

L.T. SUSTAINING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1967

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY: With rumors racing around the world of a possible peace settlement in Vietnam -- it fell today to President Johnson to face the cold reality. The President saying he would consider -- in his own words -- "just almost any step" by Hanoi to end the war. Declaring repeatedly, however, that there is at present -- no serious sign that the Viet Cong are willing to stop fighting.

The President's motive -- apparently to prevent a peace hysteria from sweeping the country; a hysteria some feel could lead to the ultimate cry -- of "peace at any price." And so the President repeated the message -- no less than six times -- under intense questioning from White House reporters -- finally putting it -- in the plainest possible terms. Said he: "I do not interpret any action that I have observed -- as being a serious effort either to go to a conference table -- or to bring the war to an end." Period.

BREAKFAST

Earlier, the Chief Executive presided over a Washington ritual -- the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast; where ^ghe chose not to mention Vietnam by name -- but seemed to indicate, nevertheless, how heavily it weighs on his mind.

The President recalling the words of Lincoln -- in the midst of another war; to the effect that "men must be firm in the right -- as God gives them to see the right."

RED CHINA

Latest from Red China -- a picture of total political and economic chaos. With the situation so out of control the Chinese Army has finally been forced to take action. Seizing all food supplies and other so-called "important materials" in Red China -- to keep them from falling into the hands of anti-government forces.

Wall posters in Peking tell of a series of "bloodbaths" -- in the manchurian province of Heilungkiang; supposedly ending with pro-Mao forces -- once again firmly in control. This the fifth province -- that Mao supporters claim to have recaptured from the rebels -- in recent days. Whether true or not -- nobody really knows.

PARIS

Meanwhile, in Paris - an apparent end to President DeGaulle's efforts - to walk a tight rope between Russia and Red China - between the United States and Red China. Stung by criticism from the French Press - the DeGaulle government today strongly protesting - the man-handling of a French diplomat and his wife yesterday in Peking. At the same time - rejecting outright China's claim - that the diplomat acted in a quote "provocative manner."

The French blast killing hopes of a possible meeting - between DeGaulle and China's Chairman Mao Tse Tung; a meeting the French President had once hoped to accomplish - in the interest of world peace. DeGaulle's stated policy of friendship with Red China - failing to spare the French from public humiliation by Chinese mobs.

MOSCOW FOLLOW PARIS

On the same subject - a report from Moscow; saying the Soviets plan to evacuate the wives and children of all Russian diplomats in Red China - beginning today. This is the face of eight ~~consecutive~~ days of Chinese attacks - on the Soviet Embassy in Peking; coupled with repeated attacks on Soviet nationals there and elsewhere ~~in~~ in China.

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The Kremlin said to emphasize, however, that it will not be the first - to break off diplomatic relations between the two countries. Russian officials reportedly convinced that nothing would make China ~~be~~ happier - than to blame Russia for the ultimate split in world communism.

LONDON FOLLOW MOSCOW

Meanwhile

~~As that as it may~~ - Russia today reaffirmed its

commitment to North Viet Nam - in ringing terms. The Soviet Ambassador to London saying the Kremlin intends to do everything it can - "to secure a peace settlement" in Viet Nam. But onlyⁿ - said he - ⁿonly on terms and conditions already set by the Viet Cong."

One thing more: The Russian ~~saying~~ saying that any further ~~an~~ escalation of the war by the United States - will lead to increased aid from the Soviet Union; including the possibility - said he - that Russian volunteers will be sent to join the fight.

VIETNAM

At Saigon it was disclosed today that Allied military strength in Vietnam -- now totals more than a million men; some four hundred thousand of them -- American. Against an enemy force -- presently estimated at some three hundred thousand; small -- but elusive.

GRANDPOPO

Sudden and violent death is reported today from the city of Grandpopo - in the tiny West African nation of Dahomey. Triggered by police efforts to hold off a crowd of angry civilians - protesting a new government tax increase.

Unable to contain the mob - the police finally forced to open fire. Whereupon hundreds of natives charged at the police position - armed solely with knives and machetes. By the time it was over - more than fifty civilians lay dead; in addition to at least ten policemen - reportedly hacked to death.

NEW DELHI

More than a year of quiet along the border between India and Pakistan -- shattered today by a brief air encounter. An Indian jet interceptor shooting down a Pakistani plane -- that allegedly violated the air space over the Indian Punjab.

