

VIETNAM

Fri, Oct. 27 - 67,

If there remained any doubt about the capabilities of properly-trained South Vietnamese fighting men - it should have been dispelled once and for all today; on a battlefield - near Phuoc Qua; where some two hundred South Vietnamese troops and their four American advisers - successfully hurled back three suicidal attacks; beating off a force of about twelve hundred - North Vietnamese Regulars.

When the last shot was fired - the battle over - the field of combat lay littered with <sup>some</sup> ~~about~~ two hundred enemy dead. The South Vietnamese losing five ~~men~~ - the Americans none. Prompting a flying visit from Lieutenant General ~~Fredrick~~ Weyand - to give the victors his personal congratulations.

The General noting ~~what's more~~ that this apparently was "the first major combat" for the enemy infiltrators. And it must have been - "as demoralizing as hell" - said he.

POTOMAC

*The war in Vietnam - also much on the mind of President Johnson today; at the dedication of a memorial to President Theodore Roosevelt - on an island in the Potomac River.*

*During a brief speech - the President remarking that responsibilities of citizens must always be manfully met; and most especially - "in this hour of greatest trials." Or as Teddy Roosevelt put it: "Woe to the country when a generation ~~arises~~ arises - that shirks from doing the rough work of the world."*

## MIDDLE EAST

Far from inflaming tension, as expected - the arrival of Soviet warships in Egyptian waters has had a strangely calming effect on the Middle East. This the burden of reports today - from that Arab-Israeli truce line.

At least one explanation - from diplomatic sources in London, <sup>that</sup> ~~who~~ say the Russian fleet ~~is~~ is intended; one - to discourage the Israelis from any ~~fx~~ further truce violations in the Suez Canal area; and two - to prevent Cairo and Damascus, likewise, from setting off a new war.

Perhaps most important though - the Russians are said to have let it be known - they are "most anxious" to avoid a military confrontation with the United States; with the result that their announced "goodwill visit" - is turning out to be just that, oddly enough.

## DENVER

The making of a President, <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ sixty-eight -- still more than a year away. But already - the race is heating up.

Governor Romney of Michigan, for one - stoking the coals today at Denver, with a blistering attack on President Johnson - at the western States Republican Conference.

"The present leadership has lost the capacity to lead" - said Romney. Further charging that President Johnson has rigged figures on federal spending - at a cost to taxpayers of from forty-to-fifty-two billion.

The President "has misled us on the budget - from the moment he took office" - said <sup>Gov.</sup> Romney. Adding: "What a phony!" Who? The President - he was later asked?

"No" - said Romney - <sup>^</sup>the budget." But by then - the reverse had been broadcast clear around the world.

~~Not long after~~ Governor Reagan and former Vice President Richard Nixon were holding simultaneous news conferences today; a few blocks apart - in ~~the city of~~ Chicago, where they both denied earlier reports - of an alleged "deal" on how to pursue the Republican presidential nomination.

The original story - that Reagan would support Nixon in the first few primaries; in return for Nixon's support - should the latter fail to win. However, both men commenting: "No deal." "Reagan saying again - he would "not raise a finger" to get the nomination. Nixon saying he hadn't even decided to run -- and wouldn't at least <sup>be</sup> until the New Year.

The Pope ~~will~~<sup>to</sup> undergo surgery within two weeks, --  
~~for correction of an enlarged prostate gland.~~ ~~His condition~~

<sup>The</sup> announcement today -- from the Vatican ~~to Rome~~ Going on  
to say that a special room will be set up inside the Papal  
apartment -- to accommodate the operation.

The seventy-year-old Pontiff <sup>has been</sup> ailing since early  
September; when he first suffered an attack of fever --  
brought on by ~~an~~<sup>an</sup> ~~urinary tract~~ infection. However, he had  
seemed much improved; ~~of late~~ Presiding over sessions of  
the current Synod of Bishops -- also conferring at length  
today with visiting Patriarch Athenogoras of the Eastern  
Orthodox Church.

As for that continuing Synod -- it approved  
overwhelmingly today a new document -- on ways to combat  
man's "crisis of faith". The paper calling for creation of an  
international commission of theologians -- to advise the  
Vatican on church teaching; with the emphasis, henceforth,  
on what Catholics should -- rather than should not -- believe.

## BRASILIA

From the jungles of Brazil comes a ~~wretched~~ story today -- reminiscent of our own early frontier days. A story of wholesale corruption - and worse - in Brazil's sprawling Indian agency.

According to government investigators from Brasilia - the Brazilian Indians have been cheated out of ~~mill~~ millions of dollars worth of ~~no~~ crops and land. Those who objected - often sold into slavery. The report citing specifically the case of an eleven-year-old girl - traded for a gas stove. When her father attacked the agent responsible - he was sentenced to two years at hard labor.

How long <sup>has this been going on?</sup> ~~this is corruption~~ At least twenty years - said the report. How many involved? At least a hundred agents - maybe more. Fifteen of them - already indicted and awaiting trial.

NOVOSIBIRSK

Next up -- a startling report on a new "think tank" -- perhaps the greatest intellectual beehive in all history. And it's located in Western Siberia -- of all places.

This a new Russian "science city" -- on the outskirts of Novosibirsk. A community of high-rise buildings -- surrounded by plush homes with well-manicured lawns; in stark contrast to the Virgin Forest -- from which it was just carved.

Here live the top brains of the Soviet Union -- in virtually every field of science. A new elite of the U. S. S. R. -- totally divorced from the old straight-jacket of Marxist ideology. Academicians of the highest order -- engaged in pure research; on subjects ranging from nuclear physics -- to cybernation -- to control of mosquitoes.

As part of the experiment -- the scientists receive annual incomes ranging up to sixty thousand - American dollars. They have the best in material goods that the Soviet Union has



to offer -- including giant supermarkets filled with goods; many of them luxury items ~~←~~ that are next-to-impossible to get anywhere else in Russia. To top it off -- they are also free to criticize the government; <sup>also</sup> if they wish ~~←~~ to communicate uncensored with the West -- even ~~to~~ read Playboy Magazine -- just as long as they produce.

If they don't -- if the experiment proves a flop -- well, no one's saying !! But the implication is clear, <sup>Warren, for</sup> ~~There's~~ always that -- other Siberia.

MILAN

From Milan, Italy -- the sad story today of two ducks. No ordinary ducks these -- but singing ducks. Until today -- star performers in a local circus.

The ducks trained by a circus clown -- who worked with them for six years; until they <sup>actually</sup> learned to quack in unison -- "The Blue Danube"; To the amusement of thousands of circus-goers -- young and old.

Only trouble -- the ducks were always "on". Forever quacking out "The Blue Danube" -- at the slightest provocation -- night and day -- day and night -- on and on; until finally -- it was too much for circus hand Guido Manfredi. Driven to the brink of insanity by all that quacking -- he strangled them. And s-l-u-m,

~~Anybody for singing duck soup?~~