

L. T. OLDS, FISHER. WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1964

(Prescott Robinson substituting)

ASIA

The gravity of the crisis in Southeast Asia has caught up with Adlai Stevenson - on the other side of the world. Our Ambassador to the U.N. was in London - when he received an urgent message from the Secretary of State. A message to return to New York - at once. And deliver a major American policy speech at the U.N. - tomorrow. Dean Rusk informing Stevenson that the related problems of Laos and South Viet Nam - may have reached a decisive stage. And so President Johnson wants all of his subordinates at their posts - ready to defend our position in Southeast Asia. Including Cambodia. Which is accusing us - of aggression. Adlai Stevenson will answer - that accusation. As well as the Soviet demand - that we be censured for helping the people of South Viet Nam.

LAOS

The fighting in Laos has turned into a battle of - planes against ground forces. The Reds are in command of the Plain of Jars - after last week's victories over the loyalist army. But the Royal Laotian Air Force - controls the sky. And is hitting the rebels with bombs and bullets. Hundreds of sorties against troop concentrations - and supply dumps. A bid to slow the Red Advance - while the Laotian forces regroup.

Violence increasing in Laos - as the big powers discuss what to do about it.

REQUEST

The House Foreign Affairs Committee - voted 'yes' today. Unanimously approving President Johnson's request - for an extra one hundred twenty-five million dollars' worth of aid for South Viet Nam. The Committee, convinced the money is necessary to get results - in that war against the Communists. So they approved the President's request - intact.

THAILAND

According to Thai Ambassador Sukich Minnanheminda - his country would not oppose the arrival of U.S. troops there. If such a move - becomes necessary. The troops to be used as a deterrent to keep the Pathet Lao Reds in Laos - out of Thailand.

The Ambassador discussing this possibility with Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, William Bundy - in Washington. Saying Thailand would welcome any action - that would act as a deterrent.

In 1962 the U.S. sent just such a force - to Thailand. But the troops were withdrawn after the Geneva Conference - and the formation of a coalition government. Now Thailand is being threatened again - by the Reds in Laos. The U.S. still hoping that diplomatic pressure - will be enough to stop them.

CUBA

The war of nerves in Cuba is mounting - both inside and outside that Island.

Cuban refugees abroad are wondering if their leader, Manuel Ray - has managed to fulfill his promise. Which was to be back on Cuban soil - by the sixty-second anniversary of his country's independence. That is - today.

In Miami rumors of exile landings, as well as the establishment of clandestine radio stations - have been circulating for days. Exiled sugar planters have given their blessing to - raiders and infiltrators. Telling them to - burn down every sugar mill and plantation on the island. In fact, to use a "scorched earth" policy - to topple Castro. Sugar, of course, provides about eighty per cent - of Cuba's income.

The Castro regime reacting to all this - by ordering "practice" air and artillery manoeuvres in the area most open to invasion. Raul Castro to rally

his forces in Santiago - on Friday.

*Meanwhile no word at all - from Fidel Castro,
the bearded dictator.*

CYPRUS

The question on Cyprus - is a sinister one.

Where - are the Turkish prisoners?

Fazil Kuchuk, leader of the Turkish Cypriots - is asking it tonight. Archbishop Makarios, required by the U.N. to release eighty-four Turkish Cypriots who were being held as hostages - has failed to do so within the time limit.

Now the Turkish leaders are charging that - the prisoners have been murdered. Telling the U.N. that its main job should be - to protect the Turkish community from barbaric attacks.

MICROPHONES

Ambassador Foy Kohler's strong protest to Moscow - about those snooper microphones dug out of the U.S. Embassy walls - has brought an answer of sorts. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov promising to - "look into" the matter. Which sounds like an evasive Soviet gambit.

Meanwhile U.S. officials reported today that this is not the only country to be favored - by Soviet attention. In the matter of - listening posts. Or "bugging" installations. Other allied Embassies in Moscow receiving the same treatment - over the years. The Embassies - not specified by name, however.

There is much speculation, of course, as to whether Yuri Nossenko, the Soviet secret agent who defected to the West in February - told all. Whether it was he who provided our State Department - with vital information. Information which led to the tearing up of those Embassy rooms in Moscow. And the discovery

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of forty microphones. But so far the State Department - isn't saying.

MARYLAND

Governor George Wallace of Alabama got nearly twice as many votes as he said he expected - forty three percent rather than twenty five percent, in that Maryland Primary election.

The Governor surprised he said today - at his strength with the voters. But he feels sure nevertheless that he'd have gotten even more - if he had campaigned longer.

In spite of what the Alabama Governor says - he lost numerically to Senator Brewster of Maryland.

And tonight, Senator Brewster is saying that his victory indicates - that Marylanders are satisfied with the policies of President Johnson. Most of them, in favor of - the Civil Rights Bill.

DEBT

All signs point tonight to another heated argument between Congress - and the Treasury.

The occasion? The lawmakers are preparing once more - to raise the Federal debt limit. In recent years this has had to be done - every six months. In order to allow the Government - to pay its bills. Right now the debt is about three hundred and nine billion dollars. But the administration is expected to ask for - a ceiling of over three hundred and twenty billion.

The argument? The Treasury would like to have the extensions - by the year. Congress prefers six months at a time.

Anyway, they're playing with - quite a sum of money. Three hundred and twenty billions.

CHAPLIN

The following sounds like - a great comic scene. Chaplin, fighting - the brave bulls of Spain. Which conjures up visions of a baggy-pants tramp - cavorting with cape and sword. But - this Chaplin is not the famous Charlie. She's his daughter. Geraldine Chaplin, in Spain to learn - the art of the matador. And she's serious about it - she says. Although one report from Peubla del Rio has it - that Geraldine Chaplin is perhaps less interested in the bulls. Than in - the matador who's teaching her the art of bullfighting.

LIGHTHOUSE

The world's first nuclear-powered lighthouse chose an appropriate moment - to go into action.

Namely, on the arrival of - the world's first nuclear-powered merchant vessel. The Baltimore Lighthouse, saluting the "Savannah" - as she entered the upper reaches of Chesapeake Bay.

Tonight, atomic energy is being fed into the mechanism - that keeps the light blinking out to sea. Not much of a change - externally. But a revolution inside. Because the atomic reactor can keep going on one load of atomic fuel - for five hundred years.

Looks like quite a future - for Maryland's nuclear lighthouse.