

July 17, 1969
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SPACE

In the space saga of Apollo-Eleven - second verse -
same as the first; maybe even better - if that's possible.
In its second day of flight - the U.S. moonship again
performing flawlessly. Likewise - astronauts Neil Armstrong,
Mike Collins, Buzz Aldrin. Zooming through the heavens
- at a speed of more than thirty-five hundred miles an hour.
Completing a delicate mid-course maneuver - with a perfect
three-second "burn" of their main engine. Already more than
halfway to their lunar target - and closing fast. And man's
age-old dream of landing on the moon - ^{is} now just three days
from fulfillment.

..and the actual walk on the moon may come earlier than planned - about four-hours earlier - a NASA spokesman says. Armstrong and Aldrin may skip a scheduled four-hour sleep period aboard the LEM - and step out on the moon's surface that much earlier.

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW SPACE

By the way - an announcement today from the White House. Disclosing that the men of Apollo-Eleven are carrying with them - the medals ~~of~~^{of} of two dead Soviet cosmonauts. These - courtesy of the cosmonauts' widows. Who presented them to Colonel Frank Borman on his recent trip to Russia - with a request that they be left on the moon. President Nixon saying - it will be done.

At the same time - an announcement that the U.S. spacemen will also leave on the moon - the flight insignia of our own three dead astronauts. ~~of~~^{of} The joint remembrance - to demonstrate "there is no national boundary to courage" - said the President. An effort - he added - to "underscore an example we hope to set - that if men can reach the moon - men can reach agreement."

MOON FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

Meanwhile, Russia's mysterious Luna-Fifteen - in orbit tonight around the moon. So announced - by the Soviet news agency Tass. But its mission - still a closely guarded secret. And whether it's really intended to attempt a "moonscape" - as many suspect - well, that we'll have to wait and see.

However, U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge - refusing to take "no" for an answer. In later remarks he mentioned saying: "I don't think an idea like this - can just be put down by a statement." And then he added: "I am by nature an optimistic person - unless you've said 'no' to me about twenty-five times - I think you've said 'yes' - so I'm not going to be easily discouraged."

PARIS

Turning from space - the number one problem back on earth is still the war in Vietnam. A problem - that continues to defy solution. Today's session of Paris peace talks - drawing a flat rejection of President Thieu's call for free elections in South Vietnam. A Viet Cong spokesman calling the proposal - nothing but a "treachery of the U.S. and the Saigon Administration."

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STATE FOLLOW PARIS

Reverse side - here at home; where official U.S. patience - was beginning to wear thin. In testimony today before a House committee - Secretary of State William Rogers taking special exception to his latest Communist rejection. Asserting that the U.S. and South Vietnam - have made concession after concession in an effort to break the Paris stalemate. And "the only reaction we get" - said he - "is totally negative; they call names - and use phrases like swindle - which doesn't help at all."

In response to a later question - Rogers went on to say: "I don't see any willingness on the Communist side - at the moment - to be reasonable." "All they've ~~been~~^{been} been" up to now - he added - "is more intransigent, more unreasonable, more inhumane."

SAIGON

Be that as it may - the lull continues in Vietnam.

U.S. weekly casualty figures announced today in Saigon -

showing the fewest number of American losses since the first

week of the year. And that - a period that included a brief

New Year's truce.

PEKING

6.5.1966

From Peking - the story today of a nationwide "swim-in" - all over Red China. With millions of "workers, peasants, soldiers and Red Guards" - said to be taking part in "mass swimming" exercises. In some cases - we hear - actually swimming across rivers and lakes "in formation - behind large portraits of Chairman Mao Tse-tung."

All this - as you may have guessed by now - in honor of the third anniversary - of Chairman Mao's now-famous swim on the Yangtze River. When - at age seventy-two - he reportedly swam downstream - a distance of more than nine miles in a little over an hour. ~~As for Mao's part in today's dip - if~~ just wasn't mentioned. Red China's foremost swimming champ - apparently resting on his laurels.

CHICAGO

50.25

Here's one - an assertion today that man is not - repeat - not descended from the apes. At least - not directly.

The authority for this - anthropologist Russell Tuttle of the University of Chicago; who cites as evidence - the fact that the bones of our outstretched fingers are not curved; another of the distinctions - that makes us unique among the primates. Proving - says he - that man and ape parted company on the evolutionary chart - anywhere from twenty-to-twenty-five million years ago. Indicating, what's more, that "man's early ancestors - probably never closely resembled those of any present-day ape." And thus the inescapable conclusion - we are told - that humans never lived in trees - never swung from branch to branch; but were, indeed, congenital ground dwellers - from the word "go."

So much for "swingers" - human and otherwise; and now for some "straight" talk - back to you, Warren.

51.20