

SAIGON

Thurs. May 9 - '68.

Saigon in flames! A band of about two hundred Viet Cong - breaking through allied defenses today, setting fire to whole blocks of buildings -- as they swept through the city. Trapping thousands of refugees - in the swirling battle. Refugees forced to watch helplessly - as their homes burned before their eyes.

In the end - about fifty thousand more civilians - fleeing to allied strongholds in Central Saigon. Those who were able to make it - through the crossfire, ~~while~~ the U S command was ~~throwing~~ ^{sending} another two thousand troops -- into the battle for the capital. ^{Actually} ~~really~~ a series of battles - now ringing the city.

For all this - U. S. officials calling the Red offensive - merely an harrassing attack. Noting, what's more, that enemy deaths - are running ten to one over Allied losses. One U S spokesman saying it's simply - a "murderous Communist publicity stunt."

PARIS FOLLOW SAIGON

From the sound of it - maybe more of the same today in Paris, ~~With~~ the arrival of North Vietnam's chief negotiator - for those upcoming preliminary peace talks.

In the first place - Xuan Thuy (Swahn Twee) calling the talks themselves - a "sign of American military defeat." Everyone knows" - said he - "that the United States has sent more than half a million troops and tens of thousands of satellite troops - ~~now~~ for its aggression against ~~South~~ South Vietnam -- also North Vietnam. But the American war policy has met with increasingly ~~heavy~~ heavier defeats" - said Thuy. Adding that Hanoi is thus ready to begin formal peace talks -- as soon as the United States ~~is~~ agrees to a full bombing halt over the North.

HARRIMAN FOLLOW PARIS

U. S. Chief negotiator Averell Harriman - arriving in Paris a few hours later. Telling an airport press conference -- that "no man ~~so~~ sincerely desires peace" as much as President Johnson. Adding, nevertheless, that Americans are pledged to seek "an honorable settlement -- nothing less" no matter how long - it may take.

THIEU

Meanwhile, back in Saigon -- South Vietnamese President ~~Thieu~~ Thieu was also taking note of the Paris talks. Telling his people over nationwide television - that the Thieu government will never cede any territory to the North Vietnamese -- will never form a coalition including the Viet Cong -- will never enter into negotiations with the national liberation front.

Thieu adding that lasting peace in Vietnam - can come only from direct talks between Saigon and Hanoi. In the meantime, - said he - "the Communist strategy is to attack and negotiate at the same time."

WARSAW

Warsaw -- western diplomats and foreign residents -- barred today from leaving the Polish capital. Why - they were not told. However, the travel ban - simultaneous with a five-nation Communist summit conference in Moscow. The Soviets and their satellites - reportedly trying to decide what to do about maverick Czechoslovakia. The two items together - raising speculation that Russia's two divisions in Poland - are taking up new positions near the Czech border.

PRAGUE FOLLOW WARSAW

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Across the Frontier - in Prague -- a Czech radio broadcast was also concerned with the Soviet threat. Appealing "for God's Sake" against any repetition of Soviet intervention - such as occurred in Hungary in Nineteen Fifty-Six. If there are differences - said Prague - let them be settled with "clear and unambiguous words" - rather than sudden, dramatic action.

CAIRO

Concession at Cairo. Egypt finally agreeing today -- to take part in a Mideast peace parley; as long as it's held in New York - under U N auspices; with the understanding there will be no direct talks - between Arabs and Israelis.

This new position - relayed to visiting U N peace Envoy Gunnar Jarring, who is also said to have secured similar approval - from both Israel and Jordan. After six months of ~~some~~ seemingly fruitless effort - trying to bring the two sides together.

WHITE HOUSE

Only yesterday - Richard Nixon charged that the United States ~~waxbe~~ has become a "lawless society" -- under the Johnson administration. Today - President Johnson address^{ed}~~es~~ himself to the same subject, ~~urging~~ urging the Senate to "get off the dime" and exact promptly his anti-crime bill -- which has been pending^{for} fifteen months now.

The President including a special appeal - for a tough new gun control law. Said he: "What in the name of conscience will it take - to pass a truly effective gun control law? Has not the high-powered mail order rifle -- brought tragedy enough to America?" L B J adding: - "The mugger and the murderer will not wait - neither must we."

MELBOURNE Fla.

"Look, out on the road! It's a bird - it's a plane - it's supernude!"

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And what or who is "supernude." Turns out - he's a fellow given that provocative title - by the police of Melbourne, Florida. Where he was spotted recently - standing in the middle of a major highway [^] Wearing a long red cape - and nothing else.

Summoned by ~~xxxx~~ motorists -- police attempting to collar "supernude". ^{But} ~~Except that~~ he vaulted a fence _^ by the side of the road -- where his getaway horse was waiting. And faster than you can say Clark Kent - Warren - this Baron Sodiva - "Supernude" _^ was up, on and away.

KENNEDY

Are the Robert Kennedy's expecting again?

Answer: Yes -- according to a Washington Columnist; who predicted today that Ethel Kennedy will soon give birth - to her eleventh child.

This drawing a flat - no comment - from Mrs. Kennedy. Although the Senator's office later confirmed -- it was true.

You may recall - the couple's tenth child was born by Caesarian section - just a year ago last March. At the time - Robert Kennedy telling inquiring reporters -- he had no objection to having more children. But when the same question was put to Mrs. Kennedy - then as now - no comment.