

Mon. Jan. 16-67.

Long-smouldering hostility in the Middle East - again at flash-point tonight. Despite a plea from U N Secretary General U Thant - urging both sides to restrain themselves - before their border clashes "erupt into a full scale war."

In the wake of three weekend border incidents - ~~ix~~ Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban branding Syria the guilty party. Further warning Syria and the world - that Israel "cannot put up with any more sabotage attacks." Syria replying that Israel - and Israel alone - is responsible for increased border tension.

6 1/2 { (In the meantime, General Odd Bull - Norwegian Commander of U N truce forces ^{- is} shuttling back and forth _^ between Damascus and Jerusalem; trying quietly to achieve an effective cease-fire -- but as yet no success.)

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam - the worst prisoner massacre of the war, ~~As~~ reported today from the village of Ap Vinh Ah - in the Mekong delta.

Government ~~g~~ groups who liberated the village - discovering the slaughter of forty-four men, women and children. All ~~of them~~ trussed together with wire -- then shot, grenaded or hacked to death. With the Viet Cong completing their grisly job and fading into the jungle - ~~only~~ moments before the arrival of the ~~rescu~~ rescue force.

In the air war - news today of another U S jet attack - against a fuel depot and missile sites near Hanoi. The first time U S jets have hit ⁿear the Red capital since those raids last month - when they were accused of ~~bombing~~ bombing innocent civilians.

WHEELER FOLLOW VIET NAM

Here at home - a flat statement today from General Earle Wheeler - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; ~~to the effect~~ that he is sure Communist China will stay out of the war in Viet Nam - unless there is a U S attack on the Chinese mainland.

General Wheeler basing his statement on military intelligence - as well as a trip last week to the battle zone. (He cautioned, however, that "a number of people" presumably including some in government - do not share his view of what it would take to trigger Chinese intervention.)

PEKING FOLLOW WHEELER,

The Chinese - for their part - apparently more concerned right now with problems at home. For instance, the Peking regime today launching an attack -- against "landlords, rich farmers and reactionary malicious elements" ⁴⁸ ~~These~~ ^{ing them} accused of withdrawing funds from national banks - to finance a counter-attack against Chairman Mao's "cultural revolution." Radio Peking also telling of an abortive plot by anti-Mao ~~skamx~~ elements -- to paralyze land and water transportation in Shanghai.

Meanwhile, a report today from Hong Kong - that President Liu has just slipped out of Peking. ~~That~~ That he has now set up new headquarters about two hundred miles from the capital -- from which he supposedly will "continue his fight" against Mao.

CHICAGO

Damage estimates in that great Chicago fire - still mounting tonight. With the latest tally putting ^{the} total loss - at more than a hundred and fifty million dollars. ~~Now~~ Making it one of the most costly fires - of all time.

The blaze -- as you no doubt know by now - all but destroying Chicago's huge McCormick ~~Place~~ Exhibition Hall early today. ~~And~~ Along with the block-long building - also destroying more than two thousand exhibition booths; ready and waiting for the opening today of Chicago's biggest convention of the year - that of the National Housewares Manufacturers Association. (Some of the booths - valued at more than a hundred thousand apiece.)

Miraculously - only one death. ~~The one consolation - no one was hurt.~~ Private police sounding - the alarm -- clearing ^{another} hundred and fifty workers from the building -- only ~~xx~~ moments before it collapsed in a flaming heap.

WHITE HOUSE

After a weekend of rest at Camp David -- President Johnson ~~was~~ back at the White House today; ~~there~~ to preside over ceremonies installing Alan Boyd -- as the nation's first Secretary of Transportation.

Boyd's major assignment -- said the President - to "coordinate a national transportation policy." ~~So far~~ ^{As a} start~~s~~ - the new department ^{to} combin~~ing~~ under one roof - more than thirty federal transportation agencies; including the Bureau of Public Roads -- the Federal Aviation Agency - and the U S Coast Guard.

Obviously in high ~~good~~ spirits - the President also taking the opportunity - to ~~to~~ joke about his so-called "credibility gap." Said he: "Maybe my credibility will be attacked for saying it" but Alan Boyd is clearly "the most qualified man" for this job.

MONTGOMERY

Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Lurleen Wallace becoming the third woman Governor -- in American history.

Mrs. Wallace -- as you know -- succeeding her husband George -- at the climax of elaborate ceremonies -- including a lavish five hour parade. Promising to carry on -- in the Wallace tradition said she: "If there is any change in my administration it will not be a change of policy or priorities -- but rather one of attitude." Her own attitude as she put it: "reflecting an inner feeling of a wife and mother."

At the same time-- Mrs. Wallace virtually announcing -- that her husband will indeed be a candidate for President in Sixty-Eight. "I entered the race for Governor" -- said she -- "for the purpose of permitting my husband to take our fight to the final court of appeal; the people of the United States -- in whom rests the ultimate sovereign power of this nation."

FRANCE

Across the Atlantic -- news today of a massive American airlift from France, ~~Part of an all-out effort~~ to complete the withdrawal of American troops, planes and supplies from that country; prior to the April First deadline set by ~~Charles~~ DeGaulle - for U S and Nato forces to ^{leave.} ~~pack up~~ and get out.

With rail and highway transport ~~is~~ unable to finish the job -- two squadrons of giant C-One-Thirties added to the clean-up crew. Removing the last of a force -- that once numbered thirty thousand men; closing down ~~to~~ two major U S headquarters -- forty U. S. ~~Army~~ Army bases -- and fourteen U S Air Force bases in France.

Many of the American installations - already "ghost camps". With others being closed -- as fast as they can be stripped, ~~of American equipment and supplies.~~ In fact, the C-One-Thirties flying in from England - with just enough fuel to get them there; in order to use up fuel

reserves -- that still remain in France.

— Waven —

An Air Force officer explaining: "Our orders are
to leave nothing -- not even the light bulbs."

At long last - a final settlement today in New York; in that highly ~~controversial~~ controversial - "battle of the book".

Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy reaching an out-of-court agreement - with author William Manchester and the publishing house of Harper and Row - permitting publication of a revised version of Manchester's book - "the death of a President."

The end seen as a total victory - for the widow of the late President, ~~Kennedy~~. Author Manchester and his publisher -- ~~proprietor~~ reportedly deleting all the intimate detail to which Mrs. Kennedy objected; acceding to her claim -- that such incidents have no real bearing on history.

Even ^{so} ~~sp~~ - an uncut serialization of the book - will appear in West Germany. Where the German weekly Stern -- has refused to delete anything.