

VIET NAM

L.T. - Buick, Fisher. Fri. Apr. 9 - '65.

Red China charged today that those were Chinese Migs -- that battled U. S. Navy jets yesterday over the Tonkin Gulf. The aerial dogfight -- thus apparently the first Chinese-American air clash -- since the Korean War.

Radio Peking asserting that the Chinese Migs attacked the American jets -- when they violated Chinese air space over the island of Hainan. The Chinese asserting that the American planes launched two guided missiles at the Mig interceptors -- then fled in panic. One of the missiles -- said to have accidentally downed one of our own planes.

The American version ^{is} a good deal different.

^{Our people}
~~We~~ say the battle took place over Vietnamese territory -- about thirty-five miles from Hainan. The American jets -- part of a massive air strike against Communist North Viet Nam.

~~As for the battle itself~~ ^{also} the American airmen ^{say} ~~claiming that~~ it was the Chinese who fled after a brief exchange of fire.

One of the enemy aircraft spouting flames -- as it escaped

into the clouds.

Indeed, the Defense Department implying late today -- that the American aircraft did not pursue the enemy Migs -- *inf* for one reason alone: so as not to violate Chinese air space. Assistant Defense Secretary Sylvester emphasizing, however, that "our forces -- are always authorized to defend themselves."

MINH FOLLOW VIET NAM

In the Meantime, President Ho Chi Minh of North Viet Nam --
today rejected President Johnson's proposal for peace talks --
without prior conditions. There can be no talks -- said the
Communist chief -- until the U.S. withdraws its forces from
Viet Nam -- and ends its attacks on Communist territory. That
the
from President ~~Ho Chi Minh~~ of Communist North Viet Nam.

FLOODS

More than eleven thousand persons driven from their homes today -- by record-breaking floods in Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. Heavy rains and the run-off from melting snow -- pouring into rivers already swollen by April storms.

The city of North Mankato, Minnesota -- on the Minnesota River -- tonight's ^{NO ONE} ~~greatest~~ danger point. Five thousand of that community's six thousand residents -- have now been evacuated. The rest mainly volunteers -- manning the dikes. Dikes that still protect the town -- but just barely.

BIRD

The Early Bird satellite -- America's first switchboard in the sky -- zipped into a near ~~lotter~~-perfect stationary orbit today -- high over the Equator. The Early Bird now synchronized with the rotation of the earth -- so that it seems to hang in space.

One more key test -- coming up tonight. An attempt to alter slightly -- its ^{position in relation to} ~~attitude toward~~ the Equator. When that's done -- the Early Bird will be ready for business. The Comsat satellite to start relaying telephone calls -- from the United States to Europe -- within a few days. Its first demonstration of intercontinental television transmission -- scheduled for May Second.

BERLIN

That Berlin blockade -- almost at an end tonight -- maybe. A Soviet spokesman in Berlin declaring today -- that Communist harrassment of airplanes flying the Berlin corridor -- to end promptly at midnight. The end of the blockade apparently to coincide -- with the wind-up of Russian military maneuvers -- along the city's access routes.

But in the meantime -- some more last-minute aggravation. The Communists tonight closing the main highway -- between Berlin and West Germany; and interfering with rail traffic for the first time -- in this long week of harrassment.

GERMAN

A top aide to former Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany -- was sentenced to two years in prison today. Erich Helbig -- once the senior staff officer in the West German White House -- convicted of spying for the Communists.

Helbig said to have been of tremendous potential value to Communist Intelligence -- because of his key position in the Adenauer government. However, the sentence comparatively light -- because he fed the Communists a lot of fake reports -- in an effort to secure more money. West German Counter-Intelligence agents describing Helbig as -- "a bumbling spy -- driven only by greed."

CARDINAL

Death came today -- to the head of the largest Roman Catholic Archdiocese in America. Albert Cardinal Meyer of Chicago -- born the son of a Milwaukee grocer. At his death -- the spiritual leader of more than two million Catholics in the Chicago area. He was sixty-one.

DARNELL

Actress Linda Darnell -- one of Hollywood's brightest stars in the late 'Thirties and 'Forties -- reported near death tonight in a Chicago hospital. Miss Darnell -- burned over eighty-five to ninety per cent of her body -- in a fire today at the Chicago home of her ex-agent -- Mrs. Richard Curtis -- with whom she was visiting.

The actress apparently overcome by smoke -- and engulfed in flames -- while trying to locate Mrs. Curtis' sixteen-year-old daughter. Unbeknownst to her -- the child had already leaped to safety.

BEARS

The other night--I mentioned the plight of the blue whale--almost extinct. Now it's the polar bear. Monarch of the North--imperiled by a new breed of white hunter.

In the old days--a polar bear hunt involved time, money, and often--courage. Now professional guides track down the polar bear by airplane--sometimes running one until he is exhausted. The plane lands--the hunter jumps out and shoots him. A so-called "guaranteed kill"--used to cost about twenty-five hundred dollars; today as little as five hundred.

Most of these outside the twelve-mile limit--so Alaskan hunting regulations are of no effect. As a result-- Alaskan authorities are pressing for an international treaty. The United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, Norway, Seden and Greenland--all urged to join in the effort. If they don't--the warning is clear. Another great beast will ^{soon} ~~soon~~ have vanished forever--from the face of the earth.

SAMARITAN

Scholars from three continents met in Chicago today -- in an attempt to define the role of the Good Samaritan in modern society. The consensus -- there ought to be a law. A law requiring one person to stop and render aid to another -- in time of emergency. The scholars noting that France, Germany and other countries that have adopted such laws -- have found them to work "reasonably well."

At least one dissenting vote, however, from Charles ~~of~~ Gregory -- a professor of law at the University of Virginia. Gregory observing that people are ^{reluctant} ~~hesitant~~ to help other people in distress -- primarily because they don't want to get involved. An attitude he called -- morally repugnant. But -- said he -- you can't legislate charity, altruism and courage.

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And if I might add a word ^{Do you} ~~if~~ suspect he's right, ^{Dick?}

FRANCE

France determined to regain some of its lost tourist trade. New government regulations with better hotels expected to provide service in at least two foreign languages--one English.

Also, the so-called "luxury hotels"--supply soap in their bathrooms; bed lamps, outlets for electric razors and adequate lighting--all mandatory. And by nineteen-seventy--or, they're off the list. About time, don't you think?