

Tues, Mar, 28-'67.

At the United Nations -- Secretary General U Thant made public today -- his latest plan for peace in Viet Nam. A three point proposal calling for an immediate ceasefire -- followed by preliminary talks -- leading to eventual reconvening of the Nineteen-Fifty-Four Geneva Conference.

In Washington -- the United States promptly announcing acceptance of the plan. The White House saying we are "willing to enter into discussions -- without preconditions -- at any time."

As for Hanoi -- ^{U-} Thant admitting his plan had already received a "thumb's down" -- ^{via the} ~~press~~ official North Vietnamese Radio. He insisted, however, there had been "no categorical rejection" of the offer. "It is my intention to pursue these ideas" -- said he.

President Johnson also expressing the hope -- that Hanoi still might accept the peace proposal. Secretary of State Dean Rusk ~~saying~~ ^{saying} ~~however~~, there is no evidence -- public or private -- to indicate that it will.

VIET NAM FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

Halfway round the world -- another series of "quick draw" battles are reported today; in ^{the} continuing struggle for control of ~~the~~ phony demilitarized zone -- between North and South Viet Nam.

U. S. Marines -- bearing the brunt of action. Claiming the lives -- of at least a hundred Viet Cong. Some of them strapped to sandbags -- others ^{trapped} to their weapons -- to keep them from running. Suicide forces -- left behind to hold back pursuing Marines.

To the South -- where it's supposed to be safer -- a tragic accident today; at a Marine Base Camp -- near Da Nang. Marine instructors giving a demonstration in mine warfare training -- when one of the mines went off; killing thirteen -- and wounding one.

VATICAN

Pope Paul's Fifth Encyclical letter -- was issued today at the Vatican in Rome. A document -- "on the advancement of peoples"; calling for establishment of a global fund -- to fight a worldwide "war on misery". At the same time -- warning the needy of the world -- against becoming "infected by the materialism of wealthy nations."

Perhaps most important to millions -- the Pope also acknowledged for the first time -- a need for government-sponsored population control to combat hunger in the world. He made clear his belief, however, that any step toward easing over-population -- must conform to "moral law".

More on this ^{is it} expected soon -- in the Pope's long-awaited message on birth control.

LANDS END

Off Land's End, England -- a fiery send-off today for the ill-fated super tanker Torrey Canyon. British Air Force and Naval jets -- pounding the broken vessel with thousand-pound bombs -- setting it afire. When the bombers were finished -- R.A.F. fighters dumping fuel from their wingtip tanks -- into the surrounding sea. Feeding the inferno in an effort to consume the thousands of tons of messy oil -- still oozing from the ship.

Within minutes -- the flames enveloping an area roughly a mile-and-half in diameter. Eyewitnesses calling it a "sea of flames" -- with thick black smoke billowing thousands of feet into the sky.

KATZENBACH

Some six hundred of the nation's leading police officials and criminologists -- were on hand today in Washington, for the opening session of the National Planning Conference on Crime Control. Many of the delegates -- openly critical of recent Supreme Court decisions supposedly tying their hands -- in the battle against crime.

However, a stout defense of those same decisions was made at this opening by Nicholas Katzenbach; former U.S. attorney General -- and presently chairman of a Presidential panel on crime prevention.

Complaints of crime increasing as a result of the Supreme Court rulings -- that's "emotional nonsense" -- said Katzenbach. True -- they have made police work more difficult -- he went on. Adding, however, that "able police forces with adequate communications systems" -- can more than hold their own against crime, Supreme Court rulings -- or no.

GREAT PLAINS

Hard to believe here in the East -- but we are told today that it has been a long, dry winter -- in many parts of the Great Plains. So much so -- says the Agriculture Department -- that more than a million acres of valuable farmland were damaged by winter winds; with total soil erosion -- roughly four times that of the winter before.

Hardest hit -- sections of Texas and eastern Colorado; also Kansas. One of the nation's most productive -- wheat growing regions; with some areas -- reporting only traces of moisture since last Fall.

Last week a major dirt storm swept over the Kansas-⁹ Texas-Colorado area; sending great clouds of topsoil -- swirling into the sky to a reported altitude -- of some twenty thousand feet.

NEW DELHI FOLLOW GREAT PLAINS

On the same subject -- only more so -- from New Delhi; a warning today that India's great drought is now well into its second year, with no relief in sight. Bringing the threat of food shortages and possible famine even worse this year than last.

This gloomy outlook appears in a report to the Indian Parliament from Food Minister Jagjivan Ram; who says conditions are already "extremely difficult" in the Central Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Certain to get worse -- said he -- unless the government can come up with about twelve million tons -- of life-giving grain.

GOLD

A "help wanted" sign was posted today at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington. Interior Secretary Stewart Udall -- looking for someone with a new and better way for mining gold; a technique, hopefully, for mining an estimated fourteen billion in gold that is waiting for someone who has the skill to extract it.

This according to a study -- by the U.S. Bureau of Mines; estimating the unclaimed bonanza -- at about ninety-eight per cent of the nation's known gold deposits. The only trouble -- it's spread thin, in low-grade ore. With existing techniques it would cost more to mine it than the established gold price of thirty-five bucks an ounce.

THE HAGUE

Vice President Humphrey on tour, today at the Hague, in Holland. This the start of his visit -- with his special greeting from President Johnson; a message expressing the President's "appreciation and gratitude to Holland, for all that it has done to help build peaceful institutions in every part of the world."

Later, the Vice President made a tour of the Royal Palace -- with Queen Juliana as personal guide. This was followed by police talks with Holland's acting Premier, Barend Biesheuvel.

Still another controversy today -- about that book, "The Death of a President". A Pittsburgh department store -- receiving premature delivery on thousands of copies of the book. Placing them immediately on sale -- and thus forcing release of the book six days ahead of schedule.

As per contents of the book -- most significant details already covered in that recent serialization except perhaps for the fact -- that there were rumors of a plot against the life of President DeGaulle of France; when he came to Washington -- to attend the funeral of the late President Kennedy.

Because of this -- DeGaulle was asked by American officials -- not to walk in the funeral cortege with other Heads of State; ^{instead} ~~but rather~~ to take a limousine. No -- said DeGaulle. Adding that the least he could do for Mrs. Kennedy -- "would be to show disregard for his own life".

F B I Director J. Edgar Hoover -- finally appealing personally to DeGaulle to take a car. "Pfft" -- said DeGaulle -- and that ended that.

FLORENCE

The mayor of Florence, Italy -- en route today to the United States. Signore Piero Bargellini on his way to pay his personal respects to thousands of Americans who have contributed millions -- to restore the famous art capital to its former lustre.

As you will recall it was just last November when the raging waters of the historic River Arno flooded the Florence. Mud and slime -- filling the lower floors of many museums and famous buildings; seriously damaging thousands of paintings -- and priceless art objects.

Since then -- the sludge has been washed from public view. Paintings have been restored -- art work restored. The city itself almost back to normal. Hotels now open with the tourist season getting underway.

Enter his honor the mayor -- Signore Bargellini; whose mission -- besides paying thanks -- is to inform American travelers that Florence, once again is ready and waiting

FLORENCE--2

for that annual invasion by American travelers.

Come to fair Florence says Mayor Bargallini -- adding:

2 You'll be treated "more warmly -- than ever before."

Hal Sims -- and solong until tomorrow.