

Wed. Jan. 29 '69 ✓

In Israel; also in nearby Arab nations - indeed, right round the globe - all eyes are focused tonight on Baghdad; where the government of Iraq is said to be trying in secret - sixty-five suspected Israeli spies; and threatening to hang the guilty - just as they did the fourteen convicted Monday who were both Jews and Arabs. Today's trial is raising anew the threat of Israeli retaliation - an act that could spark another Mid-East explosion.

How to head it off - is the question. With the United States, France, England, Canada, the Vatican - all joining in a plea for restraint on both sides. At the same time DeGaulle was calling again for "Big Four" action - to prevent what he called "bloody chaos". While here in New York - Special U N peace envoy Gunnar Jarring was meeting in emergency session - with U S

Ambassador to the U N Charles W. Jost.

*And later - with the Ambassadors from
Britain and France.*

DAMASCUS FOLLOW BAGHDAD

In the midst of all this - Arab-Israeli tension there is another complicating factor, pitting Arab versus Arab today in the streets of Baghdad.

According to Radio Damascus, neighboring Syria, one of its representatives, a Syrian assigned to the Iraqi capital was driving home - when suddenly he was shot at - apparently wounded for no apparent reason. The victim, a Moslem, identified as political attache Abdel Karim Sabbagh. His assailant - said to be an Iraqi "intelligence agent". All of which has prompted Syria to file a strong protest with Baghdad - calling the attack clearly "criminal aggression."

This adding to the confusion since Syria and Iraq are allies - or prospective allies in any clash with Israel.

CORONADO

Rear Admiral Frank Johnson - Chief of U S Naval forces in Japan - first witness today at Coronado, California; with the resumption of open hearings ~~4~~ into the Pueblo affair. Admiral Johnson saying he did not send planes or ships to the aid of the beleaguered vessel - because he couldn't. The question of ~~missile~~ assistance - one that calls for a "political decision" said he. Adding that such a decision had to be made - at the command level of the U S Pacific Fleet; by which time - it was too late.

By ~~Admiral~~ the way - Admiral Johnson reported that one of the main purposes of the Pueblo mission - was to find out how the enemy would react to a lone, unarmed surveillance ship. ^F Now, they know.

PARIS

On the peace front - Paris - a political meeting today between U S and South Vietnamese negotiators. Putting the finishing touches to a so-called "flexible" strategy -- for tomorrow's second session of expanded peace talks. Allied diplomats saying our side will be ready to discuss any problem - that the other side might bring up. The idea - to present another deadlock - to keep talking; while the search for an acceptable peace plan rolls on.

HANOI FOLLOW PARIS

Meanwhile Radio Hanoi was accusing the
U S - of violating its own bombing ban. Charging
a number of air strikes against North Vietnamese
targets - just above that ^{socalled} demilitarized zone, ~~so-called~~

Reaction in Washington: ^{that what} ~~Hog wash.~~

Hanoi says just isn't so.

MADRID

Madrid - Generalissimo Francisco Franco meets the press - foreign press, that is. The seventy-six year old Spanish dictator - attempting to dispel rumors that he is sick or his government shaky. Telling news men from around the globe that what is happening now in Spain - should not be of any special concern to the rest of the world.

Why then the present state of modified martial law - following months of student unrest? Franco didn't explain this and the press conference ended before anyone was bold enough to ask.

MARBLE BAR - GOLDSWORTHY

In the "land down under" - where it's the dead of summer right now - a heated debate is currently in progress with two towns in the West Australian "out back" - both claiming the title: "hottest spot this side of hell," *hatter even than Abadan in Iran.*

First and original claimant - a place called Marble Bar; where the mercury has hit an official high of one hundred and twenty in the shade; ^{and} which once went six weeks with a temperature never dropping below a hundred - day and night. The challenger - nearby Goldworthy - where summertime temperatures average ~~nearly~~ one hundred and three degrees; where it's said that even the jack rabbits - carry canteens.

Why would anyone want to live in such a climate?

The answer - ~~is a number of~~ rich mineral deposits, including, *ironically, a thriving* ~~naturally enough, a driving~~ asbestos mine -

although a local resident says: "You have to dig deep -

What asbestos they find
~~the stuff~~ on the surface is too charred by the heat."

THE UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations again - a meeting today of the U N Commission on equal status for women. The main speaker - Madame Halima Warzazi - a raven haired mini-skirted beauty from Morocco who told her sister delegates they would do well to adopt a "less shrilly feminist approach", to consider men as potential allies rather than political rivals.

Madame Warzazi asserting in short: "Ours is not to wage a holy war against men" - only to "bring them over to our cause." Another way of saying, girls "blow in his ear and he'll follow you anywhere." Madame Warzazi from Casablanca, Marrakesh - or maybe she's from Fez, Warren, she stood there in her mini-skirt at the U N and told 'em!

PHILADELPHIA

From Philadelphia - comes the story of Miss Mary Williams - victim of a purse-snatching a year ago - whereupon she devised a secret hiding place for her ready cash.

Only trouble - secrets are hard to keep. As witness the arrival of a gunman this week - in Miss Williams' apartment. The bandit telling his victim to empty her pockets - all her pockets - even the one in her girdle.

Miss Williams' loss - three hundred and seventy-five bucks. ~~But then that's~~ ^{in her girdle she} One bulge ~~she~~ won't have to worry about any more.