

VIETNAM

Thurs, Jan. 11 - '68,

On the war front - in Vietnam - another futile, costly attempt today at a major New Year's propaganda victory, with a large force of Viet Cong striking from ambush - at a U S search and destroy team in the Mekong Delta.

Fighting back from the worst possible terrain - often neck-deep in swamp water - the Americans hanging on by the skin of their teeth, till the arrival of massive reinforcements - ~~soon~~ ^{ed} ~~quickly~~ turning the tide battle.

In the end - the enemy taking flight - leaving behind forty-six dead. American losses - set at eighteen.

Back in Saigon - casualty figures for the first week of the new year - confirming the enemy's seeming folly. Allied forces killing some twenty-eight hundred Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. - A new record. Chalking up a favorable battle loss ratio - of better than six to one.

BROWN FOLLOW VIETNAM

Here on our own shores - Secretary of State

Dean Rusk conferred at length today - with visiting

British Foreign Secretary George Brown. Subject- Vietnam.

At a later news briefing - Brown asserting that Hanoi

has clearly made "a significant move" in the past week,

indicating that "it does, in fact - want peace talks to

start." However, Dean Rusk ^{again wonder if} ~~suggesting~~ it may be "only

a propaganda play."

Elsewhere in Washington - another new peace

offensive today; with five retired generals and admirals -

joining forces with a number of anti-war- business

executives, ^{and} urging an immediate to halt to U.S. bombing

of North Vietnam - to be followed by prompt de-escalation

of the ground war in the South. Perhaps best-known of the

ex-officers - General David Shoup - former commandant

of the Marine Corps.

CORNING

Corning, Iowa - headquarters of the National Farmers Organization; also command center today - for the N F O's long-threatened all-commodities holding action.

Part one - a request to farmers the nation over - to withhold all grains from normal markets.

N.F.O. President Oren Lee Staley saying meats will be next - then dairy products - and finally all other commodities.

The farmers' goal - a minimum three dollars per bushel of soybeans - two dollars for grain - a buck-and-a-half for corn and so on. Staley promising: "No price - no production."

WARSAW

A U.S. army military attache - assigned to the U S Embassy in Warsaw - ordered expelled today by the Polish government. Lieutenant Colonel Edward Metzger - originally of Quincy, Massachusetts - accused of so-called "improper intelligence activities", in other words - spying.

A second western military attache - Canadian Lieutenant Colonel Kennedy Jefferson - also said to face ~~expulsion~~ expulsion in the same case. Polish authorities claiming the two ~~xx-men~~ "were caught red-handed" - taking pictures of - quote - "one important military object."

RIYADH

^{halled}
The ^{city} of Riyadh - ^{exotic} capital of Saudi Arabia -

first stop today for Jordan's tireless young King Hussein;
on a self-appointed "brotherly" tour - that will carry him
throughout the Arab world.

Hussein immediately entering into a series
of talks - with Saudi Arabia's King Faisal; apparently
^{talking about possibly}
~~trying to work out a~~ reconciliation - between Faisal and
Egypt's Colonel Nasser. Hussein said to feel that the
current split in the Arab bloc -- is jeopardizing a full
and final peace settlement with Israel; thus jeopardizing
at the same time - the very existence of Jordan itself.

Meanwhile, in New York - Israeli Premier
Levi Eshkol expressed his own belief today - that several
Arab nations are now willing to meet Israeli peace demands.
(He added, however, that Israeli forces will never withdraw
from captured Arab territories - as the price for direct
negotiations.)

MACMILLAN

Also in New York today - former British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan; making his first major address - since he retired from public life back in Nineteen Sixty-Three.

America's real enemy - Red China rather than Russia - said MacMillan. Further urging the United States and Russia to join together in containing Red China - ^{do it} now - "before it's too late." This is the best and perhaps only means - to reach some stability in the world" - said he.

LANSING

*At Lansing, Michigan - a sixth and maybe final
"state of the state" address today - by Governor Romney, with
Major emphasis ~~4~~ on racial tensions. Romney urging the
Michigan Legislature - to pass new Civil Rights and
riot control laws. These essential - said he - to help
build "a better, safer, cleaner Michigan;" to counter
militant negroes ^{now or soon to be} "organized, trained and armed for
violence, riots and guerrilla warfare."*

*Romney later admitting his announced
presidential candidacy "will require considerable time
and attention." He insisted, nevertheless, that his
absence would not "diminish the dedication" - to push
through his state programs.*

With that - on to New Hampshire.

12
The name of fashion designer Rudi Gernreich -
synonymous with the daring, the revealing, the ultimate
in avant garde - ever since he first pioneered the topless.

Now - Gernreich ~~age for~~ ^{has} ~~sixty-eight~~ his latest fashions
for spring - on display today in New York. The collection
featuring short, short dresses - with some cut-outs leaving
little to the imagination - others with clear plastic panels
fore and aft, north and south - leaving even less to the
imagination. In many cases - ~~matching~~ matching bikini bottoms
about the only thing standing between the wearer and possible
arrest; or who knows - maybe even a fate worse than arrest.

Where will it all end? A clue perhaps - from
the designer himself. Rudi Gernreich asserting: "The old
guard of fashion thinks that women should be dressed ~~to~~ to
the teeth -- the avant garde thinks ~~they~~ they should be
naked."

So it's off with the old - off with the new, too,
Warren; and apparently - devil take the hindmost.

GANGTOK

In the Kingdom of Sikkim - near the roof of the world - a battle-royal today; with an army of Buddhist monks - meeting and conquering a band of masked "devils" and "ghosts" in behalf of their Queen - the former Hope Cook of New York - who is soon to give birth to her second child.

This^{is} traditional and highly stylized "battle" highlight of a Buddhist New Year's celebration in the^{city} capital^{of} Gangtok. ^{This} According to legend - guaranteed to insure that the new child will be born under the good auspices - of the Great Lord Buddha; as was the ~~xxx~~ royal couple's first child - a son.

Strictly on her own - Queen Hope Cooke
this time
Namgyal later adding: "I hope it's a girl."