

L.T. Buich, Fisher. Mon. Apr. 25-64.

MOTT

The Soviet Union formally accused today of withholding evidence -- in the alleged prison-train suicide of American tourist Newcomb Mott.

An American note delivered to the Kremlin -- charging that Russia has refused to supply eyewitness reports from <sup>Young</sup> Mott's guards. Further, that Russia's investigation of the case -- left unanswered and unexplained a number of important questions, chiefly -- why was Mott on his way to a labor camp in the first place -- when his appeal for clemency was still pending?

A U. S. Embassy <sup>spokesman</sup> ~~representative~~ asserting -- "they just haven't proved how he died." Adding -- "we are neither accepting nor rejecting the suicide version -- we just don't have enough information."

MC NAMARA

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Heated rebuttal today from Defense Secretary Robert McNamara -- to weekend charges from the House Armed Services Committee. One -- that he alone was largely responsible-- for delays in development of a new strategic bomber. And two -- that he planned to cut the nation's manned bomber force by one-third -- over the next five years.

The Committee guilty of painting a "shockingly distorted picture" -- said McNamara. Especially in its contention that "major decisions on the manned bomber program -- were made against the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff." The charge -- said he -- "without any foundation whatsoever."

As for a new strategic bomber -- McNamara stating there is "no clear need" for such a plane at present; but that future plans provide for construction of <sup>such a</sup> ~~the~~ craft in the Nineteen-Seventies -- "in the <sup>g</sup> unlikely circumstances" that a need does develop.

Mc NAMARA--2

In summing up -- McNamara ~~is~~ asserting flatly that Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles -- are and must continue to be our main line of defense. With U. S. deterrent policy based on <sup>our</sup> ability to guarantee the destruction of any country -- that might launch a nuclear war.

This we can do -- with weapons at hand -- said *Sec.* McNamara. Now -- and for years to come.



BRUSSELS

48  
A beautiful Spring day today -- in the tiny Belgian village of Asse--<sup>(ah-say')</sup>as it was here in New York. A Belgian school teacher taking advantage of the weather -- to <sup>instruct</sup> ~~instruct~~ his class of boys -- aged Six-to-Eight--in the rules of pedestrian crossing safety. Part of a national campaign-- to reduce traffic deaths.

The rest -- grim irony. A baker's truck racing out of control -- and plunging through the class. Ten of the youngsters -- killed instantly. Four others -- in critical condition.

The operator of the truck --attacked by witnesses. Rescued by police -- he was later charged with drunken driving.

## VALENTI

Jack ~~J~~ Valenti -- one of the most intimate associates and outspoken admirers of President Johnson -- resigned today from the White House staff. Valenti said to be in line for appointment -- as president of the Motion Picture Association, ~~At~~ a salary -- of about A Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand a year; versus Thirty Thousand-- as a special presidential assistant.

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Across Washington -- another blow today to the President. The Senate Appropriations Committee refusing to approve any funds -- for that program of Federal rent subsidies for the needy; ~~A~~ key element -- in the President's plan for a "Great ~~S~~ Society."

## FIGHTERS

At least two of the pilots of Mig fighters -- that Saturday challenged U. S. raiders over North Viet Nam -- reliably identified today as Red Chinese. U. S. sources in Saigon indicating "a strong possibility" -- that additional Migs in the dog-fight were also flown by Chinese -- rather than <sup>by</sup> North Vietnamese pilots.

The big question -- whether Red China is now stationing planes in North Viet Nam. Or whether the Chinese are serving as advisers -- to help train North Vietnamese pilots. If the latter -- they would <sup>merely</sup> be playing ~~virtually~~ <sup>9</sup> the same role ~~that~~ <sup>9</sup> as that of American flyers -- in the early stages of the war.



## ASPEN

From Aspen, Colorado -- news today of still another mountain-climbing tragedy; on the nearby slopes--of the beautiful twin Maroon Bell peaks.

Three Nineteen-year-old students from Western State College -- attempting a ~~Twenty-Four~~ hour weekend round-trip -- up and down the ~~Fourteen-Thousand-foot~~ mountain. All of them experienced climbers -- all lashed together; when something happened-- They lost their footing, and the trio tumbling head over heels -- down a rocky snowfield. Two of them -- ~~killed instantly~~ <sup>fatally injured.</sup> The third badly battered -- and later confined to Aspen Valley Hospital.

The new deaths raising to seven -- the total number of persons killed in falls from the <sup>peaks</sup> twin peaks -- since ~~just~~ last summer.

## DEGAULLE

More grief today for DeGaulle ~~of France~~ -- in his ~~long~~ weekend tour of the Northern <sup>French</sup> Provinces; <sup>an</sup> a self-proclaimed trouble-shooting mission -- that seems to find trouble at every turn.

First ~~stop~~ at Lille -- DeGaulle's birthplace; where the mayor and city fathers -- officially boycotted his visit. This followed by a city bus strike -- in protest against DeGaulle's wage policies. Then a dense fog -- that grounded DeGaulle's official party -- forcing him to continue his trip by train.

Today -- ~~it was~~ a visit to the historic port of Dunkirk -- <sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ more of the same. DeGaulle met by a strike of dock workers -- and later steel workers. His planned visit to the new Dunkirk steel plant -- supposedly the most modern in all of Europe -- a complete flop.



## PRESBYTERIANS

Southern Presbyterians in conference at Montreat, North Carolina -- today took <sup>quite a</sup> ~~a giant~~ step toward racial harmony. Officially agreeing for the first time -- that Negroes are fully entitled to all church benefits.

Delegates present declaring "refusal to receive Negro members" ~~members~~ in the church -- "to be a denial of the gospel of Christ." Also that withholding of funds by local church leadership for racial reasons -- is "an unjustified act" -- no longer to be tolerated.

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The conference representing nearly a million ~~Presbyterians~~ Presbyterians -- in Sixteen Southern states.

OLD

From a Soviet commune in Armenia -- the story today of a Russian peasant woman -- who claims to be a Hundred-and Fifty-Three years old; if true -- the oldest woman in the world.

The venerable lady -- identified as Mrs. Asmar Salakhova. "Granny Asmar" -- for short -- said to have been born in Eighteen-Twelve -- the year Napoleon invaded Russia. A farm-worker until she was Sixty-Five -- in Eighteen-Seventy-Seven; when she retired to lighter duties -- but going strong ever since.

"Granny Asmar" now the matriarch of a family -- that includes twenty great-grandchildren -- and thirteen great-great grandchildren. Still hale and hearty -- and by her own words -- "feeling just fine." How about you, Warren?

## STRIKE

A major breakthrough today -- in that fifteen-day old soft coal strike. Some fifteen thousand West Virginia miners -- returning to their jobs; under terms of a provisional agreement -- with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

Many of us here in the New York area wish by some miracle they would settle the tragic New York newspaper strike.