

MOSCOW

Wed. Feb. 1st. '69.

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~~Meanwhile~~, Russia and Red China -- apparently drawing still closer to a diplomatic crisis. With reports from Moscow telling today -- of pending action that will all but shutter the Russian Embassy in Peking.

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The Kremlin -- they say -- planning a recall of diplomats -- that will leave only a skeleton force in Red China. With the Chinese in Russia -- to be told to ~~now~~ reduce their own force to comparable size.

Soviet patience said to be exhausted -- by seven straight days of attacks on the Russian Embassy in Peking. A situation aggravated by assaults and humiliations directed against Russian diplomats -- that have made it impossible for them to function in Peking -- says the Kremlin.

RED CHINA

Mounting evidence of widespread chaos -- in reports reaching Hong Kong. Travelers telling of fighting over vast areas of China -- supposedly paralyzing the Chinese economy.

Latest from Red China -- word today of a major victory for Chairman Mao Tse-Tung. Wall posters in Peking reporting the collapse of a rebel movement in Sinkiang Province -- where China's nuclear tests are carried out.

Here at home -- the quest for peace continues.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, for one, saying today that turmoil in Red China -- would well hasten the end of the war in Viet Nam; in that it might make it easier for Hanoi ~~not~~ to talk peace -- if it wishes to do so.

No evidence as yet -- that such is truly the case; but we're still trying to find out -- said Dean Rusk.

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Elsewhere in Washington -- a final meeting today of some two thousand religious leaders -- spearheading a national anti-war movement. The delegates calling for a nationwide three-day fast -- beginning next Wednesday. A "Fast for Peace" -- as they put it.

VIET NAM

In Viet Nam ~~itself~~ -- a series of land, sea and air attacks today by American forces, ^q all the way from that phony demilitarized zone in the North --to the Mekong Delta in the South. Final tally: A hundred and thirty-six enemy dead.

On the other hand -- another case of mistaken identity today near Da Nang. An American attack bomber flying in close support of U.S. Marines -- when it accidentally dropped two bombs into a band of ^alethernecks. Killing at least one -- and ~~injuring~~ eleven others.

PRAGUE

A naturalized American citizen -- hi-jacked from a Russian airliner last fall -- found guilty of espionage today in Prague -- in his native Czechoslovakia. Vladimir Kazan-Komarek -- who had lived in Wellesley, Massachusetts, in recent years -- ~~immediately~~ sentenced to eight years in ~~pr~~ a Communist prison.

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American diplomats ^{are} ~~is~~ expected to appeal the case to a higher court. In the meantime, the U.S. State Department ~~is~~ stalling travel plans of Czech citizens -- who wish to come to this country.

PARIS

For the first time in thirty years -- the French franc was fully convertible today. By order of President DeGaulle -- the government lifting all restrictions on use of the French currency.

This a license for any Frenchman -- to take any amount of money in or out of the country with complete freedom. Which means that the French can now maintain bank accounts abroad -- take all the money they need for foreign vacation trips -- or even buy properties or businesses in foreign lands.

By a strange coincidence -- the currency reform occurring only five weeks before national elections. Apparently a reminder to French voters of DeGaulle's achievements -- including the build-up of nearly Six Billion dollars in gold reserves -- which permits the new freedom.

What DeGaulle fails to mention though -- is the

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fact that most of the gold came from the United States.

Right from Fort Knox -- at the expense of our own gold reserves.

This next -- the end of a long and bitter fight. With the Federal government today abandoning plans for a dam project -- that would have flooded a major portion of ^{the} Grand Canyon.

Secretary of the Interior Stuard Udall -- announcing the decision, ~~But~~ denying that it represented -- in his words -- "a capitulation" to opponents of the project.

"This is not a big victory for anyone" -- said he. Adding:

"It's a victory for commonsense."

Either way -- welcome news for conservationists.

MADRID

In Madrid -- the moment of truth today -- for the world's most famous bullfighter. El Cordobes -- the "Beatle of the Bull Ring" -- calling it career at age thirty. While still at the top of the heap -- earning up to Twenty-Five Thousand bucks for a single afternoon's work.

El Cordobes -- whose real name is Manuel Benitez -- a national hero in Spain. His climb from rags to riches -- immortalized in story and song. But now -- after eighteen gorings -- he's had enough. The reason -- said El Cordobes: "Divine providence -- told me to quit."

SAN FRANCISCO

For a strange wedding, hows that? Ceremony -- in San Francisco. Performed by a so-called "Priest of Satan" -- by the light of candles stuck in human skulls. The alter consisting of a nude woman -- lyington a leopard-skin rug. All --under the gaze of a five-hundred-pound lion.

The weird matchmaker-- one Anton Lavey; who says he based the ceremony -- on fifteen years of study of witchcraft, sorcery and satanism. The rite consisting of bells, gongs, a bit of swordplay, a sip of blood from a silver chalice, and finally -- chanting in a -- quote -- "magic"language.

The bride -- dressed in scarlet -- a little bewitched by it all. Not so the groom -- who had been married twice before. Said he: "I look forward to a nice life now -- indulging vigorously in the seven deadly sins."

BOSTON

The case for modern Britain -- put forward today by the British Ambassador to the United States. Sir Patrick Dean telling a Boston audience -- that Britain has much to offer both the tourist and the businessman, beyond the Beatle haircuts and British mini-skirts -- that seem to attract so much attention here in the United States.

However, the Ambassador adding: "It doesn't worry me -- that people write and talk about odd hair-dos and mini-skirts." For such people -- "must have mini-minds," said Sir Patrick Dean.

What do you say, Warren?

CHICAGO

One of America's most famous Indians -- dead today in Chicago. Chief Thunder Cloud -- the first Tonto in the Lone Ranger film series -- passing away at the age of Sixty-Eight -- after a lengthy illness.

Despite his later billing -- the Lone Ranger's "faithful Indian companion" was originally born with the name Scott Williams. But he was a descendant of the great Chief Pontiac -- who led the Ottawa Indians against the British in frontier days.