

L.T. COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1968

(MAURIE, WEBSTER, SUB.)

GOOD EVENING:

America's vaunted aerial defense warning system -- "highly vulnerable" to missile attack from the Soviet Union according to a highly-respected report -- announced today in London.

The findings prepared by the Institute of Strategic Studies -- made up of military experts from thirteen nations. Coming to the conclusion that American defenses -- have failed to keep pace with Soviet rocket strength in recent years. Urging creation of a new system of "back-up interceptor control" -- to remedy the situation.

Another part of the report calling the war in Vietnam -- a direct contest of will between the United States and China. The study concluding, therefore -- that the United States can not settle for anything resembling defeat

in Vietnam; for if it does -- it will see its position
in Europe, as well as Asia, gravely undermined.

The front line in Vietnam -- right on the outskirts of Saigon today. With American infantrymen trapping a battalion of Viet Cong-- on the banks of a suburban river. Proceeding to wipe out the Communist force -- in one of the most lop-sided victories of the war to date.

Before darkness covered the battlefield -- the Communists losing at least a hundred and sixty-six men. American losses coming to seventeen wounded -- and not a single fatality.

Earlier, in Saigon proper -- American officials disclosed today for the first time -- that U.S. planes are dropping anti-personnel bombs over North Vietnam. These presumably the most effective weapon -- against certain ~~pre-selected~~ ~~pre-selected~~ targets.

HUMPHREY

Vice President Hubert Humphrey -- home from his European trip today, to receive a hero's welcome for a job well done -- in the face of riots and demonstrations wherever he went.

President Johnson -- heading the reception; with special praise for Hubert Humphrey's personal conduct -- on his "look and listen" mission. Telling the Vice President: "You have been more than America's eyes and ears. We followed you every step of the way -- we're very glad to have you back -- and we are very proud of you."

In response -- Hubert Humphrey saying our hopes in Europe -- "have been fulfilled and beyond." "If we and our partners can maintain our unity" -- he added -- "the next twenty years can bring replacement of the Iron Curtain -- with an open door."

Later, Mrs. Humphrey reporting that she and her husband -- were "not really ever frightened" by anti-American

demonstrations. Far more impressive -- said shee -- were the great numbers of friendly people who applauded their visit.

In fact -- there was only one sticky moment in the entire trip -- said Mrs. Humphrey. And that -- news of the welcome awaiting them on their return home. "It almost terrified Hubert" -- said Mrs. Humphrey.

PRESIDENT

Turning to domestic affairs -- it's that time again.

President Johnson throwing out the first ball today -- to initiate another baseball season. The Yankees and Senators clashing at District of Columbia Stadium -- in the first

game of the new campaign. *The Yankee win it -- right to nothing*

Tonight -- the President flies to Montivideo en route to a meeting with Latin American chiefs of states -- at Punta Del Este, Uruguay. There to discuss trade and aid concessions -- that the United States will make to its hemispheric neighbors.

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NEW YORK

Here in New York -- a surprise move today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; to disassociate itself from resent anti-Vietnam statements -- by Dr. Martin Luther King and others.

"To attempt to merge the civil rights movement with the peace movement -- is to assume that one is dependent upon the other" -- said the NAACP. And that -- the statement added -- "is, in our judgment, a serious tactical mistake."

STRIKE

On the strike front -- it's one down and two to go. Negotiators for the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists -- reaching agreement early today with the three major radio and television networks. Clearing the way for a quick end to the thirteen-day broadcasting strike -- and early resumption of normal programming. Ensured tonight -- with National Board of AFTRA confirming the pact.

On the other hand -- a creeping paralysis is currently sweeping across the nation's trucking industry; with contract talks -- seemingly getting nowhere. Same situation -- in railroad talks; except that President Johnson has now asked for emergency legislation -- to head off the rail tie-up for at least twenty days more.

WEBB

Federal space chief James E. Webb -- lead-off witness today before a House committee -- investigating that recent Apollo disaster at Cape Kennedy.

Webb first commending a special review board -- for its weekend report on the tragedy; blaming the fiery disaster on, quote, "many deficiencies" -- in both design and execution of the Apollo mission

The space chief further promising a "healthy shakeup" -- of the entire Apollo program. Pledging that every flaw uncovered by the probe -- will be corrected. And, finally, refuting Republican charges -- that the review board failed to question some leading space technicians.

Said Webb at one point: "If any man wants to ask for whom the Apollo bell tolls -- I can tell him. It tolls for him and for me -- as well as for Grissom, White and Chaffee.

It tolls for every astronaut-scientist -- who will lose his life in the real vacuum of space -- on the moon -- or on mars."

TUNNELL FOLLOW SPACE

Reverse side of the coin -- news today that nine Federal agencies are seeking Four Million in research funds. Trying to find a better way -- to dig a hole in the ground.

The nine agencies -- all a part of "Project Badger." A program aimed at finding an improved method -- of excavating subway tunnels.

The search spurred by knowledge that an estimated two hundred miles of subways -- will be built in the United States over the next three years. At an estimated cost of about Two Billion -- using present tunneling techniques.

The goal: To develop a giant drill -- capable of boring a hole twenty feet in diameter through solid rock; quickly -- and cheaply. A goal that can be reached -- say Federal officials -- "with the best engineering -- and just a little bit of risk."

A final story -- in a moment.

FLORENCE

Latest in the world of fashion: A spring and summer showing today -- at the Pitti Palace in Florence, Italy.

From the workshop of Emilio Pucci -- a new kind of mini-bikini; as well as sun glasses the size of headlights -- and pony tails made of pure hemp rope. From Gregoriana -- knicker-type pants suits -- worn with World War One puttees. And from Irene Galitzine -- matching ensembles for pet-owners and their dogs.

Perhaps the best commentary -- from a poodle chosen to assist in the Galitzene presentation. Try as they might to get her on the stage -- the dog simply refused to be seen in public -- wearing the same coat as her mistress.

This is Maurie Webster -- and that's it for tonight.