

L.T. SUSTAINING, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Defense Secretary McNamara -- before a Senate Committee said today that enemy forces now in South Vietnam include about two hundred and seventy-five thousand men; a gain of only about twenty-five thousand -- over the year before. McNamara adding that during the last six months -- the Viet Cong seem to have lost "about as many men" as they gained.

Too early to draw final conclusions -- said the Pentagon Chief. "But it does appear" he went on "that our military efforts during the last year -- have succeeded in limiting the build-up of the Viet Cong.

So says Defense Secretary McNamara.

VIET NAM

~~Meanwhile~~ On the other side of the globe -

America's long-awaited big push in ^{the} Mekong Delta - finally underway today. A thousand U S combat troops taking up a permanent position in the Communist stronghold. First of an expected flood - of U S fighting men, destined for ^{is} the one battlefield -- where we hope eventually to sew up the war in Viet Nam.

Back in Saigon - word today that U S advisers are supervising conduct - in three newly-built prisoner of war camps, ^{of the hard core} said to contain at present - about twenty-five hundred Viet Cong ~~troops~~. The report emphasizing that government troops have shown a marked improved - in their treatment of captives; adding that they're now ^{this} adhering to the international rules of war - at the urging of Americans.

MIDDLE EAST

For the first time since Nineteen Fifty-Eight -- Israeli and Syrian authorities met in peace today - on their common border. Purpose: to end once and for all the daily violence & that has threatened to plunge the Middle East into full scale war.

Five hours later - in a joint ~~comm~~ communique - both sides reaffirming their commitment to the U N - nearly twenty years ago; agreeing once|again to refrain from all kinds of hostile and aggressive action - on either side of the frontier.

For the moment, at least - peace;~~it ends~~ With another meeting set for Sunday - to explore the possibility of still further agreement.

CHINA

From Peking -- and from Moscow -- conflicting reports today about that turmoil in Red China.

The Peking Peoples Daily -- under control of Chairman Mao Tse Tung -- claiming massive support for Mao from the Chinese Army -- with the intervening in Shansi -- to prevent the attempted coup there by anti-Mao forces.

Radio Moscow reporting, however, that peasants and workers have just captured the city of Nanchang -- capital of Kiangsi Province; in a series of battles with Mao

supporters -- leaving hundre^{ds} of Red guards either dead or injured.

Latest from Tokyo: A report that the insurgents now have also captured Huhohaot'e -- capital of Inner Mongolia.

HOUSE

A special House investigation of Adam Clayton Powell -- barely begun today in Washington; when the Harlem Congressman once again stole the limelight -- without even being in town.

Powell's top assistant -- calling a news conference at Powell's Washington office to say the Congressman will make "several important announcements" Saturday -- from his Garden of Eden on island of Bimini where he now spends most of his time.

The Powell assistant -- refusing to discuss what his boss would have to say except to call it "fantastic." Leading to immediate speculation that he has decided to pay up -- in that hundred and sixty-four thousand dollar Harlem libel suit; and thus clear himself of the contempt charges that have led to much of his present trouble.

NEW DELHI

On the eve of India's Republic Day -- a national festival comparable to our own Fourth of July -- an address to his people was delivered by President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. But not the kind -- you might expect.

The Indian President painting a grim, grim picture -- of life on that vast sub-continent of Hindustan. Asserting that the past year "has been the worst" for India since it first achieved independence sixteen years ago. It has been/said he -- a year full of "national calamities and human failures."

Foremost, of course -- the drought. The worst in this century -- said the President. Adding: "We cannot overlook the fact that in a country of chronic food shortage -- a third of the annual production is destroyed by pests and waste."

President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan further implying that the government of Madame Indira Gandhi -- has failed

to cope with growing dissension. Appealing directly to the people of India -- to the various sects and power blocs; urging solution of India's problems "by discussion, adjustment of views, and acceptance of the consensus,"-- rather than strikes, riot and mayhem.

CLEVELAND

From a veterans hospital in Cleveland - news today of a rare tropical disease - apparently found only in Southeast Asia. A disease that can infect the body without being detected ^{- and may} ~~only to~~ strike fatally up to nine years later.

