

VIETNAM

Thurs, Mar, 28 - 68,

In Vietnam - one of our aircraft is missing.

Under ordinary circumstances - the loss of ^a U S plane -

regrettable enough. But this one - even more so; ~~a new~~

a new F One Eleven A - Air Force version of the

controversial swing-wing TFX. One of six such planes -

that arrived in the war zone for the first time just last

week; ~~that have~~ ^{and} ~~been~~ in battle so far - only three days.

If it ~~cr~~ashed in Communist territory - a potential

bonanza for enemy intelligence. The super-secret,

supersonic F One Eleven A - jam-packed with the latest

in U S electronic gear.

PENTAGON FOLLOW VIETNAM

Ironically, the Navy version of the same plane - the F One Eleven B - was also in the headlines here at home. Production plans for the Navy aircraft -- all but forsaken today by Congress - on advice from the Pentagon. At the same time - Defense officials soliciting designs for a possible alternate ~~airship~~.

The military establishment ~~thus~~ reversing, in effect -- one of the most disputed rulings of departed Defense Secretary McNamara; who originally ordered the ~~αα~~ same craft for both services - despite a Navy plea that it was too heavy for carriers.

MEMPHIS

Riot in Memphis. Dr. Martin Luther King leading a mass demonstration today -- in support of striking sanitation workers; when a splinter group of negro youths - suddenly abandoned the main line of March. Racing down historic Beale Street - smashing windows - looting stores - battling police.

Specially-trained riot squads - responding quickly with clubs, tear gas and chemical sprays. In the end - at least one looter shot to death; dozens injured - on both sides; and scores of rioters - carted off to jail.

Tennessee Governor Ellington - later rushing some four thousand National Guardsmen to the scene of battle.

Another eight thousand troops standing ~~by tonight~~ by tonight -- in hopes of heading off any further violence.

PRAGUE

At Prague - General Ludvik Svoboda of World War Two fame - official choice today to succeed Stalinist Antonin Novotny - as President of Czechoslovakia. The seventy-~~two~~ three year old General promptly pledging "a new way of life" -- under a liberalized Czech version of Communism.

Still - Svoboda considered acceptable to the Kremlin. Indeed, Czech news reports listing as one of his greatest attributes - a "sincere attitude toward the Soviet Union."

MOSCOW

In Moscow - ~~kh~~ and throughout the Soviet Union -
an official state of mourning today over the passing of
Yuri Gagarin - the world's first spaceman and easily
Russia's most popular ~~hero~~ hero.

As you may have heard by now - Gagarin and a
fellow cosmonaut crashing ~~to their deaths yesterday~~
on a routine training flight. Gagarin - a hero to the
end. He and his partner - refusing to bail out over a
populated area. His last words -- in a calm, matter of
fact ~~xxx~~ voice -- "I'm going down."

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Tomorrow - a state funeral for both ~~men~~ in Red
Square -- ~~to be followed by final interment within the~~
~~Kremlin walls.~~ Americans too - sharing in the grief.
~~Perhaps the best~~ ^{This} expressed in a telegram -- from the
U S ~~astronaut~~ astronaut corps, Telling family and friends:-
~~of the fallen Gagarin --~~ ["]that nothing will ever dim
the memory of his achievement."

STOCKHOLM

U S Treasury Secretary Henry Fowler - an early arrival today at Stockholm, Sweden. Getting ready for that "group of ten" meeting tomorrow -- involving the ten richest nations in the free world. ^{This} Amid growing reports of a possible showdown with France - on the future of the U S dollar.

More on money - from Paris; where the price of gold today plunged to its lowest level in weeks -- only thirty-eight, ~~eighty~~ eighty-six an ounce. This the ~~was~~ result of a rumor that South Africa - world's largest producer of gold - may soon flood the market, ^e in a bid to build its own - cash reserves.

WASHINGTON FOLLOW STOCKHOLM

Still another related development -- here on our own shores. The U S Interior Department today announcing the start of tests - on a new metallurgical process; Said to provide economical and "nearly complete recovery of gold - from carbonaceous" - or coal-like "ores".

Where up to now - the mining of gold from such ores has been too ~~sa~~ costly, ~~to bother with.~~

If it works - the new process could well double - or maybe even quadruple - total mineable gold reserves in the United States. Including more than a billion bucks worth -- in Nevada alone.

CAPITOL HILL

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On Capitol Hill - it was "cry for Happy" time today.
Congressman Michel of Illinois - complaining bitterly
about a government study on "the demography of happiness."

The way the Congressman tells it - government
workers interviewing some fifteen hundred Puerto Ricans -
~~coming~~ ^{came} up with conclusions such as: One - people who
make money are happier than people who don't. Two -
young people are happier than old people. Three - healthy
people are happier than sick people.

In sum - said Congressman Michel - the survey
proving what an imbecile should know - to wit: "It's
better to be rich, young and healthy - than poor, old,
and sick."

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By the way - the cost of the survey? - a cool
quarter million bucks, Warren.

TASMAN SEA

From the Tasman Sea - midway between Australia and New Zealand -- comes news today of a modern counterpart to the immortal "Moby Dick". This a ninety-foot whale -- whether accidentally or otherwise - swimming head-on into the British cruise ship Himalaya.

The twenty-eight thousand ton vessel - swerving ~~mightily~~ ^{but} in an effort to avoid the crash. Too late ~~though~~ - too late, that is, for the ~~wahak~~ whale. The Himalaya almost unscathed, But also poor escaping, ~~in one piece -- but not so~~ Moby Dick. It was down to Davey Jones for him.

ALBUQUERQUE

CBS promotion request

A final note -- from Albuquerque, New Mexico;
where Radio station KGGM is today celebrating - forty
years of serving America's great southwest. Which calls
for a special salute - to a distinguished CBS affiliate.

So, ^{here's} ~~happy anniversary~~ ^{to} Radio Station KGGM, Albuquerque.