

From North Vietnam - from the White House - comes news today of another real step, down the road leading - hopefully - toward peace in Southeast Asia.

Radio Hanoi calling for preliminary peace talks - at Phnom Penh in Cambodia; or any other - mutually agreeable city. A short time later - President Johnson announcing official receipt of the offer. Telling reporters: "We shall be trying to work out promptly - a time and place for talks."

U.S. Ambassador Elsworth Bunker - at this hour is flying home from Saigon, scheduled to meet tomorrow with the President and others - as part of an effort to keep the ball rolling.

KHE SANH

On the fighting front - same goal. With the U.S.

First Air Cavalry - thundering today along vital Highway Nine in Northern South Vietnam. Attempting to drive a force of Viet Cong - into waiting American guns at Khe Sanh.

Brigadier General Oscar Davis - who is directing the U.S. advance - calling the enemy troops "pretty well doomed."

Adding: "We've got them where we want them - we will assault them relentlessly."

MEMPHIS

CLARK

Memphis, Tennessee - Mrs. Martin Luther King led a
march today - by some ten-thousand silent mourners. Her
children at her side, Mrs. King later taking up the standard
left by her slain husband, telling the marchers: "All of you
believe in what Martin Luther King stood for I would
challenge you today to see that his spirit never dies." Mrs.
King adding: "We must carry on - because this is the way
he would have wanted it."

CLARK

Violence
Meanwhile, the search for Dr. King's killer - also goes on. Attorney General Ramsey Clark reporting today that authorities now have a name - believed to be that of the fleeing assassin. This man - currently "on the run;" but "we hope he will be under arrest quite soon" said the Attorney General.

VIOLENCE

Elsewhere in the nation - a relative calm returned today to scores of cities. Earlier racked by violence - in the immediate wake of Dr. King's death. Even so - the toll to date coming to around Thirty-Three dead - upwards of Two Thousand injured - and about Nine-Thousand under arrest; with damage from fires and looting - estimated in the Tens of Millions.

WADI EL ARABA

In the tense Middle East - another Israeli punitive raid today across the Jordan River. The second in less than three weeks - in defiance of a U.N. condemnation of such attacks. Israeli armored columns and Israeli jets - in hot pursuit of alledged Jordanian - or Syrian "saboteurs".

First reports indicating at least one major clash - near the Wadi Araba. The Israelis claiming to have "killed a number of Guerillas - and wounded others." They are also said to have destroyed - a big Guerilla base camp; at the same time seizing a quantity of Russian-made rifles - before returning back over the Jordan.

LONDON

From London Airport, a story of a miraculous escape.

One Hundred and Twenty-Six persons, aboard a Boac Jet Airliner, barely seconds off the ground when an engine caught fire - the blaze quickly spreading along the entire port side of the ship. The flaming engine finally falling off - as the pilot banked desperately back toward the field; the whole port wing collapsing in flames - as the big ship skidded to a halt.

Faster than it takes to tell it - passengers and crew spilling out of emergency exits. Racing towards safety - when a series of violent explosions ripped through the airplane. In the confusion that followed - hard to get an accurate count. However, a Boac spokesman later reporting - only five dead; where it could have been - much, much worse. A miracle indeed!

SUPREME COURT

April, Nineteen-Thirty-Six - remember that final chapter in a crime that shocked the nation. At Trenton, New Jersey - Bruno Hauptmann put to death in the electric chair - for the kidnap murder of the Lindberg baby. A crime that led to the enactment of the famed Lindberg law - making kidnapping a capital offense.

April, Nineteen-Sixty-Eight - the U.S. Supreme Court today struck down the death penalty provision of the so called Lindberg law. Reason - said the Supreme Court - because the law provides that a death penalty can be invoked only by a jury; and not if the case is heard only by a judge. For this - we are told - is an unconstitutional limitation on a defendant's rights to a trial by jury.

The courts ruling casting doubt on a number of similar death penalty provisions as presently spelled out in the Atomic Espionage Law - the Federal Bank Robbery Statute - The District of Columbia Rape Law, and so on.

BATAAN FOLLOW SUPREME COURT

Half-way round the world - a new day is dawning.

*April Nine - the Twenty-Sixth Anniversary of the Fall of
Bataan - back in World War Two. Phillipine President
Marcos today issuing his annual Bataan Message - praising
the "Heroism of the ~~HEROIC~~ Filipinos," whose bravery -
said he - "was part of the historical experience of a people
who loved freedom - and were prepared to die for it."*

*A foot of new powder snow fell in the Rockies last
night. So, Warren, better get your skis and head for
Colorado!*

DARWIN

Darwin, Australia - fitting place for a milestone today - in the evolution of man. At Darwin's Northern Territory Hospital - Mrs. Mabel Mein Bel giving birth to four babies - all girls. First Aborigine quadruplets - in the history of Australia. Indeed, one of the first cases of multiple births - ever recorded in that part of the world.

Reason: An old Aborigine custom - permitting a mother only one baby at a time. Any more than that - normally put to death, till recent enactment of a new law - banning the custom.

From KLZ Denver - so long until tomorrow.