

L.T. Quick, Fisher, Thurs. Apr. 8-65.

VIET NAM

President Johnson moved swiftly today - to implement his proposed two billion-dollar program - of economic aid to Southeast Asia. The President meeting at the White House this afternoon with Eugene Black - the former president of the World Bank - who will head the <sup>new</sup> project. Also conferring with other top White House advisers - in an effort to get the plan moving - even before the fighting has stopped.

The President's program unveiled last night - in his speech on Viet Nam. Repeated today in the official U.S. answer - to seventeen non-aligned nations that had previously called for peace talks - "without prior conditions". The U.S. reiterating its willingness to enter into - "unconditional discussions". But warning that any final settlement must provide for - "an independent South Viet Nam - securely guaranteed and free from outside interference".

Meanwhile, <sup>the</sup> President's words - drawing mixed

reaction today - both at home and abroad. Although generally g praised in Congress - the plan was described by Senator Wayne Morse - for one - as "grandiose utopian verbiage - a lot of lip service to the thary of peace."

Overseas - the proposal welcomed unanimously - by South Viet Nam and the rest of the Western World. But according to Moscow - it was nothing more than an effort to divert criticism from what the Kremlin called - ~~xxxxxx~~ "imperialist aggression".

Red China - even more vehement. Radio Peking describing the President's speech as - "overflowing with lies and deception". Calling it a trick to get the Communist Viet Cong to disarm - while the U.S. pushes plans for expansion of the war. ~~But~~ from Hanoi - no comment, <sup>so far,</sup> ~~as yet.~~

CUBA

The government-controlled press of Havana -  
today reported the smashing of a fifty-three member  
Cuban spy ring. The conspiracy said to have been  
headed by an American <sup>missionary</sup> identified as <sup>the Rev.</sup> Herbert Caudill.  
And said to have included - several <sup>other missionaries,</sup> ~~Baptist ministers~~  
~~as well.~~

In any case - it's the biggest roundup of  
alleged spies - in recent Cuban history. Following by  
just two days - the execution of a high government  
official - on charges of espionage.

## JIMINEZ

*Former Venezuelan dictator Marcos Perez Jiminez - went on trial today in Caracas on charges of embezzling thirteen million dollars in public funds. This the first time a former Latin American chief of state - has been brought to trial for alleged crimes during his administration. Perez Jiminez facing a possible sentence - of thirteen-and-a-half years in Prison. The trial itself - expected to last nearly a year.*



## CHURCH

*The Roman Catholic Church - which recently entered into a dialogue with non-Catholic and non-Christian religions - today went one step further. Pope Paul establishing an administration - intended to serve as a liaison between the church - and atheism. This the boldest move yet - in the Vatican's quest for a dialogue with all those outside the Catholic faith. However, the church's condemnation of atheism - remains unchanged.*

IRISH

First results from that Irish election -  
tonight indicate a sweeping victory for Premier Sean  
LeMass. His Fianna Fail Party expected to claim  
easily - the largest number of seats in the new  
Parliament - perhaps even <sup>a clear-cut</sup> ~~an~~ majority. The  
count to be completed tomorrow - when ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> will know for  
sure.

## BERLIN

*Communist border guards played cat and mouse with the Western allies today - on all access routes to West Berlin.*

*The Communists twice blocking traffic on the main Berlin-to-West Germany Highway - closing another main highway for three hours - tying up one U.S. Army convoy in East Germany - and refusing passage completely to another. And for the second straight day - Soviet Mig fighters shattering the air over West Berlin - with their sonic booms. While their comrades shadowed allied aircraft - through the Berlin air corridor.*

*This ironic footnote - the Soviet flyers today winning the grudging admiration of U.S. airmen. The Russians termed - "crack front-line pilots". Said one American flyer - "there are no student pilots up there - only the first team".*

GAS

Eight of the nation's largest oil companies -  
today <sup>were</sup> charged with a conspiracy to fix ~~the~~ prices on  
gasoline - in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.  
The accused including - the American, Atlantic, Cities  
Service, Gulf, Humble, Sinclair and Socony Mobil. ~~oil~~  
~~companies~~. The alleged conspiracy - a plot to freeze  
out so-called "private brands". Named as co-  
conspirators - but not as defendants - were the  
California, Sun and Tidewater oil, ~~companies~~.



## WATER

*Next - a story with a familiar ring. A story about restless natives - threatening to cut off the water supply of a U.S. Naval Air Base. No - it's not Guantanamo - down in Cuba. It's the Olathe Naval Air Base - situated on the outskirts of Gardner, Kansas.*

*The Mayor of Gardner threatening to shut off the Navy's water - unless the Federal government does something about building a long-promised dam. The Mayor asserting that the Naval Base alone - now consumes more than twice the amount of water - used by all the rest of the city. And the supply is running short.*

*The Mayor fully aware that his action - might force the base to shut down. Nevertheless -*  
*- Dick -*  
*said he - it's a simple matter of first come, first served.*

## FAIRY

The tale of a latter-day Mata Hari - disclosed today in reports from Saigon. A beautiful twenty-two-year-old spy - charged with charming military secrets from lonely American helicopter pilots.

The girl - a slender, graceful Vietnamese - named Nguyen Thi Nga. Which means "Moon Fairy" in English. "Moon Fairy" assigned to a bar at Soc Trang - where there's a U.S. Army combat helicopter base.

Moon Fairy apparently a complete success in her undercover role. <sup>They</sup> ~~She~~ trapped almost by accident - in a Communist bomb plot. The home-made bombs planted in cans of talcum powder - traced to Moon Fairy. And she's now charged with - "an act of terrorism".

If convicted - Moon Fairy could become the first Vietnamese woman - to face a firing squad. If so she would share the same fate - as her renowned predecessor - the lovely and deadly Mata Hari.