

VIETNAM

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Richard Hottelot - sub.

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War news from Vietnam -- marked today by another weekly casualty toll. Figures announced in Saigon setting American losses for the past week -- at four hundred and thirty-eight dead -- three thousand, eight hundred and seventy wounded. IN TERMS OF TOTAL CASUALTIES - THE Worst week of the war -- for U.S. forces.

~~AND~~ By one count, ~~at least~~ <sup>SAYS</sup> -- the American casualty toll ~~is~~ <sup>NOW TOPS</sup> ~~that~~ that of France -- during the whole of its own Indochina War.

But despite this death all around -- Senator Kennedy's assassination still a stunning development. Even for those in the Saigon government -- who have bitterly assailed the Senator in the past. South Vietnamese <sup>President</sup> Thieu, for one, saying that -- "divergences of opinions always exist in free societies;" but are no excuse -- for "ruthless" murder. Thieu adding: "It is precisely to preserve these <sup>basic</sup> ~~basic~~ freedoms -- against totalitarianism, violence and terror -- that Allied governments are struggling in Vietnam."

NORFOLK

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At Norfolk, Virginia -- a Navy court of inquiry continues its investigation -- into the disappearance of the U.S.S. Scorpion. Today's testimony including that of a Navy officer -- who said the nuclear sub had sprung a leak in its propellor shaft; shortly before it crossed the Atlantic last February -- to join in Mediterranean maneuvers. The Scorpion supposedly shipping water -- at the rate of seven gallons a minute.

However, the Navy Public Affairs office -- later issued a clarifying statement. Saying the leak had been reported -- also repaired -- before the vessel ever left Norfolk. This raising anew the theory -- that the Scorpion may have been the victim of faulty charts.

*News from Vietnam in a moment.*

## SUFFOLK

Across the Atlantic -- at Suffolk, England -- death also claimed today Randolph Churchill. The only son of the late Sir Winston Churchill -- passing away "peacefully" in his sleep -- after a brief illness.

A comparative failure at politics -- Randolph Churchill gained his greatest fame as a war hero; and later -- as an author and journalist. He and his son -- Winston the Third -- co-authors of a recent best-selling book on ~~THE~~<sup>THE</sup> Arab-Israeli war of last year. He was also his father's official biographer -- having completed two volumes on the life of Sir Winston; and hard at work on a third -- when he died.

Randolph Churchill -- only fifty-seven.

## PARIS FOLLOW SUFFOLK

Across the Channel -- in France -- the wheels of the French economy began to turn again today -- be it ever so slowly. Climaxing nineteen days of nationwide paralysis -- that carried the country to the brink of ~~economic and~~ <sup>Social and economic</sup> ~~political~~ chaos.

A return of long distance and commuter trains this morning -- signaling the beginning of the end. ~~Subway~~ <sup>Subway</sup> workers and bus drivers -- next to return to their jobs. Followed by millions of workers -- in practically every endeavor. French officials estimating that by day's end -- fully two-thirds of the nation's ten million strikers were back at work.

HOUSTON FOLLOW MARCH

Reverse side of the coin -- reported today from Houston. Where a convention of the Southern Baptist Church -- has just approved a revolutionary document. Pledging its members -- to <sup>(WHAT IT CALLS)</sup> remove the "heartless exploitation of racial minorities; which many in the South -- have found "difficult to resist". This -- according to a Southern Baptist leader -- "the first real social thing we've done -- in a hundred years."

## MARCH FOLLOW CAPITOL HILL

Elsewhere in Washington --an emergency meeting of leaders of that Poor People's March. Deciding today -- in the wake of Senator Kennedy's death -- to change the focus of their campaign. To change it from an attack on poverty -- to a protest against -- quote -- "the violence and hatred that is destroying all of us." This to begin with a massive demonstration -- either at the Capitol Building or the White House.

