts to pin him down. Refusing - to speculate. Saying, in effect "let's wait until Averell Harriman gets back from Moscow."

Meaning - the American trouble-shooter leaves for the Soviet capital tomorrow, There, to hold a conference - with Foreign Minister Gromyko, And, to deliver - a letter to Khrushchev from President Kennedy. Harriman's mission, boiled down to essentials, is to see if he can fathom the dark ~~days~~ ways of Kremlin strategy in Laos.

That's why President Kennedy is maintaining - a discreet silence, Dodging questions - like the following:- Does Khrushchev want peace or war - in Laos? Does he have control - of the Red Guerrillas? Or - has Mao Tse-Tung taken over? Who prompted the Reds to attack the neutralists - their old allies? And so on.

The feeling around Washington tonight - and I suppose in the ~~other~~ other world capitals - is that the Laotian crisis will break one way or the other. And - soon. Within - the next few days. President Kennedy prefers to leave it at that - for now.

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Other issues - treated more briefly at the news conference:- The President isn't planning to meet Khrushchev - at a summit conference. His exclusion of France from his European trip is according to protocol - which says that it's DeGaulle's turn to pay us a visit. President Kennedy still feels that our space program is worth the cost. He and Prime Minister MacMillan are pushing the disarmament talks - because of the feeling that this may be the last chance. He thinks that a tax cut - should be made, now.

Cuba? Mr. Kennedy, on the basis of ~~ii~~ intelligence reports - estimates that some five thousand Soviet troops have been removed. And - ~~that~~ that no significant number have been brought in.

This contradicting - the claims of New York's Senator Keating. What to do - about Castro? Just - what we're doing. Isolate the bearded dictator - from the ~~xxx~~ rest of the hemisphere. Get rid of him - without war.

CANADA FOLLOW KENNEDY

As for our ^{great}~~good~~ neighbor to the North - Canada was
the subject of ~~is~~ the President's opening statement. You
may recall Prime Minister Pearson's remark the other day -
that his meeting with President Kennedy would not be in
Ottawa or Washington. Tonight, ~~where~~ we know - the place.
Hyannisport, Massachusetts.

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DEFENSE

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara again warned the nation today - of what will happen if President Kennedy's defense budget is cut. Telling a Senate sub-committee that Russia seems to be coming round to the view that - even local wars are dangerous; ~~Because~~ they could touch off - a worldwide nuclear explosion. But Russia's Chinese comrades - obviously do not agree.

So says Secretary McNamara, Russia and China must both ~~xxx~~ continue to be confronted with - the awesome might of the U.S. armed forces. And this awesome might will be damaged - if the budget is cut.

JACK WITH INQUIRY

The nuclear submarine "Jack" was christened today in Portsmouth, New Hampshire - with the customary bottle of champagne. Sliding down the ways exactly two weeks after her sister ship the "Thresher" - was lost.

The Navy claims the "Jack" will travel faster, dive deeper and run ~~quicker~~ ^{quieter} - than any other submarine. She is to have a crew of ten officers - and eighty-five enlisted men. Her commanding officer - Commander Louis Urbanczyk of Buffalo, New York.

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Meanwhile, in Portsmouth also, that Navy court of Inquiry probing the sinking of the "Thresher" - retired behind closed doors today, ~~to~~ consider evidence that might deal with - military secrets. But re-admitting newsmen for a short time to hear a shipyard official give his views - on debris taken from the sea.

^ Including a charred piece of plastic - maybe part of the "Thresher's" reactor shield - gloves used in nuclear submarines; and part of a life jacket.

His finding ^{- that} _λ it could have been the Thresher's.

But no positive identification.

Just before the doors were closed a shipyard official said he believed a failure in the piping system caused the tragedy. Such a failure being - "the most hazardous condition that might occur."

VIET NAM

so much
With ~~all the~~ emphasis on Laos these days, we tend to forget that - fighting is still fierce in Viet Nam.

51
Today a government air strike wiped out one hundred Red guerrillas who have been attacking fortified villages in strength - killing women and children as well ~~extensively~~ as troops.

The biggest attack in recent weeks - by the loyalist Air Force. Saigon - determined to hit the Reds a decisive blow. Doing it - with bombs and napalm. Sending the guerrillas reeling back - into ~~the~~ the jungle.

LAOS

In Laos today right-wing General Phoumi Nosavan's troops - quietly took over key installations in ^Vientiane. _^
Thereby indicating that neutralist Premier Souvanna Phouma - is no longer in full command. But no one is quite sure ~~but~~ yet whether the move ~~is~~ is a precaution ~~ga~~ against a Communist coup, ^{51/2} or, the beginning of a rightist coup.

NORWAY

Denmark, Norway, and Sweden - have come up with quite a plan. They want to form an international "fire-brigade" - for the United Nations. A single unit emergency force - composed of troops, military experts, field hospital and helicopter crews - contributed by the three nations. A force ~~which can~~^{to} be moved on short notice to any critical area - by the U N.

A "fire brigade" - Nordic style.

MARCIANO

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There are times in the life of a heavyweight
boxing champion when he should learn not to use his fists.
If he doesn't want to have to pay for using them - instead
of getting paid.

Consider the case of Rocky Marciano, who some
time ago flattened a public relations man - after an argument
in a restaurant. Rocky, now ordered by the New York State
~~Supreme~~ Supreme Court - to ante up five thousand dollars, ~~To~~
help ease the pain of his victim, ^{- Dick -} whose ears have been
ringing since - the champ hit him with a roundhouse right.

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WEDDING

Princess Alexandra may have been a bit late for her wedding today - as you have probably all heard, ~~But~~, another member of ~~of~~ the wedding party - didn't make it at all.

Seven year old Jane Ogilby, the bridegroom's niece, and Alexandra's bridesmaid-to-be -- caught the measles.

One deeply disappointed small girl - who ^{did} ~~will~~ not see the Queen today, Nor take part in that glittering, diamond-studded, fantastic fairy-tale - a British Royal Wedding.