

July 28, 1970
Allen Jackson

At the Western White House - San Clemente - the U.S. space chief called it quits. Dr. Thomas Paine announcing his resignation today as the head of NASA - following a conference with President Nixon.

The man who guided America's first moon landing - saying he is returning to the General Electric Company, from whence he came. Dr. Paine adding that recent cutbacks in the U.S. space budget - had "absolutely nothing" to do with his resignation. It just seemed - said he - like "an appropriate time for a change of command."

The President also met today - with top budget advisers and the chief topic of discussion there - projected defense expenditures during fiscal Nineteen-Seveny-Two.

Now this: A presidential commission urging tonight - a complete overhaul of the Defense Department; one that would divest the Joint Chiefs of Staff - of their present control over America's worldwide military operations; assigning them instead - a strictly "planning and advisory" role.

JERUSALEM

Jerusalem - Israel today postponed for another twenty-four hours - its official response to that U.S. peace plan on the Middle East. Israeli officials saying - there are still some points which remain to be clarified.

Reverse side - Syria and Iraq attempting to forge today - a new coalition of anti-Israeli Arab nations. Vowing to carry on their "holy war" along, if necessary (in the face of Egyptian and Jordanian acceptance of the U.S. peace proposal.

At the same time - Egypt's President Nasser cracking down on militant Palestinians. This by cutting off the air - all guerilla radio stations which have been broadcasting from Cairo. An attempt -we are told - to give the new peace move - at least, a fighting chance .

CAMBODIA

In the fighting in Southeast Asia - the main focus of ground action again turned today to Cambodia; where the Communists were intensifying their pressures - in three important areas. First - moving big guns into the temple ruins at Angkor Wat; second - making new gains on the Kirirom Plateau; and third - seizing a cement factory near the port city of Kampot.

Meantime, the U.S. Command in Saigon - issuing latest figures on its, ³ quote, "hamlet evaluation system;" coming to the conclusion that more than ninety per cent of South Vietnam's population - is now living "reasonably secure" under government control; and this said to be - the best showing to date.

SEA OF JAPAN

Elsewhere in the Pacific Theater - a running gun battle today in the Sea of Japan; with a South Korean patrol craft - tracking down a marauding North Korean gunboat; engaging the enemy vessel - in a brief exchange of fire; pending the arrival of South Korean jets - which promptly sank it.

This marking the third such naval clash in South Korean waters - since the first of the year. Officials saying the Communist incursions - are apparently aimed at landing enemy agents in South Korean territory.

VIENNA

From Rio de Janeiro - a report today regarding
Today's session of Strategic Arms Limitation talks
in Vienna - billed in advance as the final parley in this
first go-round; except - an apparent snag. Soviet and
American delegates - conferred for more than an hour; after
which they agreed to meet again - come Friday.

In any event, the slaying of a 21-year-old...
Twenty-eight - setting off the...
the latest victim said to have been a...
yet unidentified man, whose...
found on a local football field. According to...
the first of "these were...
death.

From Rio De Janeiro - a report today crediting

*Brazil's so-called "death squad" - with its twenty-eighth
gangland execution in less than a month. The "death squad"
- as you perhaps know - an organization supposedly made up
of off-duty policemen; with its main goal - the elimination
of habitual criminals.*

*In any event, the slaying of a Rio policeman last June
Twenty-Eighth - setting-off the current bloodbath. With
the latest victim said to have been a well-dressed but as
yet unidentified man - whose bullet-riddled body was just
found on a local football field. According to a police
tipster - the first of "three more outlaws" condemned to
death.*

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "BIANCHI"

Next on the agenda - another special report from Lowell Thomas; discussing tonight - the bug capital of the world. Lowell...

BIANCHI

2 Page insert -
undated

Good evening everybody:

I have just been talking to Fredrico Bianchi, an entomologist ^{from Guatemala} who is on his way to New Guinea, where as you may recall, I spent some time during the past year. He says there are more different kinds of insects on that wild equatorial island than anywhere in the world. I suspect most of them took a bite out of me. Fredrico Bianchi will be searching for one particular insect which the entomologists call *Rhabdoscelus obscurus*.

Bianchi was educated here in our country at Leland Stanford University. He says the last time he was in New Guinea, at Mt. Hagen, when an innkeeper took him to a room he quickly asked for Flit. Said the Manager: "This is not the mosquito season. We have no mosquitoes."

"Bring me some Flit!" repeated the entomologist.

Bianchi knew what he was doing. Whereupon he killed and counted two hundred and fifty mosquitoes.

As for the insect that he is studying - *Rhabdoscelus*

Obscurus, the Hawaiian Sugar Growers Association is worried about that one and they are backing the expedition.

Entomologist Bianchi believes New Guinea was its original home and that it was taken from there by Polynesian mariners

He says his study may keep him here in New Guinea for five years.

Now how would you like to be in New Guinea in search of Rhabdoscelus Obscurus?

Solong...

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "BIANCHI"

Thank you, Lowell. More news - in a moment.

MIAMI

Veteran snake handler Bill Haast - who heads the Miami Serpentarium was a recent guest on one of those television "talk" shows; where he told of having been bitten by poisonous snakes - one hundred and ten times.

Well make that now - a hundred and eleven. Bill Haast was cleaning out a cage at his Serpentarium - when he was suddenly struck by a Malaysian pit viper; a deadly, poisonous snake - to whose venom he is also highly allergic. However, the hospital listed his condition today - as "serious but improving." A doctor adding of Haast: "This fellow's got more lives than a cat - amazing!" ~~Now~~ Now for Lowell - so long until tomorrow.