~~Poverty leader Hosea Williams saying that "in some dramatic way -- we must demand a halt to unjust wars." We must use our money instead -- said he -- "to launch the most vigorous educational campaign -- to rid the nation of hatred and violence."~~

ADD CAPITOL HILL

In a later development -- the House also approving the same measure. Further granting final Congressional approval -- to the President's tough, new anti-crime bill; including a provision -- drastically curbing the sale of handguns.

Minutes later -- President Johnson addressing the nation via radio and television. Demanding of Congress the same strong gun controls -- for all firearms.

## CAPITOL HILL

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill -- a rare break with tradition today. The Senate disregarding long-standing precedent -- that it never transacts business on the day a member dies. Convening briefly within hours of Senator Kennedy's death -- to authorize Secret Service protection for all major Presidential candidates.

This at the urging of Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield -- who said he had been told by a member of the Kennedy family: "It's what Bob would have liked to have done."



WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW LOS ANGELES

Whatever the motive -- if, indeed, there was a rational motive -- the world recoiled in horror today at a seemingly senseless crime. Kings and commoners --

president and plain citizens -- sorrowing at the death of Senator Kennedy. More than that -- lamenting the future of the United States.

*AT UN HQ THE UN'S BLUE AND WHITE FLAG FLEW AT HALF STAFF IN UNUSUAL TRIBUTE.*

President Johnson -- similarly taking note of the crisis in American society; in a special proclamation today -- designating Sunday a day of national mourning for Senator Kennedy. The President urging all Americans to "walk together through this dark night of common anguish -- into a new dawn of healing unity."

LOS ANGELES FOLLOW KENNEDY

As for the man who fired the fatal bullet --  
Jordanian immigrant Sirhan Sirhan -- a promise of swift  
justice today. Los Angeles authorities saying they will  
present "all the evidence" to a grand jury -- probably  
tomorrow. With expected indictment for murder -- to be  
followed by arraignment within forty-eight hours.

In the meantime -- a clearer picture of the assassin  
-- slowly emerging from a welter of confusion. Mayor Sam  
Yorty of Los Angeles -- reporting that Sirhan was extremely  
pro Communist and anti-Jewish.

~~pro Communist and anti-Jewish.~~ Quoting an entry from  
Sirhan's diary ~~AS FOLLOWS:~~ "Robert F. Kennedy must be  
assassinated -- before June Fifth, Nineteen-Sixty-Eight."

That, of course, the first anniversary -- of the ~~War~~  
ARAB-ISRAELI WAR.

~~the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli War.~~

## KENNEDY

"Robert Kennedy -- is dead." The tragic news flashed round-the-world today -- ending a twenty-hour vigil at Los Angeles' Good Samaritan Hospital. And now -- for Senator Kennedy -- the final journey has ~~begun~~ begun.

The President's personal plane -- Air Force One -- flying the Senator's body across the country tonight. With funeral services set for Saturday -- at St. Patrick's Cathedral here in New York. Interment to follow -- at Arlington National Cemetery.

Robert Kennedy to find peace at last -- beside the body of his martyred brother -- the late John F. Kennedy. In the words of Cardinal Cushing of Boston: "May the angels make room now -- to welcome him."

*The Los Angeles County Grand Jury has indicted Sirhan Sirhan for first degree murder in the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy. And what may be the woman in the polka dot dress has surrendered to police. Witnesses had reported her calling out "we killed him - we killed him". But the story emerging tonight 's a good deal less lurid. The woman identified herself as Kathy Fulmer, age Nineteen she had not turned herself in before because she had not been wearing a polka dot dress, but a polka dot scarf. She had run screaming from the scene, she said, but only in hysteria because of the shooting - and she had told questioners Kennedy was shot. She said she had no connection with Sirhan Sirhan, the Jordanian immigrant accused of the killing.*

*He has been indicted by the Grand Jury after a day of hearing witnesses. If convicted of first degree murder, he could be executed in the California State gas chamber. Sirhan has also been indicted on five accounts of assault*

**with intent to commit murder - one each for the five people  
wounded in the attack.**