

Thurs, Apr. 4-68.

LAI CHAU

Not far from Dien Bien Phu -- in the extreme north of North Vietnam -- a sudden setback today in the search for peace in that embattled land. Radio Hanoi reporting an air attack by American planes -- on the provincial capital of Lai Chau, a city some two hundred miles north of Hanoi -- barely forty miles from China, far beyond the bombing limit -- set down Sunday by President Johnson.

In Washington -- the Pentagon promptly ordering "an immediate investigation." Further insisting: "We have no present knowledge of any such U.S. attack -- since the President's speech." One possible explanation: That the attacking aircraft were American-built planes from nearby Laos -- *Laotian airmen* trying to knock out a Communist supply route into that country.

LONDON

Even so -- the United States and North Vietnam appeared to be moving ~~ever~~ closer today -- to a formal peace parley.

London reports predicting that "peace talks may start in Moscow" -- or ~~also~~ Geneva; ~~perhaps~~ -- within the week.

Adding that North Vietnamese troops have been pulled back from Khe Sanh -- as a gesture of good faith. Though still plenty of Viet Cong <sup>(apparently -- in view of)</sup> ~~are still~~ increasingly bloody fighting in that area today.

Here on our own shores -- President Johnson ~~is getting~~ ready tonight to fly to Honolulu; for a weekend strategy conference with American officials from Saigon -- also South Korean President Park Chung Hee. The President also planning to confer with former President Eisenhower -- at a brief stopover tomorrow in California -- en route to the Pacific.

NEW YORK FOLLOW LONDON

In the meantime -- President Johnson traveled today to New York. Bringing with him his daughter Luci -- a Roman Catholic; also his grandson -- Patrick Lyndon Nugent; to witness the installation of Terence J. Cook -- as Archbishop of New York; <sup>at a</sup> colorful ~~moving~~ ceremony ~~at~~ at St. Patrick's Cathedral -- just across from my office window.

Next stop -- the United Nations; where the President met with U.N. Secretary General U Thant -- before flying back to Washington.

Do that as it say -- Humphrey for President workers in Minneapolis today reported a tentative "green light" from the Vice President's office. Dr. William Kozlcek -- who heads the Minnesota group -- saying: "We now plan to expand our operation -- and give her all the stress we've got."

PITTSBURGH

*As far*  
~~Tending to politics~~ Vice President ~~Hubert~~ Humphrey, *he*

remains a non-candidate ~~for President~~ as of this hour.

Telling a Pittsburgh labor convention ~~tonight~~ he will make

no formal announcement -- while President Johnson is

pursuing peace in Honolulu.

~~Hubert~~ Humphrey urging Americans <sup>g</sup> & all -- to "stand together in unity" behind the President's mission. Adding:

"I will do everything I can to help that effort -- whatever

I may be called upon to do."

Be that as it may -- Humphrey-for-President workers in Minneapolis today reported a tentative "green light" from the Vice President's office. Dr. William Kubicek -- who heads the Minnesota group -- saying: "We now plan to expand our operation -- and give her all the steam we've got."

## MARIANSKI LAZNE

Across the Atlantic -- a gaping, growing hole in the Iron Curtain tonight. Czech officials tearing down a barbed wire barricade -- separating the Czech spa of Marianski Lazne from the West German city of Weiden. ~~the~~<sup>Hopefully</sup> the first step -- in reopening the frontier between the two countries.

Back in Prague -- former Czech President Novotny was permitted today to address the Communist Party ~~of~~<sup>Central</sup> Committee. The ousted Stalinist -- admitting the error of his past ways; however, denying that he ever attempted to use the Czech Army -- to try to stay in power.

## KARAMAH CAMP

From the Middle East comes a surprising post-script today -- to that recent Israeli reprisal raid into Jordan. A report that the raid failed completely -- in its number one objective; destruction of the Arab guerilla movement -- Al Fatah. Not only failed to destroy it -- but actually strengthened the Arab commando group.

This -- according to Al Fatah leaders at Karamah Camp, Jordan. Contending that the great majority of their followers -- escaped the Israelis virtually unscathed. Further pointing out that the Al Fatah commando -- has since become the idol of the Arab world. Amnshaven -- often unruly young Bedouin -- armed with a Communist-made burp gun and a string of hand grenades; who stands all but alone -- in defiance of Israeli conquerors.

Result: Oil-rich Arabs in Saudia Arabia, Kuwait and so on -- are simply pouring funds into guerilla headquarters. At the same time -- a flood of would-be volunteers. And

KARAMAH CAMP--2

scarcely a day goes by -- but what there's news of another Al Fatah exploit behind enemy lines.

Worse -- for the peace of the world -- Arab governments in Jordan and Lebanon now admit themselves <sup>2</sup> virtually powerless to control the commandos. All ~~sort~~ of which <sup>increases</sup> ~~the~~ the threat -- of still another full-scale war.

sea -- the better to catch prevailing winds, ready to turn the darn thing loose -- when a look-out noticed that Benton had somehow disappeared from the balloon's basket.

With that -- the tug returning to shore. Followed by an exhausted Benton -- who staggered up on the beach, but

*undoubtedly,*  
explaining the balloon had tipped suddenly -- tossing him into the sea. *Then he swam and swam and swam.*

~~Undoubtedly though Benton is already making plans for a third launch. Young -- as he put it -- it will never be repeated.~~

## LOS PALMAS

If at first you don't succeed -- the life story of Chicago daredevil Francis Benton. Who tried for a second time today -- to become the first man ever to cross the Atlantic in a balloon.

Starting point -- Los Palmas in the Canary Islands.

A hired tug towing Benton and his balloon ten miles out to sea -- the better to catch prevailing winds; ready to turn the darn thing loose -- when a look-out noticed that Benton had somehow disappeared from the balloon's basket.

With that -- the tug returning to shore. Followed by

an exhausted Benton -- who staggered up on the beach; *but*

*undaunted,*

explaining the balloon had tipped suddenly -- tossing him

into the sea. *Then, he swam and swam and swam.*

~~Undaunted though Benton is already making plans for~~

~~a third launch. Vowing -- as he put it -- "I shall never~~

~~surrender."~~



CAPE KENNEDY

America's latest Saturn-Five moon rocket -- a victim of double trouble today. A pair of misfires -- in its first and third stages, <sup>g</sup>overshadowing an otherwise perfect performance <sup>g</sup>by the rocket's Apollo spacecraft.

In sum -- the test raising anew the question whether Saturn-Five -- is really ~~and~~ <sup>g</sup>ready for manned flight. Posing still another serious threat -- to the U.S. timetable for landing a man-on-the-moon.

-- all regions -- all religions -- to deny violence its victory in this sorrowful time. Said he: "We are white -- men who are black -- must and will join together now as never in the past -- to let the forces of division know that America shall not be ruled by bullets -- not only by the bullet."

Earlier, the President declaring Sunday -- a day of national mourning for Dr. King. Also meeting with top civil rights leaders -- <sup>and</sup> <sup>g</sup>receiving reports of violence in more than a dozen U.S. cities -- Washington included.