

Tues. Sept. 29-70

For President Nixon - a booming twenty-one gun salute today - from the mightiest armada in the history of the world - the U.S. Sixth Fleet. This coming as the highlight of a special review - in the Mediterranean off the coast of Southern Italy. The U.S. Commander-in-Chief later telling officers and men of the fleet - that they alone played a dominant role in preventing the spread of war in the Middle East - especially during the recent Jordanian crisis. President Nixon declaring "the most important, indispensable" element in keeping the peace - "was the fact that we are ready."

In view of the death of Egypt's Nasser though - the President canceling a scheduled demonstration of the Sixth Fleet's amazing firepower. Instead, conferring with top civilian aides ^{also,} ~~and~~ U.S. Naval commanders - on the future course of U.S. strategy in the Middle East. The President then flying to Southern NATO headquarters in Naples - from where he'll leave for Yugoslavia late tomorrow.

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Meanwhile, a full alert was in effect today - on both sides of that Suez Canal cease-fire line. The Egyptians fearing a possible Israeli strike - aimed at taking advantage of the confusion following Nasser's death. The Israelis, in turn, ^{concerned about the ~~fact~~ of a} possible massive uprising - on the part of vengeful Arabs in occupied territories.

In Cairo though - indeed, throughout the Arab world - a great outpouring of grief today marking the death of the foremost Arab leader in recent history. Thousands of Egyptians marching through the streets of Cairo - carrying huge portraits of Nasser enveloped in garlands of flowers. Chanting over and over - in Arabic: "Nasser is beloved by Allah." And: "Gamal - apple of our eyes - why are you leaving us!" And of course he was an Egyptian - not an Arab.

Similar scenes were also taking place in Arab capitals - from Morocco to the Red Sea. All ^{radio} ~~news~~ stations suspending normal operations - to broadcast readings from the Koran. All but Iraq ^{proclaiming} mourning periods -

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capital of a non-Arabian country
ranging from a week in Beirut to forty weeks in Syria,

South Yemen and others.

The caretaker government of Egypt tonight announcing plans for a mile-long funeral procession - when the fallen Nasser is carried to his final resting place this Thursday.

Nasser modern successor to the ancient Pharaohs. The great Aswan Dam built during Nasser's reign would even bring the and also from the Pharaohs who built the pyramids!

MOSCOW FOLLOW CAIRO

One of those who will not attend the Nasser funeral - Yugoslavia's President Tito; who has already decided - as you know - to stay at home to meet with President Nixon.

However, the Kremlin today announcing that Soviet Premier Kosygin - will be there. The Soviets further hailing Nasser - as an "outstanding political and state leader, outstanding son of the Arab people and a great friend of the Soviet Union." Adding that "the best memorial to his memory - will be the cohesion of the Arab peoples against imperialism;" to which end the Soviets also promised - continued massive economic and military support.

A related item: Red Cross headquarters in Geneva

**- announcing today the release of those last six hijack
hostages held by Arab guerillas. All of them - Americans,
you'll recall. All safe and sound - we are told. Red
Cross officials in Amman - making arrangements to
evacuate the freed men as soon as possible.**

SIoux FALLS

At Sioux Falls, South Dakota - Spiro Agnew ^{rides} ~~at the~~

~~fact~~ ^{again.} The Vice President strongly criticizing that weekend report on campus unrest - in which he himself was clearly one of the chief objects of censure. Spiro Agnew calling the report - "unfair, outrageous and unacceptable;" also, "imprecise, contradictory and equivocal." Adding that it "falsely accused the President - unrealistically excused student violence - and unjustly blamed critics of the campuses for student disorders;" with the result - said he - that "it is sure to be taken as more pabulum for the permissivists."

The Vice President then going on to say: "It is not those who vigorously condemn student violence and disorder - but those who encourage it or condone it - on whom the burden of guilt has been rightly placed by the American people."

CAMBODIA

War news from Cambodia - marked by a Communist attack today on vital Highway Four; once again cutting Phnom Penh's lifeline to the sea - also, isolating the country's only oil refinery. At the same time, Cambodian forces giving up a massive drive on Kompong Thom - about eighty miles north of Phnom Penh. Cambodia's General Thong Van Phanmoeng explaining that this key river port - is now accessible by boat. Adding that his task force has a new assignment - "to kill North Vietnamese and Viet Cong."

SAIGON FOLLOW CAMBODIA

While in Saigon - the U.S. Command was stepping up today its Vietnamization program; announcing that four additional units totaling nearly twenty-five hundred men - will soon be heading home under President Nixon's Phase Four withdrawal plan. The U.S. also announcing plans to turn over to South Vietnamese forces - two squadrons of attack jets totaling forty planes, in all.

Here at home - Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott asserted flatly today - a peace settlement in Vietnam is now "in sight" - to use his own words. Scott adding that President Nixon "could very possibly" announce a speed-up in U.S. troop withdrawals - in a major policy speech scheduled for mid-October. The Senator stressing though - his remarks were made on the basis of a "personal hunch - a personal opinion" - rather than consultations with the White House.

SENATE

Turning to the domestic front - the Senate today rejected a bid to force a vote - on that proposed Constitutional Amendment allowing for direct election of the President. The move failing to obtain a required two-thirds majority - by five votes. This marking the second such setback - in less than a month. Observers agreeing the measure is now practically dead - at least, till next year.

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RAVENSHEAD

This next - from Ravenshead, England; where a fellow by the name of John Hilton - recently planted a lawn on the roof of his home - a flat roof, I guess. In any event, his neighbors raising a great hue and cry - charging a violation of the local building code. At a hearing that followed - Hilton explaining it helps to "keep the house warm."

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Now at last - local authorities ruling that Hilton's roof-top lawn is perfectly permissible. In effect, asserting that grass ^{on the roof and} in the attic - does not necessarily constitute bats in the belfry. ~~But I can't help wondering~~ Warren - if Mr. Hilton forgets to water his roof - ~~do you suppose~~ ^{they} could call his place the "wiltin' Hilton"?

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While President Nixon was cruising with the U.S. Sixth Fleet - First Lady Pat Nixon was still in Rome, where - among other things - she met with Italian newswomen today; discussing everything from bullfighting - which she found strangely fascinating - to the best way to cook spaghetti - precisely eight minutes.

Along the way, Mrs. Nixon was also asked - what she thought about people who disagreed with her husband. The First Lady smiling - then saying: "I think - they're wrong." And s'long until tomorrow!