

Wednesday, February 27, 1974

DAMASCUS-JERUSALEM

In the Middle East - Kissinger scores again. In Damascus, Dr. Kissinger today obtained a list of the Israeli prisoners of war still held by Syria. He then flew to Israel to deliver the long sought list to Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir. Whereupon the latter promptly announced that Israel is ready now to negotiate a disengagement of Syrian and Israeli troops. The White House later adding that Israel has agreed to come up with a disengagement plan by March first, next Friday; which Dr. Kissinger - will then "personally take to Damascus."

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill the House today completed final congressional approval - of ²that long delayed emergency energy bill. To what avail though - remains to be seen. The President saying all along - he would veto such a bill.

BONN

Until the start of the energy crisis - there was no speed limit on the West German autobahn. As a fuel saving measure - Bonn then ordered a one hundred kilometer speed limit - about sixtytwo miles an hour. Whereupon a hue and cry - from car manufacturers and drivers associations to the point where the speed limit was finally raised today - to a hundred and thirty kilometers, or eighty-one miles an hour. This on the basis of arguments that drivers at lower speeds - become inattentive, hence more accidents.

COLUMBUS

**Lt. William Calley - convicted ~~for~~ of killing
twenty-two persons at My Lai in Vietnam is again
a free man tonight. A federal judge at Columbus,
Georgia granting his motion for bail - pending
appeal through civilian courts. The Judge's decision
ending a period of nearly three years - during which
Calley has been held under house arrest.**

YUCCA FLATS

At Yucca Flats, Nevada another underground nuclear explosion today - a tremendous blast - swaying tall buildings, seventy miles away in Las Vegas; also, registering a five on the Richter Scale - at the Cal Tech Seismological Laboratory in Pasadena.

MASSAWA

The mutiny by Ethiopian armed forces led by Junior Officers - spread today to the Red Seaport of Massawa. An Ethiopian Air Force unit - also joining with rebel soldiers still holding the city of Asmara. The mutinous troops demanding higher pay - and better living conditions; meanwhile, from Addis Ababa came an impassioned plea for national unity - from eighty-two year old Emperor Haile Selassie. The Lion of Judah telling his people - "we have had problems before - and we have come through them." He declares this will be - no exception.

MOSCOW

The wife of exiled Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn - has now been told that she and her three sons may leave Russia. Madame Solzhenitsyn is insisting on taking along her husband's personal library; a thousand books, which may mean a delay of a month or more.

ROME

In Italy - a nationwide general strike - involving an estimated eighteen million workers. Country paralyzed? Except for a lack of buses and taxis - we are told - the work stoppage is causing little disruption.

After all this is Italy's sixth general strike - in four years. So they're getting used to it.

BALLOONIST

Where ~~is~~ the missing balloonist Thomas Gatch?

An attempt was made today to get a Pentagon computer to figure it out. And what happened? The computer noted that ~~that~~ while winds over the Atlantic have been blowing westward, that is at altitudes up to seven thousand feet, above that, at altitudes of over eight thousand feet, they have been blowing even harder in the opposite direction.

So, the computer says ~~balloon~~ balloonist Gatch could

actually now be over the Caribbean - or ^{over} the African coast, or even ~~on the other side of the globe, maybe~~ above China. ^{John Shaker} So, ~~but~~ Where is the missing balloon & balloonist?

ROTUNDA

Today's quote of the day - comes from soccer

player Kyle Rote Jr. winner of the second annual Sports Super-Star Tournament at Rotunda, Florida. The young Texan saying: "I'm still the same jerk I've always been."

But he also said he plans to give part of his fifty thousand in prize money to charity. And he intends to keep on - with his ministerial studies. So it may be - he's still the same,. But, "a jerk"? - Hardly!