

The White House -- President Nixon called a special Cabinet meeting today. After a few brief remarks, turning over the proceedings to Vice-President ~~Spiro~~ Agnew -- who has just returned from Southeast Asia. The Vice-President briefing his fellow Cabinet members -- on post-war developments in Southeast Asia. Next -- Treasury Secretary George Schultz, discussing the international monetary situation -- following devaluation of the U.S. dollar.

The President also met today -- with Sir Christopher Soames, the External Affairs Commissioner of the European Common Market. Later flying to Key Biscayne -- for some rest and relaxation, but only briefly. The President scheduled to address a meeting of the AFL-CIO executive committee, ++ Monday, ^{et} in Miami Beach. And then, ^{returning} -- ~~head~~ ~~to~~ to Washington.

MOSCOW

Moscow -- the Kremlin recently published its official economic figures -- for nineteen seventy-two. These showing the Soviet economy failed to meet its goals -- in all major ^{categories} ~~industries~~. Now -- the follow-up.

The Communist party newspaper Pravda -- carrying today a front-page editorial, ~~in it~~, charging that the managers of Russian business and industry -- are "incompetent, inert, unimaginative" -- also, "rude and arrogant." Adding, in effect, they had better copy the capitalist system -- by paying more attention to management responsibility.

If they don't -- said Pravda -- they won't escape punishment "no matter how high their position."

BEIRUT

From Beirut -- a report today telling of ^{what is termed} ~~an alleged~~ "Black September" Arab terrorist plot -- to seize control in Jordan. The guerillas reportedly planning to take key government buildings in Amman -- and then assassinate King Hussein when he returned from his present trip to the U.S. Beirut calling this -- "the most daring guerilla operation against an Arab capital to date."

~~However,~~ ^{we hear} the plot was uncovered ~~-- we are told --~~ just a few hours before it was scheduled to begin. Beirut adding that police have arrested at least sixteen of the plotters -- with an intensive hunt for the rest still under way.

JERUSALEM

The subject of Christian missionaries -- "including their possible banishment" from the Holy Land -- to be discussed at an Israeli Cabinet Meeting on Sunday. This said to arise from the fact that an estimated five to six thousand Israelis -- have been converting to Christianity every year since the nineteen sixty-seven six-day war. A government spokesman saying: "We don't have ~~to~~ take to missionaries and proselytizing -- we have to be rid of this problem somehow."

PEKING

For Henry Kissinger in Peking -- the second day of talks with Red China's Premier Chou En Lai. Today's session -- lasting four hours.

Also, taking part -- we are told -- China's foreign minister Chi Teng-Sei and vice foreign minister Chao Kwan-Hua.

All this -- according to the White House; which said earlier -- ~~as you know --~~ that Dr. Kissinger is in ^{the White House calls} engaging in "concrete consultations."

WASHINGTON

Here at home

The conviction of Lieutenant William Calley for his part in that My Lai massacre -- was upheld today by an Army court of review. The three-judge panel -- also upholding his twenty-year sentence. In its written opinion -- observing, "no doubt Lieutenant Calley would never have directed or participated in a mass killing -- in time of peace." Adding: "Nevertheless, he committed an atrocity in time of war -- and it is in the context of war that we judge him."

Calley's attorney promptly serving notice ^{of intent to} ~~though he intends to~~ appeal the case to a higher court. President Nixon has said that he too, will review the case -- when all other appeals have been exhausted.

HANOI

From Hanoi -- by way of the Pentagon -- news today that another twenty American P.O.W.'s -- will soon be heading home. This second group to be set free -- we are told -- as of midnight tomorrow night, Washington time. The Pentagon adding that some of them may be on their way back -- perhaps as early as "a day or two later."

PRISONERS -- FOLLOW HANOI

Here at home -- across the nation -- the big story continues to be the prisoners already set free; more than a hundred and forty, in all -- now returning^{ed} to the ~~arms of their~~ⁱⁿ loved ones -- ~~and~~^{and} attempting to pick up the pieces.

And what's it really like? Air Force Colonel Ronald Byrne of Peru, Indiana, -- giving a pretty good indication. On arrival at Wright Patterson Air Force Base -- saying: "I feel like a dried-out sponge -- I'm just soaking up everything -- trying to make up seven years all at once."

At San Antonio -- the wife of Air Force Captain Johnnie Lynn Ray -- telling of their first tearful embrace. Said she: "He was hugging and kissing me -- and he told me he had never felt anything so soft and beautiful in his life." Mrs. Ray adding: "He squeezed me so hard -- he ripped my dress on both sides."

At Wichita Falls, Texas -- the wife of Air Force Major Robert Jeffrey -- rushing into his arms. They embraced warmly -- they turned to leave; whereupon a small boy standing on a nearby flatbed truck -- catching the major's eye. It was his son Billy -- age

Amers -

eight -- whom he had not seen since he was a few weeks old.

The youngster saluted his father. The father hesitated an instant -- came stiffly to attention -- returning the salute. And then he gathered his son up in his arms -- his homecoming at last complete. The "littlest soldier" at Wichita Falls -- once again just a little boy.

TRAVIS -- FOLLOW PRISONERS

Finally at Travis Air Force Base -- the return of Lieutenant
Commander Everett Alvarez; who was held prisoner for eight and a
half years -- longer than any other. "For years and years," -- said
he -- we dreamed of this date and we kept our faith; faith in God --
faith in our President -- ^{and} faith in our country. "Commander Alvarez
adding: "It was this faith that maintained our hope that someday
our dreams would come true -- and today they have."

OAKLAND

A final note on the returning P.O.W.'s -- comes today from a Naval hospital at Oakland, California. ¶ One of the pre-planned dinner menus there -- offering a choice between baked beans and fluffy rice. Returned prisoner John McKamey of Lemoore, California, making his selection without a moment's hesitation .

He circled the beans. And after the rice, he wrote: "Are you kidding?"

COSMONAUT

Moscow again -- a little vignette of Soviet life -- as reported today in the newspaper Sovietskia Russia.

A Russian mother and her son ^{are} ~~said to be~~ riding along in a crowded bus. The boy wearing a heavy wool scarf around his head -- repeatedly asking his mother: "Mama, tell me, do I look like a cosmonaut?" His mother finally snapping back: "Leave me alone, you little fool."

At that -- a lady sitting nearby getting into the act. "Why do you speak to the child like that?" -- said she -- "look at him, he hasn't done anything." Whereupon the mother -- whipping off her son's scarf; and there firmly fixed on his head ^{was a jammed down} ~~was~~ aluminum saucepan. The mother saying: "We're on our way to the Third Clinic -- the first two couldn't ^{try} ~~get~~ if off."

KATMANDU

Starting tonight from Katmandu in Nepal -- another attempt to scale one of the Himalaya's most beautiful, most ^{dangerous} ~~deadly~~ peaks. A team of sixteen U.S. mountaineers -- setting out on a trek that will carry them eventually to ^{a section of} the "roof of the world," from whence they plan to launch an ascent -- on the twenty-six thousand, seven hundred and ninety-five foot ~~mountain called~~ Dhaulagiri ^{which I have seen - but haven't climbed!}

One of the climbers -- twenty-eight year old Del Langbauer of Tacoma, Washington, -- ~~the~~ holder of a Ph.D in Oriental philosophy, before he left ~~in~~ indulging in a little philosophy of his own.

"Statistically" -- said he -- "one in ten ^{we} don't make it back;" which means -- he continued -- "we should lose one-point-six people." #

He was saying it in jest? Yea, but he does jobs, of course -- and yet ... well, let's hope for the best, know the odds I guess.