

L.T. BUICK, FISHER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1965

VIET NAM

The complicated situation in Viet Nam was further clouded today--by these fast-breaking developments:-

First--Russia in the unlikely role of peacemaker. The Soviet Union agreeing to join France--in urging a Southeast Asia Peace Conference. Alleged purpose--to end the fighting in Viet Nam.

Next up--Secretary General U Thant at the United Nations. Thant also calling for East-West talks--aimed at a negotiated peace. The sort of settlement--said he-- "that would enable the United States to withdraw gracefully-- from that part of the world."

Then this word from the battle zone itself. A U.S. military spokesman in Saigon disclosing that U.S. jets-- have gone into combat action for the first time--inside South Viet Nam. At the request of the South Vietnamese government-- American B-fifty-seven bombers attacking one force of Communist

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viet Cong last week--and another today. The U.S. jets previously used only in retaliatory air strikes--.

In Washington, the State Department later describing the jet attacks as consistent--with the government's stated policy in Viet Nam. That policy--one of continuous action where it is "appropriate, fitting and measured."

CONGRESS

Through it all--from the President-silence. But with President Johnson today receiving the full support-- of both House and Senate Democrats.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield asserting that at this point--the less President Johnson says about Viet Nam--the more room he has to bargain. Mansfield observing that "you can't carry on diplomacy in public". House Speaker John McCormack adding that "there will be no appeasement--under President Johnson."

For today at least--House and Senate Republicans--keeping to the sidelines.

GERMANY

East German Communist leader Walter Ulbricht arrived in the United Arab Republic today -- to the cheers of thousands and a full twenty-one gun salute. Reaction in West Germany -- somewhat less than enthusiastic. The West Germans promptly cutting off all further economic aid -- to Nasser's Egypt.

In Bonn -- Ulbricht ^{is} considered the "arch enemy" to German reunification.

Nevertheless, West Germany apparently is ready and willing to play host to Ulbricht's boss -- Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin. (The Bonn government disclosing later today -- that it has invited Kosygin to pay a state visit to West Germany -- at his earliest convenience.)

~~However,~~ Kosygin expected to make ^{any} ~~his~~ acceptance conditional \ll on at least two political matters:- One -- an extension of the ~~state~~ ^{statute} of limitations -- on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The other -- abandonment of plans for West German participation -- in a Multi-National Nuclear Force under NATO.

SYRIA

The Syrian government has rejected U.S. protests against the execution of Farhan Attassi -- the naturalized American hanged yesterday as a spy.

The U.S. charging that Attassi was held incommunicado for seventy-five days. That he was tortured into a confession-- then convicted without the benefit of legal counsel.

Syria replying today that Attassi's arrest and trial were carried out -- "in complete freedom and without any pressure." Declaring that Attassi was a native of Syria -- and his U.S. passport merely a part of his equipment for espionage. So say the Syrians.

Now from Syria let's drop down to Southwest Arabia for a moment.

KENYA

A one-time Mau Mau sympathizer -- now a member of the Parliament of Kenya -- was shot and killed today in a suburb of Nairobi. R. Gama Pinto slain by three gunmen -- as he sat in a car outside his home.

Pinto was jailed briefly by colonial authorities -- during the Mau Mau terror of the Fifties. At the time, he was the editor of an English and Indian newspaper -- the Nairobi Colonial Times.

Since Kenya achieved its independence -- Pinto increasingly politically active -- but said to be leaning more and more toward the Communist line. Now apparently the victim of political assassins -- at the age of thirty-five.

LOVE

Here's a story of young love -- young and foolish.

A twenty-one-year-old carpenter -- and his sixteen-year-old girl friend -- both living in West Berlin. But because of the girl's age -- the young lovers refused permission to wed. As a result -- the couple fleeing West Berlin in the dead of night. Crossing over into Communist East Berlin -- there, hopefully, to marry.

Oh, but
~~But here's the catch,~~ The laws governing the marriage of minors are even stronger in Communist East Germany - than ~~they are~~ in West Germany. The young couple thus detained behind the Iron Curtain tonight -- sustained only by a love that in this case -- was truly blind, *Dick?*

CHEERS

Thousands of Britons besieged supermarkets and chain stores today in a spirited battle -- for spirits. The wholesale shopping spree touched off by a whisky price war -- with Scotch, gin and vodka selling at about a dollar-^a~~per~~-bottle off regular prices.

The price war touched off by Distillers Company, Limited -- when ~~it was~~ forced to scrap its old price schedule. This in line with a new law -- prohibiting price-fixing. Freed from "fair trade" restraint -- a few supermarkets quickly slashed their own retail prices -- and the battle was on.

The cut rate liquor deplored -- by small package ~~stores and specialty shops.~~ ^{about this is} But British sentiment, ~~perhaps best~~ summed up -- in a newspaper headline:--The London Daily Express ~~proclaiming~~ the liquor price war in these words -- "cheers all around."