Pakistan claiming it was a student pilot -- in a civilian plane -- accidentally straying across the border.

ROSE FOLLOW BIRMINGHAM

Mrs. Rosa Sarro; a forty-four year old housewife -- of Castelli de Montaperti, Italy; has given birth to a nine pound daughter -- her twenty-fifth child in twenty-eight years of marriage.

As she left the hospital today -- to receive a hero's welcome at home-- Mrs. Sarro calling to doctors and nurses: "See you again -- next year."

Never before have mountaineers made a mid-winter assault on Mt. McKinley. Dr. George Nickerson of Anchorage, Alaska, one of the group, admitted to me, when I saw him recently that they may encounter some record low temperature. Archibald Stock and Harry Carstens long ago were the first to conquer Mt. McKinley. Usually the Alaskans call it. Near the summit they left a thermometer in a crevice in the rocks. A few years later, the second expedition to scale McKinley, Max Deering Street from New York and Stone, Vermont, A. Lindley from Minnesota, and Grant Pearson and

MT. MCKINLEY

Mountaineers usually try to pick the ideal time for tackling any difficult assault. But -- here's an exception. Experienced young men, some Alaskan, some from the outside, at this moment are involved in a climb never attempted before. At this moment presumably they are in their small Himalayan tents high up on one of the glaciers ~~of~~ of the loftiest mountain in North America.

Never before have mountaineers made a mid-winter assault on Mt. McKinley. Dr. George Wichman of Anchorage, Alaska, one of the group, admitted to me, when I saw him recently that they may encounter some record low temperatures.

Archdeacon Stuck and Harry Carstens long ago were the first to conquer Mt. McKinley; Denali the Alaskans call it. Near the summit they left a thermometer in a crevasse in the rocks. A few years later, the second expedition to scale McKinley, ~~was~~⁹ Erling Strom from Norway and Stowe, Vermont, Al Lindley from Minnesota, and Grant Pearson and

MT. MCKINLEY--2

Harry Leek from Alaska, found the Archdeacon's thermometer. How far down had it gone? The mercury had burst right out of the bottom of the bulb. Stron told me they figured it might have gone down as low as a hundred or more degrees below zero.

That's the sort of cold cold world they may find as they climb on beyond the camp where they are tonight.

The group includes Gregg Blomberg, from Colorado; John Edwards of Cleveland; also George Wichman, Art Davidson, Dave Johnson, Shiro Nishimae, Ray Genet and Jacques Batkin all from Anchorage, all experienced climbers. But until now only during the summer months.

They were flown in to a six thousand foot base camp on Kahiltna Glacier, by Don Sheldon, famous bush and glacier pilot, with whom I landed on that same glacier on Mt. McKinley last June, in that same little ski plane.

Whether they will be successful in reaching the summit of course remains to be soon. It may take them a month. But they are all optimists or they wouldn't be far up on that lofty mountain of ice tonight.

the great hills of a half a century ago -- World War One

Geoffrey O'Hara was one of the greatest, most delightful of composers, who wrote endless songs. I didn't realize until now that it was all none other than the great Caruso who gave him his start, in Nineteen Thirteen, when Caruso sang his "Your Eyes Have Told Me." Likewise Al Jolson sang his songs, and from then on Geoffrey O'Hara had it made. At eighty-four, full of life, still appearing younger, until he made his departure.

O'HARA

Did you ever sing "when the moonshines over the cowshed,
I'll be waiting for you at the kth-k-k-kitchen door" and
so on? The passing of Geoffrey O'Hara who wrote KKK Katie
almost seems like the end of an era. The song was one of
the great hits of a half a century ago -- World War One.

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made. At eighty-four, full of fun, still spreading cheer,
until he made his departure.

HEAVEN

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Some food for thought - in this next. A report today from the magazine Catholic Digest - on the way people feel about Heaven and Hell. Specifically, whether they believe that either - actually exists at all.

To find out - a nationwide poll of Americans of every faith - and some of none. The findings indicating that sixty-eight percent of the American population -- more than two thirds - do believe in the existence of Heaven. But only fifty four percent - a little over half - are convinced there is really a Hell.

One possible reason for this disparity -- according to experts -- a well-organized trait in the American personality. They call it -- congenital optimism.

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Let's be optimistic, Warren! C.S.L.-t-u