

Wed. May 10 - 72.

PENTAGON

While many were talking of gloom and doom the voice of Defense Secretary Laird was heard today calm and clear. At a Pentagon press conference, Laird stressing that U S withdrawal from Vietnam is continuing as planned, pledging to "meet or beat - " the President's goal of a troop cut to forty-nine thousand ~~men~~ by July one, ~~one~~.

^{Laird}
~~The~~ Defense Secretary [^] also stressed - that Vietnamization is working. In five weeks of intensive ~~fighting~~ fighting said he - enemy invaders ^{for all their claims have} ~~no~~ [^] advanced ~~but~~ only twenty-two miles ~~for all their claims~~ capturing only one provincial capital. ^{Sec.} Laird adding, ^{that} in sum, the South Vietnamese "are holding fast" in a very difficult ground combat situation;" and doing it, what's more, said he - against modernized ~~and~~ equipment - "supplied by the Soviet Union for the first time this year."

^{Sec.} Laird going on to say - the newly ~~and~~ ordered

U S blockade of North Vietnam ^{is} therefore, essential. ^{And he}

~~calling~~ on all Americans - to support the President's action. "There is no time for quitters or talk of instant surrender" - said he; "this is no time for the American people - to board what might be called "the 'bug-out' express."

And then - a series of questions. ^{Sec.} Laird

displaying anger only once - when he was asked about the ~~poss~~ possibility of civilian casualties. ~~Laird~~

^{to this he said:-}
Replying ^λ "the world ~~must~~ should be told about what the North Vietnamese are doing. At An Loc - he went on - the enemy "showed a complete lack of regard for civilians - they sprayed artillery as though they were using a water hose."

SAIGON PENTAGON

~~Half a world away~~ ^{there is} In South Vietnam ~~a state~~
of martial law tonight -- for the first time since that
TET offensive ⁱⁿ of Nineteen Sixty-Eight. So ordered - by
President Thieu. A ~~govern~~ government spokesman further
telling the South Vietnamese they should anticipate
surprise attack - including ~~possibly~~ possibly the shelling
of Saigon - or other populated areas.

At the same time - the Saigon government ~~was~~
expressing its gratitude - to the "government and
people of America;" for quote, "their determined support
~~of South~~ of South Vietnam in its fight against blatant
aggression from the North." Saigon also expressing
hope that the U S blockade - will "shorten the war and
soon restore peace to the whole of Indo China."

HAPHONG FOLLOW SAIGON

Meanwhile, the U S ^{has been stepping up} ~~mounting~~ a massive sea

and air attack - on the key North Vietnamese port of Haiphong. The U S command ~~is~~ adding that such attacks - will continue indefinitely. A second armada of U S jets - also blasting North Vietnam's key rail links with China. To the south - U S jets ranging far and wide across South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia; in particular blasting enemy troop concentrations ~~and~~ now threatening the city of Hue.

KON HORING

~~Incidentally, a report was today that two~~

^{Two}
^ French ~~are~~ priests decided to stay with their flocks

at Kon Horing -- when ~~that~~^{the} village was over-run last

week by northern ~~are~~ invaders. ~~Said report coming~~^{This comes}

from a senior U S advisor; who ~~saw~~ adds that the priests

-- have since been ~~are~~ killed, ~~They were~~ crucified -

said he.

CHARLESTON-OMAHA

The results of yesterday's presidential primaries

now virtually complete. The ~~big winner~~ winner in

West Virginia ~~was~~ Hubert Humphrey; ^{but} ~~who also led~~

~~in the early going~~ in Nebraska - ^{he lost to McGovern} ~~and finally finished~~

But it was close,

~~close second there to heavily favored George McGovern.~~

~~George~~ Wallace ^{ran} ~~also drawing~~ strong

~~support~~ in both states. - with virtually no campaigning

~~On the Republican side~~ ^{While} ~~Nixon~~ Nixon was unopposed

in West Virginia, ^{where he did have} in Nebraska ~~where he was~~ opposed ⁱⁿ

~~but~~ ^{he piled} ~~the President~~ ~~putting~~ up an amazing ninety-three percent

of the vote - out-polling Humphrey, McGovern and Wallace -

all combined.

KUALA BRANG

A few weeks ago, you may recall, a brief item from Southeast Asia - noting the tiger has just become an endangered species - and now a story from Kuala Brang, Malaysia, explains why.

Rubber plantation worker Daud Mat Amin - out doing chores was suddenly attacked by a giant tiger. He was half dead when his wife Minah dashed out with a big knife, stabbing the tiger, driving him off. Doctors say Daud Mat Amin will survive - thanks to his wife.

They say this is the second such attack at Kuala Brang in less than three weeks. The previous victim - killed instantly; apparently by the same man-eater. Hunters are out even now - trying to track him down. This is like some of the stories in my new book "Burma Jack."

DECATUR

At Milliken University - Decatur, Illinois

a massive student attack today. One and all digging in - to help devour, quote "the world's largest sundae -- ~~THIS~~ an ice cream concoction about six feet tall, filling an entire wading pool, its contents including a hundred and twenty gallons of ice cream -- two gallons of chocolate syrup, two gallons of chopped ~~nut~~ nuts, several quarts of whipped ~~cream~~ cream plus a big cherry red apple on top.

Coming as it does in the midst of widespread campus violence, ^{Don,} ~~could this be the start of~~ would you call this a return to campus normalcy?

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia again - this time - the city of Kuala Lumpur - a local newspaper reporting today - it's a boy; a bouncing eight pound baby born to a young bride of less than a year. The new mother - aged nineteen. The new father - age one hundred and three. And there were those who said ^{it was a marriage that} ~~believe it or not~~ ^{it} ~~it~~ couldn't last.