

Tues. Dec. 31, 1968

VIET NAM

South Vietnamese President Thieu - in a New Year's Resolution to Americans - promises that his troops will be ready to replace part of the Allied fighting force in 1969 . Said Thieu - "Our armed forces should gradually assume the burden of the fighting and defend ourselves."

In the war action, U.S. authorities say Communist gunners have shot down three more American helicopters - although the Viet Cong is supposed to be heeding its self - proclaimed New Years cease-fire.

MID EAST

By unanimous vote the U.N. Security Council has condemned Israel for the raid - carried out against the Beirut Airport by Israeli commandos last Saturday. The Council also says Lebanon is entitled to "appropriate redress" for the destruction of thirteen Arab airliners. However, the Resolution carefully avoided spelling out the amount of damage involved, which has been estimated at more than 50 MILLION dollars.

In Beirut, Lebanese Foreign Minister, Hussein Oweini says four squadrons of Israeli jet fighters flew over southern Lebanon today - also he says Israeli troops are massing on the border of Lebanon. From Amman come reports, charging Israeli planes with violating Jordanian territory twice during the day, killing three Jordanian troops and wounding two others. And in Jerusalem, Israeli spokesmen say Arab mortar attacks were launched against outlying Israeli settlements.

Pope Paul is expected to condemn violence in the Middle East when he ushers in the New Year with a "Mass of Peace" atop Rome's ancient Capitoline Hill. Vatican sources also say the Pontiff will call for cuts in Military spending and increased aid to developing countries.

HOOVER

In a year-end report, FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover warns that the Nation faces the prospect of "increased terrorism by the new left - terrorism aimed at total destruction of the Government." He also warns that the growth of black extremist groups constitutes "a potential threat to the Nation's internal security."

J. Edgar Hoover who will be 74 years old on New Years' Day, is ready to begin his twenty-fifth year as Head of the FBI. President-elect Nixon has asked him to stay on. This means J. Edgar will have served as FBI boss under eight presidents beginning with Calvin Coolidge in 1924.

SUPERSONIC

The Soviet Union says it has successfully flown a supersonic jet liner - thereby beating the United States, France and Britain into a new age of commercial aviation. The Tass news agency announced a 38-minute test flight of the Tu-144 - a delta wing plane that can carry one hundred and twenty passengers at speeds up to 1600 miles an hour. Tass says the aircraft took off today from a snowy runway near Moscow and flew two far-ranging loops in the sky - although the test apparently was carried out at sub-sonic speed as a safety factor.

SUPERSONIC

The Soviet Union says it has successfully flown a supersonic jet liner - thereby beating the United States, France and Britain into a new age of commercial aviation. The Tass news agency announced a 38-minute test flight of the Tu-144 - a delta wing plane that can carry one hundred and twenty passengers at speeds up to 1600 miles an hour. Tass says the aircraft took off today from a snowy runway near Moscow and flew two far-ranging loops in the sky - although the test apparently was carried out at sub-sonic speed as a safety factor.

LINDBERGH

Official British Government documents - kept secret until now - disclosed that back in 1938 Colonel Charles Lindbergh warned the French Government that Nazi Germany had eight thousand war planes and could build fifteen hundred more each month. The report by the man who in 1927 first flew the Atlantic alone, was included in documents which the British kept top secret for thirty years. I wonder if things might have been different had we heeded Lindbergh before World War II when he - and General Doolittle also, - warned us of what was going on in Nazi Germany?

LIARS

The Burlington, Wisconsin Liars' Club has named the winners of its annual awards. The new "World Champion Liar" is Charles Ewilson who claims his home town of Ethel, Louisiana is so small they had to extend the town limits to make room for a phone booth there. Honorable mention went to H.D. Ewing of Massillon, Ohio, who tells us that once, while he was driving a car on the West Coast to visit relatives, he had the radio on, listening to music - but, "the road was so rough it jarred the needle off the record at the Radio Station".

BOAT

A thirty-seven year old Swede named Hans Dahlstroem plans to sail around the world alone next March in a 24ft. boat that will have neither sails, nor a conventional engine. His vessel - so he hopes - will move by means of a pendulum, which he himself invented.

When the waves rock the boat, the pendulum swings. And when the pendulum swings, it turns the propeller. Says Dahlstroem - "I'll simply make use of the movement of water and ~~the~~ waves will wash me around the globe". How's that for a 1969 project, Warren/

CENSUS

The Census Bureau says that 202 million, 254 thousand Americans, the Nation's total population will welcome in the New Year. The Bureau also reports that in 1969, Mr. Average American will continue to grow younger - move to the west, the south, and in to the cities, also get married earlier, and have smaller families. We are told the birth rate in the U.S. is falling. As for age, the average American male now is 26. The average woman is three years older, she's 29. Whatever your sex, whatever your age, Happy New Year to all and from the Lake Placid Club deep in the Adirondacks - so long until tomorrow.