

VIETNAM

Tues. Jan. 30 '68.

Ceasefire in Vietnam - a mockery today of all the term implies. Viet Cong terrorists ~~take~~ taking advantage of the phony truce - launching their biggest offensive of the war, including attacks on some forty South Vietnamese cities and villages. ^{This} - climaxed by an enemy thrust deep into the heart of Saigon itself.

The battle in the capital beginning with a mortar and ground attack - against the city's giant ~~tan~~ Tan Son Nhut airport. ~~Followed~~ Followed by shelling of Saigon's Independence Palace - which houses the offices of South Vietnam's President and Vice President. Simultaneously - an all-out assault on the U S Embassy; with a number of shells - slamming into the Embassy building. Enemy terrorists actually battling ~~their way~~ all the way into the U S compound -- ~~before~~ ^{and} ~~they were stopped dead by American defenders.~~ ^{seizing part of the U.S. Embassy.}

Fragmentary reports also telling of
terrorist attacks - against Radio Saigon - against three

*U.S. military billets - against Vietnamese Navy
headquarters - even the Philippine Embassy.*

*At last report - allied reaction forces
moving swiftly to the counterattack.*

SUEZ

A second flare-up of fighting today - in the tense Middle East, When Egyptian survey craft attempted to chart a safe passage - through the northern end of the Suez Canal.

^ This so a trapped American ship - might leave by way of the Mediterranean.

Only trouble- Israel has agreed to opening ~~only~~ ^{the Suez-Port Tewfik} the southern ^{end} of the canal. As a result - Israeli forces immediately opening ^{ed} fire - damaging one of the survey craft; ~~But more than that~~ ^{and} - setting off an artillery duel for twenty-five miles along that shaky Suez truce line.

At the ~~no~~ height of the battle - Egypt also charging Israel with an aerial attack on the city of Ismailia - ~~at about~~ ^{way} mid ~~point~~ on the canal.

It took Two hours, ~~in all - before~~ ^{far} U N peacekeepers ~~could again~~ ^{to} arrange a ceasefire.

SEOUL

After nine straight days of border skirmishes - comparative quiet today; on that bloody line of demarcation - - between North and South Korea.

Back in Seoul - U S General Charles Bonesteel reporting - quote "intensified actions" - to block any new invasion attempt by the North Koreans, this apparently in response to a warning from South Korea - that she will go it alone unless the U S moves firmly to halt Communist infiltration.

As for the Pueblo crisis - that continues to simmer. ~~on the back burner.~~ The United States reportedly working behind the scenes - ~~through diplomatic channels~~ - trying to effect ^a ~~safe~~ return of the ship and ~~her~~ crew.

(Indeed, the White House voicing assurance today - that the men of the Pueblo are being "properly treated.")

(Beyond that though - the word is simply patience - patience.) Meanwhile the enemy holds ^{our} one hundred million ^{dollar} vessel with all

PENTAGON FOLLOW VIETNAM

Here at home - another medal of honor ceremony today at the Pentagon. Navy Secretary Paul Ignatius presenting the nation's highest award - posthumously - to the family of Seaman David Ouellet; second Navy man - to be so honored for service in Vietnam.

Seaman Ouellet - originally of Wellesley, Massachusetts - assigned to a patrol boat in the Mekong Delta. Absorbing the blast of an enemy hand grenade - all by himself - to save the lives of his fellow crewmen.

CONGRESS FOLLOW PENTAGON

~~Across the Potomac - Another special message~~
~~to Congress today; in behalf of American fighting men -~~
~~who still serve in Vietnam and elsewhere around the~~
~~world.~~

In it - President Johnson urging increased
benefits for veterans; also - expanded job opportunities;
Aimed - said he - at helping veterans function as "free,
upstanding and self-reliant citizens" - when they return
to civilian life.

The President noting: "It is on America's
fighting men - that this nation must depend."

SENATE

Meanwhile, the Senate today was approving
the nomination of ^{veteran Wash. advisor to Presidents} Clark Clifford - to be our new

Secretary of Defense. Confirmation by voice vote -
no objections. With Clifford now set to succeed Robert
McNamara - ~~on~~ as of March One.

At the same time - first Russian reaction
to the Clifford appointment; in the Soviet government
newspaper - Izvestia. Calling Clark Clifford's assignment
- tantamount to putting "the hawks into the Pentagon
chicken coop." Adding that "his views - like his clothes
- belong to another era."

An odd comment,
its meaning - a puzzle. But the Russians
~~Mr. Clifford's tailor - please note.~~
deal in riddles.

POLITICS

Turning to politics - a preview perhaps of the coming Presidential campaign - in a Washington speech today by Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien -- one of the administration's top political strategists.

"We will tell the unvarnished truth" said O'Brien. The truth - as he put it - "that President Johnson has given leadership - that he has proposed imaginative, compassionate and realistic solutions - and that he has the ability to get those solutions into law."

However, the President will refuse - "to attack - condemn or assail" his Republican opponents - said O'Brien. (Adding that L B J will demand instead -
specific alternatives to present administration policy; alternatives for solving hard-core problems
-- like Vietnam, crime, housing, unemployment."

STAFFORDSHIRE TOWN

This next - from Staffordshire ~~town~~, England;
where the local Anglicans - have just contracted for
the building of a new church.

Seems the selected builder started the job
as he always does - posting a "no trespassing" sign
on the planned church site. ~~Only to~~ ^{This} draw ^{ing} a quick
protest - that the sign was perhaps inappropriate to
the premises.

Accordingly - a new sign ^{was} posted today in
- Warren - reading: ~~Warren~~
front of the church site, ~~stating that~~ "trespassers -
will be forgiven."

PARIS

For what it's worth - and it might be plenty - a sudden change of tune today in Paris. With ~~President DeGaulle of France~~ voicing his warmest praise of the United States in years. Declaring that France and America - are old comrades in arms; "who - on several occasions" - said he "have tipped the scales of ~~the~~ world destinies in so happy and important a way." And, therefore, must always remain friends - whatever brief "frictions" they may have over foreign policy.

This at a farewell luncheon - for outgoing U.S. Ambassador Charles "Chip" Bohlen; who replied in return, that America remains committed; now and in the future - to preserving the traditional friendship ~~between~~ between our two peoples.

Noble sentiments.

Lafayette, we are here!
~~Let's hope they last.~~