

In the saga of Apollo 13 -- they saved the best of the lot; and the last was nearly perfect -- as you no doubt have heard by now. Astronauts Jim Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert -- returning to earth "right down the pike", as the space men say. Landing their crippled spacecraft in the soft, blue waters of the Pacific -- less than four miles from their prime recovery ship, the aircraft carrier Iwo Jima; all in full view of waiting television cameras -- which relayed the scene to millions and millions of anxious viewers right around the globe. Everywhere people were watching crowds around sets at airports where I happened to be.

The reaction that followed included cheers in Houston, the blowing of air raid sirens in Los Angeles, confetti in New York, a Papal prayer of thanks in Rome, a U. S. and Russian hand shake in Vienna, where those S-A-L-T talks have been temporarily suspended -- not to

mention newspaper "extras" even across Asia and Africa.
A collective sigh of relief sweeping most of the world as
the three astronauts were transferred safely aboard ship
where they paid tribute to "all those" on the ground -- who
had helped to win this one.

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW IWO JIMA

President Nixon was leading the rejoicing in Washington. "This was the most exciting and meaningful day in my life," he said, and then announced plans to fly to Hawaii tomorrow -- there to greet the men of Apollo 13 and present them with medals of freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. He also planned to stop at Houston enroute -- to pick up the astronauts' families and take them along. In addition, the President planning to present medals of freedom to Houston ground crews -- "who made the very difficult decision" that had to be made.

Lastly, the President designating this Sunday -- a national day of prayer and thanksgiving. His official proclamation saying: "The imperiled flight and safe return of the crew of Apollo 13 -- were events that humbled and inspired people all over the world." "To the astronauts" -- he added -- "a relieved nation says 'welcome home'; and to those on the ground who did so magnificent a job of guiding Apollo 13 safely back from the edge of eternity -- a grateful

nation says 'well done'.

VIETNAM

In the war news from Southeast Asia -- a dispatch saying the South Vietnamese forces have again crossed into Cambodia. This -- we are told -- in direct defiance of American warnings. The government troops supposedly getting out of the Mekong Delta -- in an effort to clear a long-time enemy sanctuary just across the frontier. First reports indicating that they were eminently successful. The South Vietnamese said to have discovered a Viet Cong arms factory -- which they promptly destroyed; in the process killing some seventy -- as against minimal losses of their own.

Far to the North -- still another battle was beginning to shape up in the A Chau Valley -- which has already twice seen some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Only this time, South Vietnamese troops -- instead of American -- were baring the major brunt of Allied responsibility; attempting to seal once more -- that key Communist supply route from Laos.

TAKEO

Southeast Asia again -- another grim one -- at the Provincial Capitol of Takeo in Southern Cambodia. According to U.S. newsmen -- Cambodian soldiers killing nearly one hundred Vietnamese civilians whom they had earlier rounded up as suspected Communist insurgents. One of the soldiers quoted as saying: "We shot them -- because they were Vietcong." The Cambodians - Kmers - for centuries have been enemies of the Vietnamese.

Incidentally, the Cambodian army commander at Takeo is a Colonel Hin Him who was just re-assigned from the village of Prusaut -- where another ninety or so Vietnamese were allegedly slaughtered last week. Hin Him -- a Major then -- since been promoted.

AMMAN - WASHINGTON

At the request of the government of Jordan -- U. S. Ambassador Harrison Symmes was summarily recalled today from Amman. Symmes becoming persona non grata - after he recommended cancellation of a scheduled Amman visit by U. S. Mid-East trouble-shooter Joseph Sisco because of that anti-American riot of Wednesday. With Jordan now insisting its police could have provided adequate security. Perhaps equally significant -- Symmes action had also made him the prime target of militant Palestinian guerrillas.

In any event, the U. S. State Department in Washington today expressed deep regret at the sudden turn of events. With a U. S. spokesman adding the hope though that this "will not impair the close and cordial relations which we have had with Jordan -- for many years."

PEKING

Here's one -- a warning, a warning that quote some of our young people have been subjected to anarchistic influence" to the point where they "sit around and talk nonsense all day;" or worse -- attempt to plot ways and means of overcoming the system. With the situation further complicated by a generation gap which makes the young rebels "really difficult to handle."

All of which sounds like a right wing lament -- against the current state of American youth. But - it isn't. It's from Peking; the current issue of Mao's Red Flag Magazine -- official organ of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee. Does this prove maybe that things are even confused in Red China?

BALTIMORE

At Baltimore, Maryland -- a symposium today on "discoveries in biological chemistry;" including an address by Dr. Frank Ayd -- a prominent specialist in so-called "biological psychiatry"; who discussed a whole new range of drugs -- that have already benefited "millions of mental patients"; drugs -- said he -- that "can take the sharp edges off their irrational thoughts;" with the result that "many are enabled to live" in the big world outside mental hospitals." The doctor asserting, in short, we now have drugs that "can control how people think, feel and behave." And he adds, Warren, we have only scratched the surface.

HARVARD

From Harvard University comes a report today -- on a study commissioned by the United Church of Christ; an attempt to find out why so many, not only priests but clergymen in general, after years of study, sacrifice and hardship -- are suddenly deciding to call it quits.

First and foremost reason -- we are told -- a sense of inadequacy; these drop-outs said to feel -- they just couldn't measure up to the enormous demands of their calling. Second biggest reason -- and this was found to be especially true among Protestants -- an inability to relocate; that is, an inability to find a suitable new church when the time comes to move on -- which is said to be about once every ten years. And the third major reason said to be "family problems" so often aggravated by a chronic lack of money.

Summing up the word from Harvard that the ex-pastors "are like horses that have been beaten to their knees in the traces, while trying to pull out a heavy load."

But, somehow I don't like that simile!