

Tuesday, February 6, 1973

SAIGON

From Saigon - a report today that the first repatriation of American POW's - will probably take place on Saturday. "Some of them - but not all - coming from Hanoi" we are told. This according to Michael Gauvin - The Canadian delegate to that four power International Peace Keeping Mission.

For what it's worth - U.S. officials adding that Gauvins estimate "sounds reasonable". The more so - they note - since Saturday is the last day - before the initial repatriation deadline.

PRINCETON

In the wake of the cease fire in Vietnam -

President Nixon's public standing has apparently risen to new heights. At any rate, the latest Gallop Poll - today indicating as much.

On his conduct of the Presidency in general - the President getting a sixty-eight per cent approval rate.

On his handling of the Vietnam situation, in particular - a seventy-seven per cent approval rate. That last, by the way, an increase of thirty points in less than a month.

PARLAY

Meanwhile, the White House was announcing plans for another Paris parlay - to begin three weeks hence. Said parlay to serve, in effect, as a successor to the Geneva conferences on Indo China - previously held in Nineteen-Fifty-Four and Nineteen-Sixty-Two.

The participants this time - including all the combatants; along with eight interested nations - including both Russia and Red China. A State Department spokesman noting that these nations - "may not have been directly involved in the war;" but they do have the capability - he continued - "to contribute to peace in South East Asia."

WHITE HOUSE

The Whitehouse also - added an extra to the Henry Kissinger upcoming Asian tour. Officials saying he now plans to stop at Vientiane in Laos. Before heading on to Hanoi and Peking. Dr. Kissinger will thus arrive in Laos this Friday - just two days before the scheduled start of a Laotian cease fire.

JAKARTA

Today's Port-of-Call for Vice President Agnew;

Jakarta - the capitol of Indonesia; which is one of the four members of that International Peace Keeping Mission in Vietnam. The Vice President conferring with Indonesian President Sukarto - and then with Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik.

A government spokesman later saying - the Vice President had "fully appreciated Indonesia's co-operation on Vietnam," and more than that we are told - "fully appreciated Indonesia's attitude."

HUSSEIN

The White House again - a visit today from Jordan's tough, young King Hussein - officially "unofficial" - so there was no formal ceremony. The President nevertheless - making a few brief remarks. "The Mid East is still a problem. We are all searching for peace," said he. The President also noting that Israeli Premier Golda Mier - will soon be coming to Washington. Adding, "It is hopeful - to get all points of view."

Subsequent talks - lasting more than an hour. The White House later issuing a statement - pledging a continuation of U.S. military and economic aid to Jordan. Adding that this is a further demonstration - of [REDACTED] U.S. interest in progress toward a negotiated settlement in the Middle East."

BELFAST

Renewed violence in Northern Ireland - was marked today by a terrorist attack on a British armored car. The terrorist pulling up in a taxi - and then blasting away with a Soviet made rocket launcher. Killing one and injuring five.

LONDON

Across the Irish Sea - in London - Britain's Prime Minister Heath was reporting to Parliament today; telling of a talk with Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts - during his recent visit to the U.S.; a talk dealing mainly with Northern Ireland.

Heath reporting that Kennedy had told him - "He wished to adopt a positive attitude, in public, toward the problem there". Heath adding: "I hope this will be the case."

NEW DELHI

At New Delhi - India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was addressing her own parliament; in a sort of a "state of Southeast Asia" address - bitterly condemning the continued presence there of so called "Colonial Powers;" those who have come - said he - "in the name of filling a vacuum - or to stage a crusade against communism or other doctrines." Madame Gandhi apparently including in this category - the U.S.

The lady Premier also warned that the present cease-fire in Vietnam - "should not lull us into believing there will be peace all the way." "For too many nations," - she observed - "peace itself has often been war by other means."

WALDHEIM

Same city - a visit today from U.N. Secretary

General Kurt Waldheim; who discussed with Madame

Gandhi and others - a problem perhaps a bit closer at

hand; namely - the state of Indian and Pakistani relations.

Waldheim later saying: "The situation in the sub-continent -

is an open question." But he added: "From my talks with

Indian leaders - I got the impression that they seriously

intend to solve it."

BONN

The U. S. Dollar was under increasing pressure today - in Western European money markets; especially - in Bonn; where the West German Central Bank was forced to buy up - a record one and one half billion in U.S. currency.

This flying in the face of U. S. fiscal experts - who have long urged another upward revaluation of the German mark. Chancellor Willy Brandt insisting, however that - he intends to keep the mark right where it is.

Hence -the run on dollars.

PRETORIA

Almost unnoticed here at home - the U.S. has just scored another break-through in the Union of South Africa. For the first time, the State Department assigning a black diplomat - to the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria. Thirty-Seven year old James Baker starts taking over as Chief Economics and Commerical Affairs Officer.

Incidentally, one of the first questions he was asked - was why he would want such an assignment. Baker replying simply: "I'm a service officer in the State Department - it's my job."

SZECHWAN

Earthquake in Red China. According to the U.S. National Earthquake Center - a tremor measuring a full eight on the Richter Scale; said to be capable of causing - "Great" damage.

As luck would have it though - the quake occurring in a mountainous region in China's Szechwan Province. This an area said to be sparcely populated - which has been hit by major earth-quakes - four times in less than fifty years.

DIXY

Dr. Dixy Lee Ray of Tacoma, Washington - the first woman chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. So named today by President Nixon; succeeding James Schlesinger - who will now head the CIA. The White House asserting that Dr. Ray's appointment - stresses "the determination of this administration to solve the nation's energy problem".

LEMMON VALLEY

This next - from Lemmon Valley, Nevada, once a favorite play spot - for two thirteen year boys living nearby. And then - along came a building contractor; putting up one house, and another, and another - until the two youngsters could take it no more. In the dark of the night - they commandeered a bulldozer, plowing back and forth through one of the houses - till it was little more than a pile of rubble. When later apprehended, the two boys explaining: "We just got mad about the whole thing." All of which - Bill - maybe perfectly understandable; assuming, of course - they come before an understanding judge.

DENVER-ST. LOUIS

On Frontier Airlines Flight Number 112 from Denver to St. Louis - a lady driver today. Miss Emily Howell - sitting in as second officer; thereby becoming the first women pilot - ever to serve with a scheduled U. S. airlines.

And how did it feel? Just great - said Miss Howell.

Adding: "I'm not a Women's Libber - and I'm not striking a blow for anyone. I just want to be a pilot."