

VIETNAM

Tues. Oct. 24-67

War news from Saigon -- a story today of the first American air raid -- against North Vietnam's biggest and best-guarded MIG airfield, The one at Phuc Yen -- on a direct approach to the Red capital of Hanoi.

This the same MIG base -- declared off-limits to American bombers earlier this year, ~~At the time~~^{When}, Defense Secretary ~~Robert~~ McNamara ~~taking~~^{took} the position ~~it would be~~^{that could be} ~~have been~~ more costly in U.S. lives ~~to~~^{to} attack the airfield than ~~leave it alone.~~^{to}

Then why today's raid? The Pentagon attributing its change of heart -- to a sudden increase in MIG activity; accounting for the loss of six American planes ~~since July One~~^(since July One) -- as against only two MIGs ~~since July One~~^{since July One}

In any case, American pilots so anxious to attack Phuc Yen -- that once restrictions were removed all three air arms volunteered for the raid. Navy, Air Force and

Marine flyers -- thus making it one of the war's rare three-way aerial attacks.

Results -- near-perfect. Returning American pilots reporting -- "all bombs on target;" the MIG airfield -- left a shambles. In addition, the American raiders shooting down at least one -- and possibly two MIG fighters -- that rose up in a vain effort to defend the base.

Back on the ground -- main action today on the coastal plain -- about three hundred and eighty miles ~~west~~^{northeast} of Saigon; where the U.S. First Air Cavalry trapped and decimated a force of Viet Cong -- in a battle for a key fortified village.

MIDDLE EAST

In the tense Middle East -- a sudden flare-up of renewed fighting today. Egyptian and Israeli forces dueling with artillery, tanks and planes -- across the southern ~~end~~ ^{end} of the Suez Canal.

The clash -- a full-scale battle while it lasted. Egyptians claiming to have downed an Israeli jet -- also saying they damaged at least four Israeli tanks. The Israelis -- for their part -- claiming to have knocked out eight per cent of Egypt's oil refining capacity -- located chiefly at Port Suez.

A United Nations peace team finally effecting a cease-fire -- some three hours after the first outbreak of fighting. General Odd Bull of the U.N. peacekeeping mission -- later blaming Israel for ~~the~~ ^{opening up this} ~~initial~~ ^{this} attack. ~~Amid~~ ^{amid} a growing suspicion ^{that} the strike was in retaliation for the sinking of ~~the~~ ^{the} Israeli destroyer -- the Elath.

Indeed, Egypt tonight calling this latest breach of the Middle East truce -- a clear case of "premeditated aggression"

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on the part of Israel. Further demanding an immediate meeting
of the U.N. Security Council -- to consider ~~this~~ ^{the} so-called
"act of war." →

ADD MIDDLE EAST

Security Council President Senjin Tsuruoka of Japan--quick to comply with the Egyptian request. Calling the panel into emergency session--as of nine o'clock tonight.

CAIRO

Meanwhile, ~~Egypt's Colonel~~ Nasser was conferring today in Cairo -- with Syrian Premier Youssef Zayyen. The two ~~were~~ agreeing to convene a new -- "conference of popular forces of the Arab world." Purpose: To unite the more militant Arab nations -- in a single cause against Israel.

Another related development -- in Moscow; where the Kremlin today offered tacit admission -- that Soviet-made missiles ^{probably} ~~probably~~ sank the Elath. "The Soviet Union did not and does not conceal its help -- including arms" -- said the Kremlin. Adding that: "Israeli aggressors are continuing to play with fire -- and are paying for it."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW ^{CAIRO} ~~MIDDLE EAST~~

More on the same -- from Washington; where the State Department today announced a partial resumption -- of U.S. arms shipments to the Middle East; to permit the sending of warplanes to Israel, Libya and Morocco -- as well as some lesser equipment to Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

This necessary, in part -- said a State Department spokesman -- because of evidence that Russia would supply the needed equipment if the United States did not; at least -- insofar as the Arab states are concerned. American officials insisting, however, ~~that~~ the new move -- "is in no sense an open-ended decision -- or an opening of the floodgates."

^{the} This latest: President Johnson conferring late today -- with Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban. The meeting following a published report -- that the United States had cautioned Israel against any retaliation -- over the sinking of the Elath.

MONEY

As if we didn't already know it -- formal confirmation today from the U.S. Labor Department; of the fact that the cost of living here in America -- is going up, up, up.

The latest increase amounting to a jump of one-third -- in less than a decade -- says the government; to the point where an average family of four needs an estimated income -- of at least Nine Thousand-a-year[✓] merely to maintain -- a "modest" standard ^g of living.

The report going ^{at} to say that ~~the~~ ^g median income for all U.S. families -- is now ~~only~~ only Seven Thousand a year; which would seem to indicate that we're all living -- about two thousand a year over our heads.

