

Tomorrow's scheduled Vietnam Moratorium was the chief topic of concern - again today in Washington - starting at the White House - where President Nixon met with Republican Congressional leaders. The President is quoted as saying that he shares with the anti-war protesters - an "anguish of spirit for those who have fallen" in Vietnam. And he also said to have pledged that given time - we "shall end this war" with a just peace. But the Congressional delegation stressed that the President said he cannot make policy - based solely on demonstrations.

NORTH VIETNAM

Debate over the anti-war protest warmed up considerably today - the result of a letter from North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong to the organizers of the Moratorium. The Premier saluted those Americans preparing to take part in the nation-wide protest - a demonstration he described as - quote - a "worthy and timely rebuff" to President Nixon's Vietnam policies.

Vice President Spiro Agnew - called the letter a shocking intrusion into the affairs of the American people by an enemy power. And Agnew urged the leaders of the anti-war protest to repudiate Hanoi's support of the Moratorium.

The Moratorium leaders declined to do so!

WHITE HOUSE

As for that far-away Asian conflict, President Nixon has predicted that the Vietnam war will be over in three years - that prediction came from the President at an off-the-record speech at a White House dinner, Sunday night. The story leaked out, and today the White House formally released Mr. Nixon's statement. He said that looking ahead he is confident the war will be over in three years on a basis which will promote lasting peace in the Pacific.

VIETNAM

Meantime, the war goes on. Today a number of U.S. air and artillery strikes - killed more than fifty Viet Cong. South Vietnamese troops added another thirteen to the toll - in a twenty-four-hour running gun battle just northwest of Saigon. However, the fighting lull which is now in its fourth week - is apparently mostly still in effect.

DEMONSTRATIONS

At the same time - a number of early-bird demonstrations today; at San Francisco State College in California - on the steps of the State Capitol at Sacramento - and at Seton Hall and St. Vincent Colleges in Pennsylvania - forcing police and National Guard units - to step ~~back~~ up their preparations for come-what-may, tomorrow.

On one thing - it was agreed though; supporters and critics of the moratorium - are warning against violence as a means of anti-war protest. Indeed, a group of House and Senate "doves" - condemned as "senseless destruction" that Chicago rampage of last week. Adding that "violent and coercive tactics" in the name of peace - only serve "those who support the war."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "OLYMPICS"

And now - time again for Lowell Thomas. Reporting tonight from Japan - on preparations for the Nineteen-Seventy-Two Winter Olympics. Lowell...

Hellow Everybody:

*L. J. Tape - insist -
undated*

As everyone knows the Japanese are getting ready to host the Winter Olympics two years from now, on the northern island of Hokkaido at Sapporo. As many American skiers would suspect one of the key people out here in arranging for this is a young Japanese who is well known in the U.S.A., a graduate of Dartmouth Chiharu Igaya.

"Chick" we all call him, has become a prominent business man in the Far East with American International Underwriters. In fact, Chick was the protege of the legendary C.V. Starr, who made it possible for Chick to be an Olympic star. And Chick has just been telling me how in addition to enjoying the excitement of the Winter Olympics at Sapporo visitors will have an opportunity to visit the aboriginal people in Hokkaido, the Hairy Ainu, and see some live volcanoes also.

He tells me his countrymen are planning to spend some thirty million dollars on the facilities for the Winter Olympics

in Seventy-Two. So, maybe some of us will be meeting on the shores of Lake Shikotsu or the slopes of Mt. Ezo-Fuji, at Sapporo on Hokkaido. I hope so.

Solong.....

(SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED
OLYMPICS")

Thank you, Lowell. And speaking of Japan - a related item comes today from Tokyo. The Japan Travel Bureau tells of a serious hotel shortage - in Tokyo - in the city of Osaka, site of the upcoming Expo 'Seventy! Indeed, the whole country is said to have, in all - only twenty-four thousand Western-style hotel rooms; which means that visitors had better get their reservations in early - or face the possibility of staying in Japanese-style inns.

And what's wrong with ryokans? Well, nothing - if you're Japanese; or - in the words of the Travel Bureau - if you have "a profound interest in things Japanese." However, it further warns that ryokan guests - are expected to subsist on a diet of pickled vegetables, raw fish and boiled squid; and at night - they sleep on the floor.

More in a moment.

At the Vatican - the World Synod of Bishops heard another series of attacks today against papal authority. Belgian Cardinal Suenens charged there is what he called - "a propensity in the church toward an absolute monarchy." Indonesian Cardinal Darmojuwono - warned that Pope Paul must consult his bishops "on serious issues;" or else - said he - the Pontiff will be faced with the same uproar - as that which greeted his recent ban against artificial birth control .

And the Pope was right there - he sat through the entire session - for the second day in a row. A Vatican spokesman - when asked later the Pope's reaction - observed merely that he "smiled often."

WHITE HOUSE

Next to Vietnam - the President's biggest headache is inflation. That is a subject he also discussed today - with G.O.P. Congressional leaders. The President is quoted as saying - he believes "we have turned the corner on inflation - and progress is being made." Progress that the President will spell out in detail - we are told - in a special statement or speech later in the week.

MIAMI

The Right Honorable Ibrahima Samba - Lord Mayor of the city of Bathurst in Zambia - is a visitor to these shores today. On a stopover at Miami - he discussed the trials and tribulations of polygamy as practiced in his homeland. The Lord Mayor - who has two wives himself - explained that a husband must be fair above all else. "If you spend three days with one wife" - said he - "then you have to spend three days with the other;" which makes him something of a commuter - he went on - since he keeps his two wives in separate homes twelve miles apart.

Why two houses? Why not one big one? For the same reason - said the Lord Mayor - that he has only two wives instead of the legal four. The Zambian observed with a sigh - that "women are very jealous."