

NORTH AFRICA L.T.-Odds, Fisher, Shurt, Oct. 31, 1963.

The fighting along the frontier between Morocco and Algeria - appears to follow an old maxim of politics and war. The maxim -- "gain as much territory as you can, before the cease fire goes into effect." The idea being to keep the territory - or else use it for bargaining at the conference table.

Anyway, that would explain - this ^{reported} Algerian attack.

Ben Bella, attempting to recapture lost ground - even though he signed the cease fire with King Hassan of Morocco. The armistice becomes official - tomorrow night. Meanwhile, ^{— and Moroccan —} Algerian guns are booming louder than ever - in the border zone.

Who is winning? That depends on whether you read the dispatches from Rabat - or Algiers. The Algerians and the Moroccans - both claiming victory.

ADD NORTH AFRICA

The latest - Morocco has broken diplomatic relations with Castro's Cuba. Rabat, accusing the bearded Dictator - of shipping arms to Algeria. Castro, supporting Ben Bella - who has often expressed admiration of Castro.

At the same time, the Moroccans are calling home - their Ambassadors to Egypt and Syria. ~~Nasser being another Dictator - who is sending military aid to Ben Bella.~~

The fear in Washington is that an arms race might be building up. The Iron Curtain countries - backing Algeria. The free world - Morocco.

VIET NAM

The following statement - is one many have been waiting for. General Paul Harkins, Commander of our forces in South Viet Nam, says:- "The end of the war is in sight". To which he adds - "about one thousand American troops will be gone from Viet Nam, by the end of the year".

In other words - the Americans have accomplished their mission. They've trained the Army of South Viet Nam - to beat the Red guerrillas at jungle warfare. And the loyalists forces - are doing just that.

There are now fifteen thousand Americans - in South Viet Nam. If one thousand can be withdrawn before New Years - the fighting must have swung sharply to the side of the Vietnamese. General Harkins put it as follows :- "Victory in the sense it would apply to this kind of war - is only months away".

KENNEDY

*The presidential news conference today -
was ■ rather uneventful. Statement by the President.*

*One question - the old one about our forces
in West Germany. To which President Kennedy gave
the flat reply that we will keep those forces up to
military strength - as long as the international
situation demands it.*

*The wheat deal - with the Russians? He
says - negotiations are proceeding - in an atmosphere
of buyer-and-seller bargaining. Outer space? He
isn't taking Khrushchev's word - about the race to the
moon and still thinks that we should maintain - our
own space schedule. Cuba? The reduction of Soviet
troops - is continuing.*

BILL

The military construction bill zipped through Congress today - with hardly any opposition. In fact, there was only one "no" in the House. Curtis of Missouri, registering firm opposition - while his colleagues were going for the measure right down the line. As for the Senate - there the okay came in a voice vote. No need even for - a head-to-head count.

This bill calls for - more than one and one-half billion dollars. The bulk of it for construction - by the three armed services. Biggest beneficiary - for four hundred million - The Air Force.

Also some small items like the test reactor at the Aberdeen proving ground - two million dollars for that.

WEATHER

The vast plains of Texas look tonight - as if they had been jolted by a small earthquake. The drought, shrinking the sub soil - and causing the surface to crack. At Mesquite, Texas, a crevice has opened in the ground - a foot wide, and ten feet deep. It would take quite a quake - to achieve the same result. But the weather did it by a negative method - no rain.

The Lone Star State, so parched - that the damage is already estimated in the many millions, with no relief in sight. The Dallas weather bureau, reporting the dryest fall since it opened for business in Nineteen thirteen.

Meanwhile, Arkansas is being scarred - by forest fires. The blaze in the Qua chita National Forest has turned into such an inferno - that hundreds of soldiers are being sent from Fort Chaffee to help the

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fire fighters.

With more forest fires - from Louisiana to Ohio. Meanwhile in Colorado, the problem is - snow rather than drought. Vail Pass blocked tonight by a heavy early snowfall. Vail, where a spectacular new ski area was launched a year ago.

REFUGEE

There's much irony in the escape of the Czech refugee - who rode the rails for four days to safety in Denmark. He could have dropped out from under his freight car - on the first day. For he already was in West Germany, and didn't know it. He kept changing trains - at one European station after another. Riding the rails without food - over hundreds of miles of track.

Finally, he was spotted - at the Copenhagen station. When they told him he was in Denmark, he smiled - and then, collapsed. In a comfortable Copenhagen hospital tonight - suffering from frostbite. Otherwise - okay. The refugee from Red Czechoslovakia who rode the rails for four days, not knowing he had arrived in the free world days before.

NIAGARA FALLS

If you happen to know why September is an especially romantic month - you might send word to Niagara Falls. Canadian officials admit they are baffled - because September is now the month when most newly weds arrive. It used to be June in a walk --- a walk down the aisle. Then a train to Buffalo and on to Niagara. But this year June slipped into second place - by more than two hundred couples. The month of Roses, giving way to the month of - well what is September the month of? The month of "flaming leaves" in the Adirondacks and New England. But what brings all those brides and grooms to Niagara Falls - in September?

COSMONETTE FOLLOW NIAGARA FALLS

Here's a wedding that won't be followed by a Niagara Falls honeymoon. For the cosmonaut and the cosmonette have no plans for a visit to North America. To them Niagara may seem as far away as the Moon.

The word from Moscow is that Valentina Tereshkova will marry Andre Nikolayev. Andre, one of the Russian cosmonauts - who have ridden space capsules around the globe. Valentina - the first gal in space. The two now drifting together toward a rendezvous - with different hazards. Hazards not symbolized by solar radiation - but by a wedding ring.

By the way the Russians have really gone to town in making spectacular space postage stamps - in brilliant colors - including space portraits of comrade Valentina Tereshkova, her fiance Andre Nikolayev, Yure Gagarin and the others. Their one ruble - about