By the way -- the costliest place to live in Mainland, U.S.A. -- right here in New York. And where is it cheapest? Austin, Texas, -- ~~believe it or not.~~ ^{How about it?!}

MADRAS

In the city of Madras, ^{in Southern India,} on the Bay of Bengal -- a far-reaching meeting today of India's Vegetarian Congress, called to consider the vital question of whether Indian vegetarians -- should be permitted at last to eat eggs.

When the debate was ended -- the votes finally tallied -- Congress President Rukmini Devi announcing the results: giving overwhelming approval to a resolution -- taking eggs off the forbidden list for the first time.

The move -- perhaps of little seeming importance here in the United States. But a cause célèbre in Hindustan -- where there are more than a hundred million vegetarians. **And** for many -- constantly on the brink of famine -- it's a matter really of life and death.

MOSCOW

From Moscow comes the bizarre story today -- of a man who calls himself a former U.S. intelligence agent. One "John Smith" -- originally of Quincy, Massachusetts -- he says; ~~Further~~ claiming he defected to the Soviet Union -- because Washington was preparing "a new world catastrophe?"

Full details -- in the current issue of a Soviet newspaper -- ^{the} Literary Gazette, ~~telling~~ of John Smith's exploits as a code expert in World War Two ^{and} his later work as an agent for the C.I.A. in India; before he decided to settle in, quote, "this great and humanitarian country" -- meaning, of course, the Soviet Union.

However, U.S. diplomats in Moscow ^{are} taking the ~~whole~~ story with a grain of salt. Calling it an obvious ploy -- to offset the impact of that recent defection of a Soviet masterspy in West Germany.

As for "John Smith's" choice of name -- an American

Embassy official commenting: "The only John Smith I know -- was subverted by Pochahantas."

SISTINE CHAPEL

In the splendor of the Sistine Chapel -- at the Vatican in Rome -- an experiment today in worship. With cardinals and bishops from that Synod of Bishops -- taking part in the new simplified mass; to decide for themselves whether it will really ^{give more meaning to Mass --} ~~make worship more meaningful~~ -- for Roman Catholics throughout the world.

Main change in the new mass: The use of modern language -- in this case, Italian -- in the Canon or most sacred part of the rite. Coupled with elimination of certain aspects of the old mass -- now considered outdated or superfluous in today's world:

All of which caused mixed emotions -- among the attending clergy. Some -- clearly in favor of the new mass. Others saying -- it was "lacking in inspiration." And at least one bishop -- highly critical of the cuts; calling the new mass -- a kind of "mini-mass."

This next -- a modern Bible story; drawn from the pages of a forthcoming book -- by noted American naturalist Peter Farb; who claims there is a sound factual basis -- for nearly every strange and wondrous tale contained in the Bible

What about Jonah and the whale? It's quite likely -- says Peter Farb -- that Jonah was swallowed by a man-eating white shark; a "great fish" that grows up to sixty feet long -- that "can store food in its belly for many days without digesting it."

What about Moses and the Red Sea? In the first place -- says Peter Farb -- it was really the ^{shallow} "Sea of Reeds;" ~~a kind of pond~~ -- between the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Suez. Shallow enough -- under normal conditions -- for the Israelites to have waded across. But deep enough -- when the wind is blowing in the wrong direction -- to drown any pursuing Egyptians; just as the Bible -- says it did.

Additional tidbits disclosing that apple Eve gave to

Adam -- was probably an apricot; that "Manna from Heaven" -- was really the residue from sap-sucking insects; that the "Star of Bethlehem" was -- without a doubt -- a brief, brilliant conjunction^u of the planets Jupiter and Saturn.

It's all in -- "The Land, Wildlife and Peoples of the Bible" -- by Peter Farb. Fascinating reading.

NAURU ISLAND FOLLOW SISTINE CHAPEL

Traveling halfway round the world -- we come to another "mini-item" in today's news. The birth of a new mini-nation -- in the South Pacific.

It's the Island of Nauru -- about four hundred miles west of the Gilbert Islands. Administered by Australia, Britain and New Zealand -- ever since World War Two. Now to become a fully independent country -- as of next January Thirty-One.

Total area of the ~~new~~^S nation-to-be -- only eight square miles. Population -- less than five thousand. A source nevertheless, of rich phosphate deposits -- expected to provide the ^{new} mini-nation with "maxi-income."

CROMWELL

Next up -- the case of women pilots versus the nation's airlines. Plaintiff -- pretty Trina Jarish of Cromwell, Connecticut; who today launched a personal campaign -- to become the first lady commercial jet pilot in American ~~aviation~~ ^{aviation.}

According to Trina -- there are plenty of women pilots ready and able right now -- to fly commercial airliners -- ~~do~~ as well as any man. Indeed, Miss ^{Trina} Jarish asserting: "If a woman is a good pilot -- she is better than a man; because she's easier with the plane -- more gentle than most men."

Then why do women still get the brush-off -- when it comes to pilot jobs? It's ~~a~~ partly ^{male} ~~male~~ prejudice -- and partly a case of the many paying for the sins of the few -- said Trina. Admitting sadly that "if a female pilot is bad -- she's usually terrible," Allan → S-P-U-T-M-