

Tues. Jan. 25, '68.

PUEBLO

For the United States -- for North Korea -- for the world perhaps -- a return to the brink today. President Johnson ordering a callup of "ready reserves" -- for the first time since the Cuban missile crisis. In effect, serving notice on Pyongyang; ^{that} we want the Pueblo back -- we want it now, and no excuses.

The callup limited for now -- to some 14,000 air force and navy reservists -- also air national guardsmen. The White House warning though -- that an additional callup of army and marine reservists is already under consideration. The Pentagon further transferring two squadrons of U.S. fighter bombers -- from Okinawa to South Korea; while a task force headed by the U.S. aircraft carrier Enterprise -- was moving into position about 200 miles off the coast of North Korea.

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The U.S. State Department emphasizing, for its part -- that these military moves will not diminish diplomatic efforts; said to be "continuing" -- in an effort to effect peaceful return of the Pueblo.

However, North Korea ^{is} still insisting -- she will not give up the ship. Indeed, Radio Pyongyang today airing the voice of a man -- purported to be that of Commander Bucher -- skipper of the Pueblo; admitting the vessel was a spy ship -- supposedly on a secret mission for the CIA; but ^{this} all of it -- obviously a fake.

^{Now the} ~~This~~ latest: the United States tonight calling for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council -- to consider the crisis.

VIETNAM

Meanwhile, the shooting war goes on in Vietnam -- where it was Con Phien all over again today. Only this time -- at Khe Sanh; a second marine outpost ← just a few miles away.

Same as before -- north Vietnamese gunners laying siege to Khe Sanh -- with a ^{heavy} ~~deadly~~ barrage of artillery fire. The weather also closing in -- making flying extremely difficult. Nevertheless, a steady stream of supply planes -- pouring food, water and ammunition into that border fortress. Same as their buddies at Con Phien -- the marines at Khe Sanh determined to hang in there.

At the same time -- a major battle is raging tonight far to the south -- on the Bong Son plain. First reports -- indicating nearly 200 enemy dead so far. Allied losses -- called light.

WASHINGTON FOLO VIETNAM

Shock waves from the war in Vietnam -- a contributing factor in a pair of news stories developing today back in Washington.

The first -- White House confirmation that John Gardner -- Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare -- has resigned, effective March 1. Press Secretary George Christian making the announcement -- said he -- "In view of the premature story" of Gardner's quitting in a number of newspapers. The White House further expressing regret -- at the Secretary's pending departure.

Be that as it may -- Gardner is said to have been angered by a cut in his planned budget for fiscal '69.

Published reports adding that he also wished to disassociate himself -- from the President's policy on Vietnam.

Just the reverse true -- in the case of Defense Secretary-designate Clark Clifford; who told the Senate Armed Services Committee today -- that he stoutly opposes any bombing halt in the Vietnam war -- at this time.

When would he favor a bombing halt? When it would be in the best interest of the United States -- in order to achieve peace negotiations -- said Clark Clifford.

Adding: "That time has not arrived."

NORTH STAR BAY

Found -- at the site of the B-52 crash near Thule, Greenland; four nuclear bomb parachutes.

The announcement today -- from Copenhagen. Danish officials saying they have been informed by American diplomats -- that one of the parachutes was partly burned. Indicating that the fuse on that particular bomb -- may have exploded on impact. However, the Danes again emphasizing -- that all four bombs were unarmed; thus -- no danger of a nuclear blast; also -- little danger of radio activity.

As to the present whereabouts of the bombs -- best bet -- we are told: that one and all -- probably crashed through a six to nine foot layer of ice; in which case -- they are resting now at the bottom of North Star bay. Or else -- the burning wreckage of the plane melted enough ice to create a small lake -- which later froze over; in which case -- the bombs are now frozen solid inside. Either way -- a tough job ahead -- getting them back.

JERUSALEM

The Suez Canal -- soon to re-open to one-way traffic. ~~6000~~ At Jerusalem -- Israel agreeing today to terms already accepted by Egypt. Clearing the way for departure of those 15 ships -- including two American vessels -- trapped in the canal ever since that June war of last year. Work now set to begin on Saturday -- raising a number of sunken ships they will have to get out of the way.

All this -- a tribute to the mediation efforts of U.N. peace envoy Gunnar Jarring. Both sides having earlier vowed the canal would remain blocked -- pending full and final solution of the Arab-Israeli impasse.

MILWAUKEE

This next -- from Milwaukee; about a hearing --
on a paternity case. Judge Ronald Steinmetz asking the
plaintiff: "And what did he say -- when you told him you
were pregnant?"

The woman's answer: "He said we didn't know each
other well enough -- to get married."

Proving -- apparently -- there's "knowing" --
and then again -- there's "knowing," -- isn't there?

And what do you know, Warren?

PEKING

Here's one -- perhaps a ray of hope -- in a world of unrest. Red China today declaring this week -- "cherish-the-people"-week in Peking.

Red army troops -- joining in the celebration -- says Radio Peking. "Cherishing" the people by "giving them theatrical performances -- reading newspapers to them -- and holding discussions on the thoughts of chairman Mao Tse-Tung."

Also -- free haircuts from army barbers -- for all who want them. And for those who refuse to be "cherished" -- a close shave, no doubt.