

FORD

L.T. - Buick, Fisher. Thurs. Apr. 14 - '66.

For the first time American policy in Viet Nam under direct fire today from top Republican leadership in Congress. House Minority ~~XXXXXX~~ leader Gerald Ford - calling administration conduct of the war: "a national scandal". Exemplified - said he - by "the shortage of bombs and the backup of ships in Viet Nam." Along with civil turmoil that could have been avoided - said he - "by the right kind of leadership".

The Congressman adding: "When I read what is happening over there - despite all the billions we have voted for defense - I wonder how long we can underwrite ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ shocking mismanagement - in the name of national unity". That - from ^{House Minority Leader} Gerald Ford.

MCNAMARA FOLLOW LEAD

In reply Defense Secretary McNamara released a barrage of statistics -- showing that American forces in Viet Nam -- are receiving three times the air support given American forces in World War Two, -- and, that "there isn't any shortage of bombs."

VIET NAM FOLLOW MCNAMARA

In Viet Nam itself -- the situation as clouded as ever. The ruling military junta -- agreeing today to a series of ten Buddhist demands; calling for a return to civilian rule -- in three to five months -- and still -- it wasn't enough? A later Buddhist victory parade -- turning into a new demonstration. Some twenty thousand Buddhists -- demanding removal of Premier Ky and his two top aides -- now -- immediately. The rally led by the venerable Thien Minh -- over-all Buddhist leader, who told his followers -- "the struggle still continues."

SQUADRONS

A major redeployment of U.S. air strength in Europe - announced today by the Pentagon. The move calling for transfer of three ~~XX~~ squadrons - of F-100 supersonic fighters; from U S air fields in Spain, Italy and Turkey - to a single base; the Spanish Torrejon Air Base - near Madrid.

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The Pentagon emphasizing however that there will be no change in the U S commitment to Europe. Sole purpose - said the announcement - to "enable the United States to ^{utilize} ~~maximize~~ its over-all resources with greater flexibility - in order to meet world-wide requirements".

IRAQ

The government of Iraq - thrown into crisis today; by the death of President Abdel Salam Aref - and ten of his top aides.

The tragedy - said to be the result of a helicopter crash - ~~is~~ in the midst of a sandstorm; that hit the Presidential party on a ~~xxxxxx~~ return flight from Kornah in Southern Iraq - legendary site of the Garden of Eden.

Resulting turmoil in Baghdad - heightened by the absence of Aref's heir apparent; his brother - Iraqi Chief of Staff General Abdel Rahman Mohammed Aref - who was visiting in Moscow at the time of the accident.

With the General gone - Premier Abdel Rahman ~~Ms~~ Basza quickly assuming Presidential powers, ringing the Presidential palace and key buildings - with tanks and armed ~~xxxxxx~~ guards. But whether he can hold on - ~~xxx~~ we'll have to wait and see.

VON LUCKNER

When I heard about the death of my old friend Count Felix Von Luckner, the Sea Devil, of World War One, I thought of a line from a song I had just heard sung ~~about~~ by Musical Comedy star, ^{lovely} Pat Moran. The Line: "If you make someone ^{else} happy then you will be happy too". And in all my years of roaming the world meeting people, I never knew of any ^{one} ~~person~~ of whom this was so true. Wherever Count Luckner went, everybody smiled, ^{and} they laughed - By Joe. What a man!

¶ I wonder if the world ever ~~again~~ again will see anyone to compare with the Sea Devil? I could talk about him for hours, ~~of course. But here are just a few~~ ~~stories~~

The First time my wife and I saw him was on an air field, at Leipzig. This huge hulking man emerged from a fairly small ~~substant~~ cabin plane, and a slender young blond then jumped down into his arms. You could hear his voice booming across the field. He spoke to everybody - mechanics, porters, anyone he passed. When we ~~we~~ asked about him the reply was: "Why, that's

der Sea Teufel." The New Zealanders ~~who had~~ captured him ~~during World War One~~, after his sailing-ship-raider was wrecked on a South Sea atoll, the island of Mopelia, one of the Cook group. He escaped from prison at Auckland, and was captured again. ^{It was} The New Zealanders ^{who} nicknamed him -- "The Sea Devil".

When we first encountered him in Nineteen Twenty Six, the spirits of the German people were at an all-time low. But this rollicking deep gravely-voiced man who had sailed for years before the mast, was going up and down Germany arousing the spirits of the young people, telling them how and why the world had not come to an end.

Another memory: When he and the Countess came to live with us for some months, in the hills of Dutchess County, New York, he had never driven an automobile. So, I loaned him a Chevy to practice with. Sometimes he would go into a ditch. But so strong was the Sea Devil that he would get out and lift it back on the road.

Twenty of us accompanied one of our friends and his bride on their honeymoon aboard Von Luckner's post-war four-masted sailing ship, the Mopelia, named for that coral atoll in the ~~East~~ South Seas. One stop on that most extraordinary of all honeymoons was at the island of San Salvador where Columbus made his first land-fall. The only inhabited we found was a Dominican priest who was unhappy because he said the people of Chicago had put up a large statue of Columbus, on the wrong side of the island. So, we organized a midnight expedition, and in long boats with chains and crowbars, around we went to rescue Columbus, and please the Dominican priest. I can still hear Von Luckner's booming laughter when we discovered that Columbus was too much for us. We couldn't even pull him off his pedestal.

One more memory -- at the end of the war, when I was with General Terry Allen and the Timberwolf Division, we found the Von Luckners at Halle, in Saxony, his old home

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town. Thanks to Terry Allen he saved the city from destruction and then we put them in touch with General Patton who immediately took a fancy to the Sea Devil, and kept the Von Luckners from falling into the hands of the Russians; The World War One hero who raided the seas and never took a life.

Wish I could go on for an hour just talking about the Sea Devil -- how in World War Two Hitler kept Von Luckner under guard, but evidently because of his tremendous popularity was afraid to put him in a concentration camp. How correspondents used to see him with his guards at the bar at the Hotel Adlon in Berlin; how he would drink them under the table and then go home alone, Warren. By Joe -- what a man.