

VIETNAM

Thurs, Nov. 16-67,

In the Central Highlands of Vietnam - a massive demonstration today of U.S. air power. American ~~war~~ planes blasting the jungle ~~in~~ mountains rimming the battle-scarred U.S. position at Dak To. While on the ground - American troops were destroying a ~~sketchily~~ ^{well hidden} Viet Cong ~~hidden~~ ^{X ^} gun position - the one that served as the ~~enemy's~~ chief tormentor - during three days of mortar attacks on Dak To.

American officers later observing - the two week battle for Dak To may be over at last. The enemy - apparently withdrawing back into Laos, leaving behind at least seven hundred known dead - in addition to another seven hundred probable dead - as compared with American losses - totalling a hundred-and-twenty-one men.

Meanwhile, to the North - U.S. Navy jets today were taking ~~advantage~~ advantage of ~~the~~ a slight break in the ~~monsoon~~ monsoon weather, ~~blasting~~ blasting a previously untouched shipyard - in the vital Red port of Haiphong.

WESTMORELAND FOLLOW VIETNAM

Also General Westmoreland put in an appearance today before the Senate Armed Services Committee; presenting - we are told - a "cautiously optimistic" report.

Westmoreland later returning to the White House - ~~where~~ where he spent last night. Today to witness an award ceremony with the President presenting a medal of honor to another hero of Vietnam - Army Sergeant Charles Morris of Galax, Virginia.

Said the President: "After thousands of years of civilization - the saddest of all human failures is this - that the precious wealth of man's courage must still be spent on the battlefield. But all the wisdom of the earth" he added - "has not yet found a way to preserve freedom without defending it."

A later development -- General Westmoreland quoted as telling a House committee - there could be the beginning of a faze-out of the war within two years --

if everything keeps going along as it is." The major burden of the fighting -- could then be turned over to the South Vietnamese^{y)} -- said he.

ANNIVERSARY

~~By the way~~ The President and Mrs. Johnson
will celebrate ~~tomorrow~~ their ^{own} thirty-third wedding
anniversary ^{tomorrow} in honor of which - White House aides ^{were} recalling
~~today~~ a recent conversation; when L B J ~~wonkd~~ was asked
what he would do - if he had his life to live over ^again.

His answer - quick as a flash - "I'd marry Lady
Bird. ⁾~~again.~~" ~~The President~~ Adding: "She gets better
to live with - every day."

~~After thirty-three years - quite an achievement.~~

KILIAUEA

For the second time this month - and only the third time in some thirty years - another brilliant fireworks display today from Hawaii's ~~tremendous~~ ^{volcano} Mt. Kilauea. ~~volcano.~~ ~~A fountain of lava spouting fifty feet~~ ~~into the air - under a cloud cover of black sulphur smoke;~~ ~~with~~ ^{by} a series of ~~simultaneous~~ earth tremblors ~~giving~~ ^{adding} an "end of the world" ~~quality to~~ ^{feeling to} this latest eruption.

According to ^{the} U S Geological Survey - the lava is now building up at a rate of a million yards a day - already covering the floor of Kilauea's giant Halemau mau Crater - nearly a mile ~~across.~~ ^{wide.} - ~~Raising the possibility - said the~~ ^{A big show for the tourists,} Geological Survey spokesman - ~~that Halemau mau will~~ ~~once more achieve continuous fire pit status, becoming~~ ~~a major tourist attraction as it was in the days of old.~~

HONG KONG

Communist China's first hydrogen bomb - so powerful it "can totally destroy all the buildings in Tokyo." This according to a Red Guard leaflet - smuggled today into Hong Kong; reporting on the "explosive power" generated by China's first H-bomb test - ~~ks~~ last June in Western Sinkiang, ~~Province.~~

The leaflet going to say that as a result "the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union are now mortally scared." ~~I might add that in view of the Red Guard reference to Tokyo - it's expected that Japan may also be somewhat concerned.~~

*The U S economic outlook for Nineteen Sixty-Eight -
brighter and ~~xxx~~ brighter, higher and higher. In fact -
just short of boom proportions; according to a comprehensive
consumer spending survey - reported today from the
University of ~~Nx~~ Michigan.*

*Economist Eva Mueller saying the American shopper
will probably think twice - before he buys a new car, a
refrigerator, a washing machine, mainly - because of
higher prices. But after thinking it over - the shopper
will probably buy anyway - said the Professor.*

*Economist Daniel Suits adding that the gross
national product -- will continue to rise to new heights;
"providing enough new jobs") - said he "to absorb the
growing labor force;" and also to make up for old jobs --
lost through automation.*

ROME FOLLOW-ANNIVERSARY

Oh yes, and
~~Next stop~~

this latest from Rome; on the ill-scared romance of Italian princess Marie-Beatrice - and her commoner boy-friend, movie muscle man Maurizio Arena.

The couple - as you know - finally returned from ~~fundak atex~~ futile attempts to marry in England and France; and now Arena finds himself cited with an obscure Roman charge - known legally as Plagio." Arena's accuser - strangely enough - a lady monarchist; who says that Arena is a svengali - who has placed the Princess under his romantic spell. The Plagio law defining an offender - as "one who places another in his power in such a way - as to reduce the other person to a state of total subjection."

Now, if we could ^{just} get such a law over here, think of all the husbands, ^{Warren,} who might be saved.

New York's Mayor ~~John~~ Lindsay is currently visiting the Golden Gate State - on what is officially billed as a "non-political" tour. Even so, one of the Mayor's first stops today - at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles; where he filled in a group of campus rebels - on the political facts of life.

In essence, Lindsay telling the students their one best chance of changing the world - is through government. Said he: "If you want to ban the bomb - only government can do it; if you want to legalize pot - only government can do it."

However, the Mayor drawing a line - when it comes to the popular hippie slogan: "Make love - not war." "As a Republican"- said he - "I think that matter should best be left - to private enterprise."