

Monday, February 17, 1975

GENEVA

For Secretary of State Kissinger and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko - five hours of talks in Geneva; followed by the release today - of a joint communique.

The U.S. and Russia agreeing that the Geneva conference "should play an important part" - in securing peace in the Middle East. Adding that the Geneva conference "should resume its work - at an early date." But when? Still up in the air; on the grounds - we are told - that Doctor Kissinger will be making at least one more try via his so called "shuttle diplomacy."

Kissinger and Gromyko also telling of talks on a "further limitation of strategic offensive arms" - as earlier ordered by President Ford and Russia's Brezhnev. A U.S. spokesman later saying that such an agreement could be completed - "in two or three months." Or, just in time for Brezhnev's planned visit to the U.S. this summer.

ALEXANDRIA

This, President's Day, Nineteen-~~Seventy-Five~~, was
the occasion for a brief service today in Alexandria,
Virginia. George Washington - the ^{U S} first President
to belong to the Masonic order. Gerald Ford - the
fourteenth. And so ^{today} the dedication of a Gerald Ford
Medallion - at the George Washington Masonic national
~~and~~ memorial.

The President also taking this occasion -
to call for ~~an~~ a rededication of the American
spirit; in so doing, quoting a letter that Washington
wrote to ~~the~~ Maryland Masons - back in Seventeen-
Ninety-Eight. Washington saying ~~that~~ it was the
"indispensable duty of every American - to come
forward in support of the government of his choice;
and to give all aid in his power - towards maintaining
that independence which we have so dearly purchased."
The President adding on his own that "such involment

**by every American - is as essential today as it was
in George Washington's day."**

BENTSEN

Washington again - Senator Bentsen of Texas today became the fifth announced candidate- for the Democratic Presidential nomination next year. The former business magnate saying he intends to ^{put on} ~~run~~ an energetic national campaign, ~~One that will do~~ at once - candid, unafraid and positive; adding:

"for too long, we have been adrift."

^{Sey.} ~~Incidentally,~~ ^{as candidates always say that} Bentsen saying, ~~he would accept~~ ^{he'll not accept} a Vice Presidential nomination; but he does plan to run for re-election to the Senate - simultaneous ~~do~~ with his Presidential campaign.

DETROIT

Detroit - the Chrysler ~~Group~~ Corporation today issued an annual report - showing losses of more than fifty ~~million~~ million last year. This ^{is the most} ~~is the worst performance~~ & in the ~~auto~~ firm's fifty-year history.

PEKING

From Peking - a warning today that "a capitalist restoration" in Red China - "can still occur at any time." This in an ~~new~~ article - appearing in the Chinese Communist Party ~~of~~ Peoples Daily. The danger said to come mainly from peasants - who retain certain characteristics inherent in their former position as small producers. Peking adding that these so-call bourgeois threats can only be held in check - by constant ~~new~~ vigilance on the part, of "quote "the dictatorship of the proletariat."

ASMARA

At a police compound in Asmara, Ethiopia -
a mass break-out today by some seven hundred
Eritrean guerrillas, guerrilla sympathizers and others.

~~However~~^{But -} the ~~fleeing~~ fleeing prisoners - were quickly
cut off by government troops ~~who~~ who then opened
fire - with small arms and machine guns. Unofficial
reports later saying that virtually all of the escapees
- were either killed or wounded. ~~Further~~^{The report also} calling the
incident perhaps the worst atrocity ~~in~~ in the ~~past~~
fifteen years of the continuing Eritrean rebellion.

CAPETOWN

A report that he made a secret visit last week to black dominated Liberia was officially confirmed today by Prime Minister Vorster of South Africa. Vorster saying he met with Liberia's President Tolbert - for "wide ranging talks on detente." With results - not disclosed.

MILAN

At Milan, Italy another major art theft. The ~~per~~ perpetrators switching this time - from Renaissance to modern; stealing twenty-eight important paintings - from the Milan modern art gallery. Their total value - an estimated four-and-a-half million.

SUSAN

At the White House seventeen year old Susan Ford - was attempting to set the record straight. The President's daughter saying she supports the Equal Rights Amendment one hundred percent; and also supports her mother's campaign to win its ratification.

This a somewhat tardy response to remarks a few months ago by one Gardner Britt - who said "a woman's place is in the home," "her first duty to her husband and children." Young Britt was then Susan's steady. But now says the White House merely - merely one of "lots of friends."

ATLANTA

By a vote of thirty-three to twenty-two -
the Georgia Senate today refused to ratify - that
proposed equal rights amendment. ^{So this is} ~~That's~~ two years
in a row ^{for} the Georgia Legislature ^{to} ~~has~~ ~~rejected~~ the
measure.

Today's vote following ^{ed an} ~~ing an~~ ^{impassioned} ~~impassioned~~ plea
- from State Senator Hugh Gillis, an E R A opponent,
who said: "We have the most gracious and beautiful
ladies - in the South." Adding, in effect: "Let's
keep it that way." /