

Monday, February 26, 1973

PARIS

The search for a lasting peace in Vietnam begin today in Paris. The first session of the new International Conference on Vietnam lasting nearly two-and-a-half hours. And it was marked by a conciliatory mood - on the part of the major powers.

U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers perhaps setting the general tenor when he said: "Our common goals and aspirations motivate us to concentrate on a single objective - peace." Secretary Rogers also saying: "The U.S. is totally committed to the success of this conference. We must be willing to pool our intellects, abilities and resources."

Canada's Mitchell Sharp for one was not optimistic. "The cease fire has not worked as yet," said he - "the Vietnamese parties are still engaged in hostile activities." Sharp adding that Canada will be forced to withdraw from its

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*peace keeping role - if the conference cannot somehow
guarantee the present "cease fire."*

LONDON

On the money markets of Europe - the U.S. dollar was holding firm today with dealers generally reporting business - as usual - and not "too hectic." The dollar's renewed strength - especially apparent in London. The price of gold there - dropping by five bucks in ounce.

Here at home on overall view - from Presidential economic advisor Peter Flanagan. The Nixon administration is planning no barriers, said he, to foreign investment in the U.S. Flanagan adding that the best way to reduce the U.S. trade deficit - clearly, is not to ban imports but rather to increase exports.

HELSINKI

Helsinki - the start of a third round of preparatory talks - for an all-European security conference. The only speaker today - French Ambassador Gerard Andre; who urged the establishment of a special "working group;" one that could "work without publicity" and thus perhaps achieve better results.

Reaction to this generally good. A French spokesman saying that the western camp - was in "general support" of Andre's proposal. A spokesman for the eastern bloc saying: "All we want - is to get down to business."

TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir is once again on her way here for talks with President Nixon. These are scheduled to begin on Thursday. Before leaving the airport at Tel Aviv she spoke to reporters and brushed aside a suggestion that the downing of that Libyan airliner - could lead to complications here in the U.S. "It will absolutely not affect my talks with Mr. Nixon" - said she. Beyond that though she declined to speculate on the outcome of her U.S. visit. Madame Meir saying to the newsman: "I will tell you everything - on my return."

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, also discussing the airliner tragedy like Madame Meir was taking an optimistic view. Said he: "It would not be very courteous to the U.S. government - to believe that it will allow a single tragedy to affect the search for peace. "Because" said he "peace would prevent such tragedies."

BHENGAZI follow TEL AVIV

Reverse side - the bodies of fifty-five victims of the Sinai tragedy were buried today at ~~Bahigazi~~^{Bhengazi} in Libya. One of those attending the rites was Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Khadafy. The mourners kept shouting over and over: "Revenge! revenge! Khadafy." "Wipe out this disgrace, Khadafy."

Khadafy himself making as yet no official statement. A Beirut newspaper reported, however, that he was incensed that Egypt had failed to send its Migs up over the Sinai to protect the airliner. Beirut adding that indeed, he was so upset - Libya may now withdraw from its planned federation with Egypt and Syria.

PRISONERS

The release of another group of American POW's was originally set for seven tonight - Eastern Time. This in keeping with a time table under the terms of the Vietnam cease fire agreement.

As of last report though - no prisoner release - nor list of the men to be set free as a result of the weekend rock-throwing at two North Vietnam compounds in South Vietnam.

The Pentagon today expressed regret that - "our expectations have not been met;" stressing the delay is not considered a cease-fire violation in that release dates are flexible. The agreement merely specifying that all prisoners shall be set free by March Twenty-Eight.

WASHINGTON

Washington again - the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - discusses past war strategy in Vietnam. This in testimony before a House Appropriations Defense sub-committee. Admiral Thomas Moorer saying that "on occasion" he had recommended "a flanking movement." Meaning a South Vietnamese invasion of North Vietnam; on the grounds - said he - that such a move - would have been "desirable from a strictly military point of view."

Admiral Moorer added that there had been many political complications which made it necessary to fight the war on a "principle of gradualism." Said the Admiral: "Under our system of civilian control I give the best military advice I can; and when I get an order - I execute it to the best of my ability."

PEKING

On tour today in Peking - a group of visiting Japanese mayors; who earlier met briefly - with Red China's Premier Chou En Lai. Chou learning that all the mayors had been born during the reign of Emperor Hirohito - which began in Nineteen-Twenty-Six. Thereupon noting that Chinese leadership - is getting "well up in years." "I myself am seventy-five" - said he. Adding: "We shall have to yield our places to younger people." The Chinese leader was also told - that several of the mayors - had never gone beyond high school. Said he: "I'm a commoner - who never got beyond junior high." He then advised the mayors in question - to "stay with it."

MOSCOW

A dissertation on the subject of a biased press - comes today from Moscow, of all places. Soviet journalist Fyodor Kovrov - charging that Red Chinese newspapers are near-sighted incomplete and extremely tendentious. Adding: "News of major events is usually transmitted with great tardiness and simultaneously with a summary of the government's official position. Further accusing the Chinese of especially playing up - biased information and slander about the Soviet Union.

All of which may be true - but what's that old saying about the kettle and the pot?

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court today refused to review its decision last month on abortion. Instead, instructing lower courts to take that decision into account - in pending cases involving nine state statutes on abortion.

The High Court also confirmed today - that broad segments of the Texas vagrancy law are unconstitutional. In still another case refusing to exempt four suburban Detroit school districts - from a broad bussing program. In so doing ruling, in effect, that it was not necessary to prove they were actually practicing school segregation.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - the first step toward the start of America's next manned space flight venture. Space workers today moving on to the launch pad a two-hundred-and-twenty-four foot tall rocket space ship combination. This the "space machine that will carry aloft in May - Astronauts Pete Conrad, Paul Weitz and Dr. Joe Kerwin. If all goes well they to be the first men to serve aboard the new U.S. Sky Lab station.

PRINCETON

The heading of this next - should it be the tiger and the pussy cat? At any rate, it comes from Princeton University where an award is presented each year to the University's outstanding student. The M. Taylor Pyne Trophy which has honored a long line of distinguished young tigers. Ah, but incredible, unbelievable, fantastic, this year the winner of the Nineteen-Seventy-Three M. Taylor Pyne Trophy was not a man. It was a dame. Senior Marsha Levy - member of Princeton's first co-ed class. Hardly a pussy cat. Bill - Marsha must be an intellectual tigress.

OAKLAND

Over the weekend - you may have heard of the returned POW wedding. Navy Lieutenant Commander William Shankel taking as his bride - the former Mary Anne Hotop of Dallas, Texas; the girl he left behind, who waited seven years for him to come home again. The couple enjoying a brief honeymoon at Lake Tahoe. Commander Shankel then returning to Oakland Naval hospital where he discussed his sudden plunge. "I thought she'd be married" said he.

Adding: "Obviously she waited - so the only route to take was to get a wide tie, a double knit jacket, bell bottom trousers, then jump in with both feet and start adjusting;"

and now from WDBF so long until tomorrow.