

LAOS

k.T.-Olds. Wed. Apr. 5 - '61,

From three world capitals ^{come} / indications that a
cease-fire is coming in Laos. The London foreign office
describes itself as "satisfied" with the Kremlin
response - to the British proposal for ending hostilities.
In Moscow, western observers believe that a compromise
peace formula is being drafted - ~~xxxxxxx~~ behind the
~~xxx~~ walls of the Kremlin. In Vientiane, defense minister
Phoumi Nosavan says - his forces are ready to lay down
their arms, as soon as the big powers reach an agreement.

Meanwhile, the fighting continues - around Vang
Vieng, ^{with} Loyalist artillery ~~is~~ shelling the Red paratroopers
- who were dropped on Vang Vieng yesterday.

TALKS

The main point made at the White House today - is that the Western Allies need greater unity. Prime Minister Macmillan and President Kennedy, agreeing - this doesn't mean merely our two countries. It refers to all the nations of the West - and the danger to them, if they don't stand together. The emphasis is on Nato - and it's fifteen members. Macmillan and Kennedy both want - closer ties within Nato. Better Liaison, to be achieved ^{through} ~~the~~ existing machinery.

One major international problem - was not discussed at the White House today ^{- so we are told.} The problem-of Laos. Macmillan and Kennedy, devoting themselves to other issues - because they feel that the Laotian crisis has been threshed out by their ^(foreign) ~~foreign~~ ministers. ~~But~~ ~~Laos is sure to come up during the Prime Ministers visit~~ along with many other world problems. The Agenda for these talks - puts first things first. With the Prime

U.N.

Today's move by the Russians in the U.N. seems fair enough - if you don't examine it too closely. That Moscow offer to drop the U-2 and RB-47 incidents - if the West would agree to drop the motions on Hungary and Tibet. Moscow, apparently offering - tit for tat.

We are not going along with the suggestion - because the cases are not comparable. The American RB-47 was over international waters - when Soviet fighters shot it down. As for the U-2 - we have already stopped our overflights over the Soviet Union. But the Russians are still holding Hungary - as a captive. As for the Chinese Reds they are still tyrannizing over Tibet.

So - there is no chance for a bargain. We are willing to meet any Soviet charges - concerning the U-2 and the RB-47. We are unwilling to have the delegates to the U.N. forget the sufferings of - Hungary and Tibet.

CUBA

The relations between the Kennedy administration and the Cuban dictatorship ^{appear} -/ ~~are~~ more bitter than ever tonight. This - following an exchange of accusations. Castro, complaining that American ships based on Guantanamo - are operating against his regime. Washington, charging that Castro is mistreating the Americans - in Havana jails. Buttressing the charge - with this fact. Linden Blue of Denver, and Don Swenson of Toronto -/with no excuse for it -/were imprisoned in Cuba for a month. During those four weeks - both lost ten pounds.

NEW GUINEA

The criticism of America in New Guinea today - was led by a native Papuan. Nicholas Jouwe (Yowvay), attacking Washington - for not sending a delegate to the ceremony surrounding the first elected council in Dutch New Guinea. Jouwe pointed out that other Western nations are represented in Hollandia - Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand. Then this Papuan speaker charged that America is bowing to - pressure from Indonesia; Jakarta's claim to the Dutch half of the big island off the Northern coast of Australia - which actually is no more related to Indonesia - geographically or racially than Labrador is to Ireland.

The Dutch insist that the people of New Guinea - don't want any break in the connection with Holland. A claim, supported today - by native Nicholas Jouwe.

ALGERIA

The President of France has stepped up his personal war against the Right Wing dissidents from Algeria. ~~XXX~~ DeGaulle acting quickly - after yesterday's bomb ~~was~~ outrage at the Paris Stock Exchange. A crude time bomb, going off - shortly after the trading had ~~and~~ ended for the day. The blast, turning part of the building - into a shambles.

Today, the Right Wing extremists were boasting - that they planted the bomb. They've been making anonymous phone calls, and publishing underground leaflets - to let the government know ~~that~~ they won't give in. They^a're promising more violence - if DeGaulle persists in his plan for an Algerian Algeria.

As a result - all leaves granted to the Paris police, have been cancelled. Security agents throughout France - on the alert. Officials of the government have ~~and~~ just about given up hope - that peace talks with the

Moslem rebels can begin on Friday, as scheduled. But -
they will begin. DeGaulle has pledged his word on that.

AVALANCHES

The northern island of Japan has been declared - a disaster area. Tokyo, rushing army and Red Cross units - to Hokkaido. Their mission - to push rescue operations in the mountains. Search for the survivors of - three massive avalanches.

Thousands of tons of snow, becoming topheavy - roaring down the mountain sides; blocking highways, disrupting communications - burying entire villages. Hundreds of people fled from their homes - just in time. Others - not so fortunate. The death list appears to be around thirty; with many injured; many - missing.

VOLCANO FOLLOW AVALANCHES

Avalanches - in Japan. On the other side of the world - volcanic activity continues in Sicily. Historic Mount Etna, blowing it's top with the usual inferno of smoke, flame, ash, and lava. One side of the crater - has cracked wide open, with molten lava, pouring down the mountain.

Volcanologists at the Sicily Observatory declare - this is one of the fiercest eruptions they've ever seen. Casualty list? There isn't any. Nobody hurt. The Sicilians have spent quite a few centuries - learning how to live with their tempermental fire mountain. So no one was too close this time - when the molten lava came gushing out of Mount Etna.

GERANIUM

Today, the Cincinnati city council looked like - a florist shop. Or at least a florist shop specializing in one particular flower - the Geranium. A band of women devoted to the geranium - descended on the city council. Before they were through - the chamber was loaded with specimens of their favorite flower. Geraniums - all sizes, all colors.

Why: Oh, the city fathers are discussing - a flower to represent Cincinnati. So there's much controversy. One councilman had said he didn't even know what a geranium looked like. He knows now, Dick. Overwhelmed by geraniums. The ladies of Cincinnati, shouting - "Use your cranium, vote geranium."

GOLF

More details about Presidential golf at Palm Beach. Yesterday, we had the story about - those shots hooked over to the wrong fairway. Today we hear that President Kennedy didn't yell "fore" quickly enough, and one of his drives - conking a secret service agent. Fortunately, it was on the bounce - so the victim needed only minor medical attention. And was back guarding the President on the golf course - three holes later.

Our second story tonight - is about the famous Kennedy rocking chair. Paris newspapers have been printing high level reports - about the American President packing his rocker, for his trip to France. Now, from the White House - an official denial. Press Secretary Pierre Salinger, telling newsmen there are plenty of rocking chairs in France. Enough to provide one - for the President of the United States; if he wants one.