

Mon. May 20 - '68.

PARIS

For the first time since Nazi occupation -- the question was heard again today: "Is Paris burning?" Answer -- no; not burning -- just boiling.

Indeed, the whole of France -- ^{in a} ~~a sea~~ of turmoil. With an estimated five-to-six million striking workers -- closing factories, stalling transportation, tying up communications. Vowing to stay out "for a week -- or even a month, if necessary;" to break the Gaullist regime -- to win a general wage increase, social security benefits and so on.

This forcing a run on the French franc -- setting off a wave of hoarding -- driving the Fifth Republic to the brink of disaster; With the French government -- seemingly powerless to stem the tide. Premier George Pompidou facing a possible vote of censure -- when the French National Assembly reconvenes Wednesday.

What of DeGaulle? For the moment, at least -- nothing.

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PARIS--2

The French President -- refusing to be stampeded, scheduling a Cabinet meeting for Thursday -- an address to the nation Friday -- and not a word before.

DeGaulle apparently hoping he can rally the French people once more -- as he has in the past; as the one man--capable of restoring order from chaos.

Earlier, American officials saying Hanoi was whistling in the wind -- if it hoped to bring any new U.S. concessions out of the talks. U.S. leadership said to be more determined than ever -- to continue the bombing in North Vietnam, until Hanoi displays willingness to scale down its own half of the war.

HARRIMAN FOLLOW PARIS

Elsewhere in Paris -- U.S. Ambassador Averell Harriman conferred today with South Vietnamese officials. One of a series of "regular consultations" -- on preliminary peace talks; now in abeyance -- till Wednesday.

Later, Harriman was asked about reports -- from the North Vietnamese camp. Reports predicting no progress toward peace -- till June at the earliest. In reply -- Harriman saying he "deplored" the fact -- that North Vietnam was "making propaganda" out of the situation. As far as our side is concerned -- said he -- "we want immediate, substantive talks -- we want them right away."

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HANOI FOLLOW PARIS

In the meantime -- Hanoi today was proclaiming a string of major victories -- over the past hundred days. Claiming to have "wiped out" more than a quarter-million U.S. troops -- since the start of that New Year's Tet offensive.

At the same time -- the U.S. Mission in Saigon was making public today -- a captured Viet Cong document. This crediting the Tet offensive -- with forcing President Johnson to de-escalate the war. Also ^{with having caused} ~~said to have made~~ ~~up~~ the President's ~~mind~~ -- not to seek another term.

Be that as it may -- fierce fighting continued today near the D.M.Z. U.S. Marines -- hurling back a series of Viet Cong attacks. The enemy leaving behind more than a hundred and twenty dead -- ^{again with} a ratio of ten-to-one over American losses.

MOSCOW

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An American in Moscow -- charged today with spying for the C.I.A. The accused -- U.S. Embassy second secretary Jon Lodeesen of Memphis, Tennessee, who is said to have recruited intelligence agents -- from among his Russian friends; including many -- in Soviet artistic circles.

Strangely enough -- the charge was not accompanied by an expulsion order. However, Lodeesen is scheduled for transfer to Brussels -- at the end of the week. **IA**
~~any case --~~ ^{with} the U.S. Embassy branding ^{the} charges against him as "completely false."

PRAGUE

For Soviet Premier Kosygin -- a brief journey today; from Prague -- to the nearby Karlovy Vary Spa, where he is expected to undergo treatment -- for a gall bladder ailment. This -- following weekend talks with Czech leaders, who are said to have assured Kosygin that their new style of Communism ~~will~~ will not lead them away from the Kremlin.

Meanwhile, Soviet Defense Minister Grechko ~~is~~ remains in Prague, ~~apparently~~ apparently nailing down details -- of the promised Czech concessions. One report: That Russia would like to station some eleven thousand troops in Czechoslovakia -- in accordance with terms of the Warsaw pact. If the Czechs agree -- it would mark the first time ~~that~~ Soviet troops -- have ever been stationed permanently in that country.

WASHINGTON

Here at home -- the U.S. Supreme Court agreed today to review a controversial draft case. A case involving a direct dispute -- between the Justice Department and Draft Director Lewis Hershey.

Defendant -- James Oestereich of Cheyenne, Wyoming; a seminary student who lost his draft exemption ~~when~~ when he turned in his draft card during an anti-war demonstration; ~~and~~ ^{and} who has already lost two appeals -- challenging his new status.

Now, however -- Oestereich bolstered by the Justice Department, ^{which} ~~which~~ contends he is still automatically draft exempt -- as are all students preparing for the ministry. General Hershey, of course -- holding just the opposite.

CHICAGO

From Chicago comes news today of a new drug -- thio-ridozone; developed especially for young children -- to combat so-called "school phobia."

Taken at bedtime -- the drug enables a child to get a good night's sleep. Leaving him still relaxed the next morning -- when effects are most needed. Thereby breaking ~~up~~ down the child's anxieties ~~about leaving home~~ -- sending him off to school a happy youngster.

Dr. Philip Ney -- who pioneered the drug ^{-Warren-} -- adding that if one pill doesn't work -- two are almost sure-fire. One for the youngster -- the other for his mother.

NEW ORLEANS

Rumors of a possible Rockefeller-Reagan ticket -- stronger than ever today; after a surprise meeting this morning -- between the two Republican leaders. This -- in New Orleans.

At later press conferences -- Rockefeller, for one, saying he did not find any great ideological gulf -- between him and Reagan. Reagan himself insisting, however -- that he 'is not interested in becoming Vice President."

This latest: Rockefeller boosters in Portland, Oregon -- today launching Operation Bootstrap, a campaign for Rockefeller write-in votes -- in next week's Oregon primary.