

July 27, 1970

Reid Collins

In the Middle East - an aerial dogfight today between Egyptian and Israeli jets - high above the Suez Canal. Egypt later claiming - one "kill"; Israel - two; but neither side - admitting any losses.

Meanwhile, the Arab world was choosing sides - on whether to support that latest U.S. peace plan. Lebanon, Kuwait and Sudan lining up with Egypt and Jordan. - which have already voiced their acceptance of the American proposal while Syria and Iraq - were reaffirming their opposition to peaceful negotiation.

At the same time, some fifteen thousand ~~of~~ Palestinian commandos - marching through the streets of Amman. Denouncing Egypt's Nasser as a "coward" - and further pledging to resist to the end any imposed settlement.

As for Israel's reaction to the U.S. peace plan - still - no answer.

INDOCHINA

War news from South Vietnam - tells today of a step-up in enemy infiltration; said to have originated in those Cambodian border sanctuaries - that were overrun by Allied troops earlier this year. The new influx - amounting to perhaps as many as seventy-five hundred men - we are told.

However, U.S. sources reporting the Communist reinforcements - extremely low on food and ammunition; which is said to mean - they will be unable to mount any major attacks. An American officer quoted as saying: "We expect the enemy to make a lot of noise - without taking many casualties."

In any event, ground action in South Vietnam - remaining today at a low level.

SAN CLEMENTE FOLLOW INDOCHINA

Here at home - San Clemente - President Nixon today conferred with high Defense Department officials - also, his chief adviser on foreign policy, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Subject: A blue ribbon report on defense spending - aimed at improving efficiency and cutting costs.

Now this: Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard - in an article appearing tonight in U. S. News and World Report- saying it would be unwise at this time - to enlarge the U. S. arsenal of nuclear offensive weapons. Packard adding that the Administration foresees no "major use of American ground forces" in Southeast Asia - once the war in Vietnam has ended.

LISBON

At Lisbon - the end today for Portugal's Antonio de Oliveira Salazar; also, the end of a masquerade - that lasted nearly two years.

The former Portuguese strongman - you'll recall - the victim of a cerebral hemorrhage back in September of Nineteen-Sixty-Eight. This leaving him partly paralyzed - forcing a change of command. However, Salazar was permitted to live out the remainder of his life - under the illusion that nothing had changed. An aide reporting today - he was convinced he was still Premier - he behaved like a Premier - he died like a Premier.

Antonio de Oliveira Salazar - he was eighty-one.

LONDON

Britain's dock strike - perhaps a step closer to settlement today; with a government-appointed court of inquiry - presenting its own recommendations for ending the dispute; a compromise plan - rejecting flatly the longshoremen's requested eighty per cent pay increase; nevertheless, recommending increases in overtime, vacation and modernization pay - also, a guaranteed minimum wage. All of which - was accepted at once by port employers. Union leaders adding that this marks - a "significant advance;" although anything beyond that - will have to await a union leaders' meeting this Wednesday.

NEW YORK-TOKYO

Monday here in New York - hot, humid and definitely unhealthy; with an all-enveloping smog- raising air pollution to the "hazardous" level; a situation which is expected to continue - at least till Wednesday.

This as nothing though - compared to the situation in Tokyo; where a week-long "white" smog alert - continued in effect today; having already caused lung, bronchial and eye disorders - in an estimated eight thousand persons. Officials advising the city's eleven-and-a-half million people - to stay indoors if at all possible.

Incidentally, the same warning - in effect yesterday. But what with temperatures in the mid-ninties - the city's beaches were packed. Officials later reporting seventy drowning deaths - a new high for the year.

LOCH NESS FOLLOW TOKYO

In the same vein - a report today that Scotland's famed Loch Ness monster is dead - a victim of water pollution. This according researcher Douglas Drysdale - of the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy. A charge which was promptly denied - by the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Team. Indeed, Team Secretary Holly Arnold reporting another monster sighting - just last night. However, Drysdale insisting he's right - basing his claim on water samples. And he adds that "even a casual inspection reveals surface scums - on all tributaries leading into the lake;" which means - said he - no questions, the monster is finished.

PETRA

L. J. Tappan *To Record -*
insert - unedited

The fabled "Rose Red City of Petra -
half as old as time - one of the ~~many~~ many wonders
I first encountered more than half a century ago -
courtesy of Lawrence of ~~the~~ Arabia. To reach it we
had to cross a vast desert that lies in present-day
southern Jordan -- eventually passing through a narrow
defile into the legendary /Valley of Moses. It was here -
we were told - that Moses brought water gushing from
a rock.

And then - just ahead - one of the most
remarkable sites ever revealed to the eyes of Man.
In stark contrast to the surrounding wilderness --
a Temple of limpid and delicate rose hue -- carved
like giant cameo in the side of a canyon ~~to~~ wall.
This was my first ~~introduction~~ introduction to Petra -
a great city that once served as the power base of
robber nomads and later became a thriving trade center -

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long before the birth of Christ. A city that was then lost to civilization for fourteen hundred years - until it was finally re-discovered during the last century by the famed Swiss Explorer, John Lewis Burkhardt.

The ruins of Petra still exquisitely beautiful. Becoming in recent ~~years~~ years one of the ~~famous~~ favorite mid-east tourist attractions. Attimes drawing as many as five hundred visitors a day until the advent of the present Arab-Israwli impasse. The guides of Petra ~~are~~ complaining now - for days we get no one.

The fabled Rose Red City of Petra - have as old as time -- once again one of the forgotten wonders of the world; but this time - it's only temporary - we hope.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "PETRA"

Thank you, Lowell. More news - in a moment.

... was ... last fourteen months ...
... with his wife ...
... a fifty-five-foot boat ...
... last year in his ... The ...
... in a ...

... a little less ...
... thought for the first time in years ...
... official ...
... he had docked ...

SEATTLE

From Seattle, Washington - the story today of a local man - who has just spent the last fourteen months at sea. Sixty-five-year-old Olaf Johansen - with his wife and a friend - sailing home a fifty-five-foot boat he purchased last year in his native Norway. The entire voyage - "as easy as sailing in a swimming pool" - said he.

Olaf's arrival back in Seattle - a little less smooth though; for the first ~~man~~^{person} to greet ~~him~~^{his return} a Port of Seattle official; a man who promptly advised the weary traveler - he had docked his boat in a "no parking" area.

SEOUL

Today's date - July Twenty-Seventh - the seventeenth anniversary of that armistice ending the Korean War. An occasion that passed almost unnoticed - over here and over there.

Instead, the big news today in Seoul - a report to Parliament from South Korea's Defense Minister - Jung Nae-Hiuk; who said that his government has still not accepted U.S. plans - for a one-third troop cutback in South Korea. Jung adding that Seoul will refuse even to discuss the matter - pending the completion of talks on the modernization of South Korea's armed forces.