

Tuesday, March 6, 1973

CLARK

At Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines there was a speed-up today in the processing of returning POW's followed by an announcement that eighty of the newly-freed men - will be heading home tomorrow.

Meanwhile, another shopping spree - at the Clark PX. About forty of the POW's - also visiting Clark schools where they were greeted by cheers and songs - from young students. The singing of the national anthem - bringing tears to the eyes of Navy Lieutenant George Coker of Linden, New Jersey.

"I'm supposed to be a big man" - said the Lieutenant - "I'm not supposed to cry; but you have welcomed us in the most gracious way" - and then he told the Clark Air Force Base children - "we will never forget it."

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon met ^{today} with a visiting Sudanese Cabinet minister. Abdel Rahman Abdullah coming to the U.S. - in the same plane that brought back the bodies of Cleo Noel Junior and G. Curtis Moore. ^{to} ~~Today~~ extend ~~ing~~ his nation's official condolences ^{for} ~~over~~ the slaying of the two U.S. diplomats ^{at} ~~in~~ Kartoum. The ^{the Sudan cabinet minister} President telling ~~Abdullah, in turn,~~ "We appreciate your coming with the flight."

The President later traveling to the State Department ^{to} ~~where he~~ helped to dedicate a plaque to the slain men. Their names joining those of eighteen other diplomats - "who have given their lives under heroic or other ^{unusual} ~~inspirationally~~ circumstances while serving the government abroad."

The President saying we could have acceded to terrorist demands - and thereby perhaps have saved the two men. But U.S. policy - said he - is "not to submit to international blackmail or extortion - anywhere in the

world." The President adding: "We respectfully suggest
to other governments - ^{that} rather than standing aside - ~~that~~
they join with us against blackmail and extortion."

"Nations that compromise with terrorism today" -
said he - "could be destroyed by terrorism tomorrow."

KHARTOUM FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Today in a nationwide radio and TV address -

Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiry in Khartoum, termed the Palestinian terror attack a "criminal and foolish act;" a crime punishable by Sudanese law." And he added that justice - "will take its course."

DANBY

Death came today - to one of the best-read and best-loved of all American authors. The fabled Pearl Buck - passing away at her home in Danby, Vermont.

Pearl S. Buck - the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries; born in West Virginia - but raised in China; after her college days here in the States she - returned to China where she in turn married a missionary. She also taught in Chinese Universities - storing up a treasure trove of Chinese lore and history. She had learned to speak Chinese before she spoke English. Once she told me she often spoke Chinese in her dreams - as she slept.

"Her first book was "East Wind, West Wind;" followed by "The Good Earth" - which won her a Pulitzer Prize and eventually a Nobel Prize; for "rich and epic portrayals of Chinese life - and for masterpieces of biography."

Pearl Buck wrote more than thirty books, as well as numerous stories and articles. Her hobby was her philanthropic work - giving away the millions she earned

for the benefit of Amer-Asian children. Along the way, adopting and raising nine youngsters - in addition to her own two.

Her good works will continue through the Pearl Buck Foundation - which she founded a decade ago.

Pearl S. Buck - one of our truly ~~authentic~~ great authors. Also a gentle, lovely lady. She was eighty years old.

TRIBUTE FOLLOW DANBY

~~And now this: A special tribute from President~~
today praised her as
Nixon, ~~Pearl Buck was~~ "a human bridge" ~~said he~~ -
"between the civilizations of the East and West; with
simple eloquence, translating her personal love for the people
and the culture of China - into a rich literary heritage,
treasured by Asians and Westerners alike."

"It is fitting" - he added - "that Pearl Buck lived
to see the two peoples she loved so much - draw closer
together."

NEW DELHI

Perhaps the greatest mass religious conversion in history - is scheduled this weekend in New Delhi. The fabled Dalai Lama, self-exiled God-King of Tibet is scheduled to initiate about a hundred thousand Indians into Buddhism.

This according to an announcement from India's Buddhist Initiation Association; which adds that all the converts - were previously Hindu Untouchables. As such, so low under the Indian caste system even their shadows defiled other Hindus. In Buddhism - there is no caste system.

DACCA

Truckloads of armed soldiers - were cruising the streets of Dacca today; with additional units assigned to potential trouble-spots - throughout Bangla Desh. This in preparation for the new state's first Parliamentary elections - ~~coming up~~ tomorrow.

On the eve ^{of balloting} ~~though~~ - observers were predicting little ^{if} ~~any~~ violence; also, predicting ~~an~~ overwhelming victory ~~for~~ for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his ruling Awami League. Indeed, a League spokesman saying today - the party will win about ninety-eight per cent of the vote.

SYDNEY FOLLOW DACCA

**A related item - from Sydney, Australia; where-
visiting Dr. Wadie Kamel of the World Health Association
- was discussing health problems in Bangladesh; reporting
that nine million children in the new state - are now
threatened with blindness; a result of deprivation while in
Pakistani refugee camps.**

**Dr. Kamel's message - addressed partly to the U.S.
"By all means" - said he - "help Vietnam and its thirty
million people; but said he don't forget Bangladesh with its
seventy-five million people."**

SENATE

At a hearing today before a Senate committee on human nutrition - it was like taking candy from a baby. Consumer spokesman Peggy Charren - challenging the nutritional content of Milky Ways and Baby Ruths; also, snacks such as Pop Tarts - Fruity Pebbles - and Vanilly Crunch.

All of these are being exploited ^{via} ~~by means of~~ TV commercials - ^{and} ~~thereby~~ reinforcing the bad ^{eating} ~~poor~~ habits of children - said Mrs. Charren. ^{And} Unless it stops ^{said} she, ~~added~~ "we can expect a continued growth of heart disease, hypertension and poor ^{teeth} ~~dental health~~ - ~~the~~ diseases that result from poor eating habits."

MANNHEIM

For the first time in U.S. Army history - a woman is now commanding an otherwise all-male outfit.

*Captain Reba Taylor, age thirty-two, of Neosho, Missouri - taking over a thirty-man postal unit at Mannheim, West Germany. Solving her first problem - by telling her men to address her as "Captain", or "Ma'am." *will do said she,**

Next question: Does she consider this a victory for Women's Lib? To which Captain Taylor replied:

"Women's Lib - no; equality of opportunity - yes."

HOUSE

In the U.S. House of Representatives - a brief address today by Congressman Podell of New York; noting that this week - is National Procrastination Week.

Because of this - said Congressman Podell - "I will put off my remarks ~~on the subject~~ - until a later time."

And then - he sat down. On the subject of procrastination, Cartoonist-Humorist Harry Herzkfield was telling me today about the now legendary world champion heavyweight boxer Gentleman Jim Corbett - the man who licked the great John L. Sullivan. Harry says Gentleman Jim liked to use big words. Instead of saying you're a liar Bill, he'd say "You are a falacious preveracator!"

AUGUSTA

At Augusta, Main - another major setback for that equal rights for women amendment. The Maine Senate today turning it down - by a vote of seventeen-to-sixteen. Close - but not enough. Senate President Kenneth MacLeod - casting the key vote.

And the Maine Senate's gallery was filled at the time - with scores of women. When the amendment lost - some were weeping, but more were cheering.