The malady - said generally to attack the lungs; with the result that it's often mistaken for tuberculosis. In fact - twenty-five cases of the disease have already been found among U S soldiers; all of them sent back from Viet Nam -- for what appeared to be TB - and of these - ten have since died.

Technical term for the ailment - melioidosis. But among the G I's -- it's commonly called ^{the} "Vietnamese time bomb."

PARIS

In Paris - British Prime Minister Harold Wilson held a final round of talks today - with French President DeGaulle, Attempting to thrash out any remaining obstacles - to British membership in the European Common Market. ^{Also} In an effort to prevent another DeGaulle veto - such as the one that kept ~~the~~ Britain out of the ^{Common} market in Nineteen Sixty-Three.

In the end - official sources saying the ~~ex~~ talks were at least partially successful. Wilson and DeGaulle reportedly reaching agreement in principle -- on British concessions with regard to trade within the British Commonwealth. DeGaulle further insisting that he has no preconceived opposition - to British entry into the trade community.

Just one catch. DeGaulle ^{objecting to} ~~said to both of~~ Wilson's demand - that the British pound sterling remain a world trading currency. DeGaulle - as you know - pushing for a return to the old gold standard; despite the fact that most economists - now consider it out-dated.

DETROIT

A cutback in auto production -- announced today in Detroit. Chrysler ~~Corporation~~ and General Motors - laying off nearly ~~xx~~ sixteen thousand workers. In the face of car sales - running ten to fifteen percent below the pace of last year.

American Motors whose financial fortunes had been sagging, today got additional bank loans of twenty million dollars.

Past Republican Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater -- and presidential hopeful George Romney -- right back today where they started in Sixty-Four; on opposite sides - of a major political issue.

Goldwater -- on a speaking tour of Michigan - asserting that a third party headed by Alabama's George Wallace - would seriously hurt the Republican cause in the South in Sixty-Eight. Adding that he was "certain" the Republicans couldn't win - in the face of such ~~and loss~~.

~~However~~, Romney taking exactly the opposite view. Declaring ~~that~~ that a Wallace candidacy - would hurt the Democrats far more than the Republicans. "Because" - said Romney - "he'll draw more from the Democratic Party - than he will from the Republican party."

~~Barry~~ ^{Barry} Goldwater also restat^{ed}~~ed~~ his personal support - for Richard Nixon in Sixty-Eight. To which Romney replied simply: "No comment."

HAMBURG

*Jacqueline Kennedy - a winner again today in
Hamburg, West Germany. The German magazine Der Stern --
agreeing to cut certain "personal passages" from its
serialization of the controversial book - THE DEATH OF
A PRESIDENT. ^{Doing this} Even though it won the legal right earlier
this week - to print the original uncut version of the book.*

*Der Stern Editor Henri Mannen announcing the
deletions - which amount to a hundred and twenty-two
lines in all. At the same time explaining! "What I could
not do under either political censorship or pressure of legal
actions - I gladly consent to do voluntarily."*

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

Another chapter in the saga of man versus the elements -- gets under way this week at Moosonee, Ontario, up in Canada. Two American adventurers setting out on a daring fifteen hundred mile round trip -- over treacherous snow and ice; to Churchill, Manitoba -- far up on Hudson's Bay -- and back again.

Leader of the expedition -- retired Coast Guard Commander Jack Bursey of Montague, Michigan; a veteran of numerous Polar expeditions -- including three trips to the Antarctic with Admiral Byrd; which led him to write a widely-heralded book -- "Antarctic Night."

His partner -- Lyman Wenger of Ada, Michigan; an associate member of the American Polar Society -- also the Arctic Institute of ~~North~~ North America.

Each man will pilot his own -- "Arctic Cat" snowmobile in which he will live, eat and sleep -- for the six weeks

MOOSONEE, ONTARIO

it takes to complete the trip. The powerful snow machine

-- capable of operating in temperatures down around

forty below; precisely the kind of weather they'll have

to face -- along with Arctic gales and unexpected snowstorms.

This "Arctic Cat" snowmobile expedition a salute to

Canada -- on the occasion of its Centennial Year. Also

-- they say they're doing it -- just for the "fun" of it.

I'd like to with them -- how about you Warren? And so long

until tomorrow.

so said - Secretary of State Dean Rush.