

A new step toward possible victory in Vietnam was unveiled publicly for the first time today in Washington. Defense Secretary McNamara disclosing plans for construction of a so-called - "strip of death" between North and South Vietnam. A barrier of so-called "highly sophisticated" detection devices - hopefully to curbing the influx of enemy troops. Will it do so?

Construction of the first stretch has already begun - said Defense Secretary McNamara. This in a fifteen-mile clearing - along the Vietnamese coastal plain. Just how long the barrier will be in its entirety - and what those "highly sophisticated" detection devices will be - he did not say. His point being - "the more the enemy knows about our plans - the more ready he could be to defeat the system."

ROMNEY FOLLOW WASHINGTON

Turning next to the political arena - ~~Defense~~

Secretary McNamara also unleashed the strongest
administration ^{reply so far to the} ~~reaction to~~ charges by Michigan's
Governor Romney - that he had been "brainashed" about
the war in Vietnam; ^{Romney,} ~~and~~ that the American people
were being misled - about the true facts ^{concerning} of the war.

Said ~~Robert~~ McNamara: "I don't think Governor
Romney can recognize the truth - when he sees it or hears
it." The ^{Defense} Secretary adding that ^{Gov.} Romney - "appears to be
blind to the truth."

CRITICS FOLLOW ROMNEY

Elsewhere in Washington - and, ~~indeed~~, around the nation - more of the same. Republicans and Democrats alike joining today - in often harsh criticism of ^{the} Romney "brainwashing" charge.

On the Republican side - most obvious reaction at a meeting of Republican State Chairmen in Washington. Party leaders admitting that reaction to ^{Gov.} Romney's statement - had "not been good." The Nixon-for-President camp saying Romney had ~~not~~ displayed certain "weaknesses" on the Vietnam issue -- that could well embarrass him in sixty-eight. Pennsylvania ~~is~~ Republicans also announcing plans for a new poll - to reassess Romney's chances of beating President Johnson.

However, the unkindest cut of all - from National Democratic Chairman John Bailey - who said: "Governor Romney's statements this week - have proved that anybody who tried to brainwash the Governor - has very little to work with."

VIETNAM FOLLOW CRITICS

~~While halfway round the world,~~ ^{Meanwhile} one of the

^{goes on.} bloodiest battles of the war, U S Marines today hurling

back a force of ~~about~~ ^{some} four thousand Viet Cong - in a

~~for~~ twenty hour clash near Da Nang. The fighting - ^{much}

hand to hand ~~at times~~ - leaving nearly four hundred enemy

dead.

Marine officers later saying the U S victory --

had clearly cut short a major Viet Cong offensive; one

apparently aimed at capturing complete control - of all

the northern provinces.

DETROIT

In Detroit - ~~fiery-tongued~~ ^{eloquent} Walter Reuther was
strangely silent today - a victim of laryngitis; the result
of marathon contract talks - with the Ford Motor Company.

For the moment though - no need for speeches.

About a hundred and sixty thousand of Reuther's auto
workers ^{are} doing their talking with picket signs; in the
first nationwide auto strike - in three years.

As for management - Henry Ford-the-Second
today called the strike - "totally unjustified and completely
unnecessary." Further demanding new laws to halt what
he called - "this kind of bludgeon against the public
interest."

All of which - points to a long strike. Indeed,
negotiations ~~are~~ ^{already have been} suspended - until Monday at the earliest.

MIDDLE EAST

For the third straight day - a series of sharp gun duels today across that uneasy Middle East truce line. Israeli forces trading fire with Egyptians at the Suez Canal - with Jordanians at the Jordan River. Although casualties were said to be light - Egypt reporting heavy property damage.

In the wake of the fighting - Jerusalem again charging the Arabs were responsible. Calling the daily skirmishes - a smokescreen for Arab feuding. Reports from Lebanon - bolstering the Israeli charge. With Beirut newspapers reporting today that President Nouredin Atassi of Syria - has almost certainly been overthrown.

Meanwhile, Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol was visiting the Canal Zone today. There noting pointedly that Arab leaders meeting last week at Khartoum - were still dead-set against recognizing Israel; still dead-set - against a negotiated peace.

ADEN

Barred from Aden by federal army troops - warring Arab nationalists took their blood-feud into the surrounding countryside today. The militant national Liberation front and ^{the} rival Flosy - battling in a hundred-and-ten degree desert heat, to see which will control the Federation of South Arabia - when the British leave in January.

In the meantime - efforts to end the fighting are centered mainly in Cairo. Leaders of the Liberation Front - which appears to hold the upper hand - appealing directly to Egypt's ~~Cotone~~ Nasser; asking him to withdraw his support of Flosy forces - in the name of Arab unity. A three-man united nations mission also in Cairo - to meet Saturday with Flosy ~~leaders~~ leaders in search of a possible compromise.

WARSAW

~~French~~ President Charles DeGaulle, ^{today} conferred for more than two hours ~~today~~ - with Polish President Ochab and Premier Cyrankiewicz. This his only scheduled meeting with the Polish leaders - before departing Warsaw for a tour of the provinces. ~~But~~ what they talked about - ~~still~~ a closely guarded secret.

At the same time - DeGaulle again demonstrating he's nobody's ~~man~~ puppet. According to French sources - DeGaulle trying to arrange a meeting with Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski; the Roman Catholic Primate of Poland -- who has been feuding with Communist authorities for years.

The meeting - barred in the end - we're told. However, DeGaulle reportedly receiving a letter and a religious gift from the Cardinal - in appreciation for the effort.

SAN FRANCISCO

Earthquake in San Francisco - if you could call it that. The fabled "city on the Bay" rattled today by a tremor; one of ^a ~~long~~ series centering in the Santa Cruz Mountains - and ~~for~~ ^{along} some eighty miles ~~along~~ ^{of} the San Andreas fault.

Altho ~~But~~ the tremor was ^{only} ~~nevertheless~~ strong enough ~~to~~ register up to five on the Richter scale ~~it did~~ causing tall buildings to jiggle and sway. No one hurt - no damage.

~~To all those~~ ^{To the} San Francisco hippies - out on ~~Haight Ashbury~~ ^{Haight Ashbury} no doubt ~~it was~~ ^{it was} another psychedelic something or other, Warren.

LONDON

From London comes the story today - of what may well have been the world's first hippy fashion show. A display of way-out clothes - against a background of soap bubbles and psychedelic film.

One male model - wearing a garment almost exactly like a monk's habit. One girl - wearing a baggy pantaloon suit; said to make her look like a foreign legionnaire's girl friend ⁱⁿ ~~wearing~~ his uniform. Another girl wearing a thigh-length leather coat dress - laced loosely up the front; to the point almost - of indecent exposure - we're told.

~~As~~ But the hit of the show - a girl wearing a great shapeless tent dress; in a sort of jungle camouflage fabric - that covered her from chin to toe. ^{And} ~~As~~ it turned out though - she wasn't even one of the models.

A hippy fashion expert ~~was~~ explaining: "It's her own personal rig-out - she's a little eccentric."