

Dec. 8, 1967
Salt Lake City, Utah

MIAMI BEACH

First stop - Secretary of State Dean Rusk; guest speaker today - at the continuing AFL-CIO Convention in Miami Beach. There declaring that the U.S. must be a nation to honor its commitments abroad - for our nation, said he - is the "principle pillar of peace" in today's world.

Those who would appease the North Vietnamese - those who never learn the lesson of Hitler - said Dean Rusk; they are the same people who said before World War II "let's give Hitler another bite and maybe he'll be satisfied."

"This time" - said the Secretary - "the world cannot afford such a mistake, " because" - in his words - "there wouldn't be enough left - from which to draw even a lesson."

VIETNAM

More news from Vietnam - the story today of another key allied victory. With American and South Vietnamese troops - putting the capper on three days of battle, by crushing a Viet Cong stronghold on the Bong Son Plain - about three hundred miles north of Saigon.

In men alone - the enemy suffering a telling blow. Casualty figures placing the number of Viet Cong dead - at more than two hundred and fifty, as compared with American losses - set at sixteen; South Vietnamese - also sixteen. More than that - the defeat costing the Viet Cong control of the rice rich Bong Son flat lands without which - they will be hard put to find the food to fight on.

Meanwhile, in Saigon - U.S. officials were making public a notebook - taken from a captured Viet Cong leader. In it - the enemies latest "party line" saying, in effect, that they Viet Cong are incapable of dealing allied forces any "lethal blow"; and so they must consider a possible coalition government - as a means to political if not military victory.

SENATE

Here at home - renewed Senate debate today on Vietnam. Including a speech by Senator Fulbright of Arkansas - to an almost empty Senate chamber; a speech in which the Senator called the Vietnamese war - "an immoral and unnecessary war" proving only America's willingness and ability to kill people - said he. The Senator going on to contend that it could have been avoided; but how - ah, he didn't say.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield - also taking the Senate floor; to criticize the handling of a recent request by the Viet Cong - to send some representative to the United Nations; a request - that came to naught. "There is no excuse for this" - said Senator Mansfield. Adding: "We now witness once again a sorry spectacle of who said what - who did what - ~~what~~ who accepted or who refused - in the corridors backstage of the United Nations."

STATE FOLLOW SENATE

This followed shortly - by a long, carefully worded statement from the U. S. State Department. Asserting -first of all - that the United States does not oppose the presence of Viet Cong representatives at the United Nations; as long as "they are officially invited - for official business." Adding, however, that "we do oppose their coming early to mount a propaganda campaign."

The statement further reaffirming U. S. opposition to any South Vietnamese coalition government - that would be - quote - "at variance" with the principle of self determination. This perhaps in answer to that Viet Cong notebook - I mentioned a moment ago. In any case - a reassurance no doubt welcomed in Saigon

SAANA

After five years of virtual stalemate - apparently a showdown at last in that Yemeni Civil War, with Royalist forces swarming from the hills today - laying siege to the Republican held - lofty, exotic walled-Capitol of Saana. Royalist leaders telling the Republicans to surrender by tomorrow morning - "or be destroyed."

Even in advance of the deadline - Royalist gunners have been pounding the city; while Royalist ground troops have been seizing Saana's airport. In the process - capturing thirteen Republican army officers attempting to flee the country.

Stripped recently of Egyptian support - in the form of troops and equipment - the Republicans seemingly powerless to stem the Royalist tide, followers of the old Imam Yaya and his sons.

The month old regime of Republican President Iriany - still hangs by a thread, at last reports, with the President himself - now safely in Cairo.

WEATHER

The weekend weather outlook here in the states - a case of practically all bad - take your pick. The forecast including a snow storm in the Central Rockies - rain, hail and strong winds in the Northeast - with showers on tap from Pennsylvania to Alabama - plus more of the same along the West Coast from Canada to Mexico.

By contrast - the forecast today throughout Britain - is snow, snow and more snow. ~~With~~ a premature blizzard sweeping across that country paralyzing transportation, closing scores of airports, and isolating many towns. To some - the whole of England looking like a Christmas card scene. With the Royal Automobile Club calling it - "A white hell" for drivers.

CAPE TOWN

The world's first human heart transplant patient - may be going home for Christmas. Less than a week since his operation at Cape Town, South Africa - Lewis Washkansky today said to be making a remarkable recovery. If he keeps it up - no reason at all why he can't enjoy the holidays at home.

South African heart specialist Dr. Christian Barnard -- who performed the Washkansky operation - also planning some travels of his own. The Doctor disclosing today - he hopes to fly to New York in two weeks as a guest of CBS television. With additional trips to France and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Czechoslovakia - perhaps next on agenda.

STANFORD

The scene - a brand new campus library at Stanford University in California. The time - dusk. Action: A nervous librarian looks out the window - sees a large group of students gathering together. Fearing another campus demonstration - she rushes to a phone⁻⁻ quickly calling police.

However, the officers arriving - too late. Already the students raising their voices to an emotional pitch - chanting fervently: "O Come All Ye Faithful - Joyful and Triumphant - O Come Ye, Oh Come Ye To Bethlehem."

That's right - they were singing Christmas carols. Surely, the best, most heartwarming demonstration - all this week.

WHITE HOUSE

Where yesterday there was chaos - carpenters, electricians, decorators and so on - today a winter wonderland in the East Room of the White House. A seeming miracle - accomplished with literally bushels of white roses, orchids, gardenias and frosted mistletoe; all shimmery and sparkling - under the glow of soft white lights.

A perfect setting - for the wedding of the year - that of Lynda Bird Johnson and her Marine-Major Chuck Robb. The nuptials - as you know - set for four o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

In the meantime - a final flurry of excitement today, including the announcement that seven bridesmaids will all try to get dressed at once - in the Lincoln Bedroom. Some trick - if they can do it. Also - a last rehearsal. After which the President told reporters: "As you might expect - the Father of the Bride is quite nervous." But he didn't look it.

A later report: - They are planning a tropic honeymoon - on the island of Kanai, beautiful Hawaii, Kanai

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- perfect for a honey moon. Tourists seldom see that island of pineapples. How would you like to take off for Hawaii - on a honeymoon, Warren.

NORWICH

From Norwich, England, comes a story just ahead of the storm, a story of a farmer - tilling his field; when he spotted a big, battered suitcase - in a ditch beside a nearby road. Hanging out of the end of the suitcase - a pair of human legs.

In no time at all - the farm crawling with police. The road blocked - the entire area sealed off; when a chief of detectives finally opened the lid of the extra big battered suitcase - and out popped a very surprised and very bleary eyed tramp.

Pressed for an explanation - said the tramp - "I always sleep like that - with my legs outside." But why - persisted police. Said the tramp: "Don't all people like to sleep in suitcase now and then?"