

PARIS

Wed. May 17-64.

Paris -- the fabled "City of Light" -- a city of darkness tonight. A city without power -- without vital services -- in common with much of France. In the final stages of a twenty-four-hour general strike -- in protest against DeGaulle's demands for near-dictatorial powers.

Labor unions calling the strike -- France's biggest work stoppage in twenty years. Claiming that ten million workers stayed at home -- to demonstrate their support of the anti-DeGaulle movement.

MIDDLE EAST

Crisis in the Middle East -- again at ~~fever pitch~~ tonight; With Egypt officially calling for withdrawal of a U.N. peacekeeping mission -- currently stationed in the Sinai Desert. This a seven-nation force on Egypt's frontier with Israel -- a force that has kept the peace between the two countries for ten years now.

By agreement with Cairo -- the U.^{Y.}~~S.~~ peacekeeping mission can remain on Egyptian soil -- only with Egyptian consent. Which means the U.N. troops will have to get out -- if Nasser is really serious in asking them to leave. However, U.N. Commander General Indarjit Rikhye of India ^{has been} ~~X~~ told to sit tight, pending clarification from Cairo of its future intentions toward U.N. peacekeeping efforts.

In the meantime -- U.N. Secretary General U Thant today cancelled a scheduled trip to Europe. A spokesman for U Thant saying he regards the current situation in the Middle East -- "as ~~being~~ potentially very grave."

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What's more, the rally to be televised "live" to Hong Kong -- to demonstrate Chinese endorsement of continued pressure on the British.

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to reach the border fortress, now surrounded -- by an estimated

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And yet -- the American military command still

confident of holding the outpost. With the battle raging about

it -- a Marine commander promising: "we'll pin them down

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So far -- ~~they~~ have been doing just that. The enemy's

little losses to date -- about four hundred men. A ratio of

nearly ten-to-one -- over American losses.

Riot in Hong Kong -- the worst today in a week of Communist-inspired violence. With rampaging mobs of Chinese toughs -- battling a thousand police in the crown colony's main tourist center. Turning Hong Kong's famous "Golden Mile" shopping district -- into a "bloody mile" of wreckage and ruin.

Along the way -- the Chinese setting fire to two banks, a major tourist hotel and a restaurant -- stoning firemen trying to fight the flames ~~and~~ ^{and} killing nearly forty policemen with home-made weapons, while Chinese sympathizers were raining bottles on authorities, ~~from~~ ^{from} buildings overlooking the battle scene.

Reinforced riot squads finally dispersing the Chinese -- with tear gas bombs, wooden missiles and flailing clubs. Arresting forty-two more of the rioters -- for a total of about four hundred now in custody.

And maybe more -- still to come. Red Chinese radio today calling for a "huge ~~protest~~ rally" -- tomorrow in Peking, To protest what it called -- "suppression and violence against

the patriotic Chinese -- by British imperialism in Hong Kong."

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VIETNAM

In Vietnam -- another day of fierce battle today near the D.M.Z. With a U.S. special forces camp at Con Thien -- again the chief bone of contention.

U.S. Marines attempting to reinforce the beleaguered camp -- turned back a fourth straight day by heavy enemy fire. Finally, giving up -- at least, temporarily -- their efforts to reach the border fortress, ~~now~~ surrounded -- by an estimated Thirty-Six Hundred Viet Cong.

And yet -- the American military command still confident of holding the outpost. With the battle raging about him -- a Marine commander promising: "We'll pin their ears back."

So far ~~the~~ ^{the Marines,} ~~they~~ been doing just that. The enemy's battle losses to date -- about four hundred men. A ratio of nearly ten-to-one -- over American losses.

SENATE

Here at home -- a major policy statement today -- from sixteen Senate critics of U.S. intervention in Vietnam. Among them -- Senator Kennedy of New York -- Senator Fulbright of Arkansas -- and most others who have opposed the President's "hard line" in the Far East.

The Senators' statement -- a move to dispel any "misconception in Hanoi." Warning North Vietnam against the false hope -- that America will eventually get tired of the war; give up -- and go home. The Senate dissenters stating -- that they themselves ^{are} flatly opposed to U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam; unless and until -- there is a mutually acceptable peace agreement.

The idea for the statement -- from Senator Church of Idaho. To make sure -- said he -- that dissent here at home would not "jeopardize or injure" U.S. peace efforts abroad.

HOUSE

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill -- a tentative first step today -- toward curtailing the President's requested draft reforms. The House Armed Services Committee -- voting to continue present college draft deferments; also to provide occupational deferments -- for certain types of apprentices; and, lastly, to restrict the President's plans -- for draft by lottery.

The House version of the bill -- as it now stands -- thus in direct contradiction of a similar Senate bill; one that would leave the President with full power -- to make the changes he considers necessary.

PLEIKU

Here's a switch! The story today of a brave man -- in deep trouble--for trying to help out in Vietnam.

He's Albert Hamburg -- of Scottsbluff, Nebraska. One of ten brothers -- all of whom have served in the armed forces, and who feared that at thirty-five -- he might be too old to re-enlist. And so he used a younger brother's name to sign up -- to go to Vietnam.

Only trouble -- the Army at first assigned him to Germany. Albert Hamburg was forced to file an appeal -- and that led to a newspaper article and that led Army officials eventually to his true identity.

The full story just coming to light -- with Hamburg's written request to the American civil Liberties Union. Now assigned with the Fourth Infantry Division in Pleiku, Vietnam -- he suddenly needs a lawyer.

Reason: To defend himself -- against a charge of fraudulent enlistment.

DEFECTOR

Hungary's chief diplomatic representative to the United States -- has decided to defect and seek refuge in this country. The announcement today -- from the U.S. State Department, identifying the defector -- as Hungarian Charge d'Affaires Janos Radvanyi.

A State Department spokesman adding that the U.S. position on Radvanyi -- "will, of course, be in the American tradition;" that "of extending refuge -- to those who seek it"-- said he.

Janos Radvanyi -- a veteran of twenty years in the Hungarian foreign service. The last five -- in Washington. And now the first head of ~~the~~ a Communistic diplomatic mission -- to defect to the United States.

MOSCOW

Russia's newest line of manned spaceships -- the Soyuz series -- temporarily grounded for further tests. The announcement today in Moscow -- from Russia's first spaceman, Yuri Gagarin. Part of a move -- said he -- to make sure there will be no reoccurrence -- of the tragedy that befell Soviet Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov.

Gagarin's statement adding to speculation here in the West -- that Komarov's Soyuz-One was in constant trouble throughout its brief flight. However, the official Soviet version of the accident -- still ^{ed} ~~blaming~~ the accident solely on parachute failure at re-entry.

MISSOURI RIVER

From the heartland of America comes news today -- of a novel approach to the problem of water pollution. The Missouri Water Pollution Control Association -- suggesting that illegal pollution of the Missouri River could be ended instantly; simply by turning the river -- into a thousand-mile open sewer.

No joke! The Missouri group saying that cities along the river -- could easily get water from other sources. Adding that other means of transportation -- can be found to replace river traffic. The Association arguing, finally, that use of the river as a sewer -- is "at least" as economically important to the area it drains -- as well other uses put together; including recreation -- and fish and wildlife propagation.

Government reaction -- about what you might expect. According to Assistant Secretary of Interior Frank DiLuzio -- the idea is "just plain stupid." "The stupidest thing I ever heard of"--said he.

DiLuzio further pointing out that the state of Missouri -- and all other states -- are now required by law to submit acceptable standards for cleaning up their rivers and streams; with the filing deadline -- set June Thirtieth.

If they don't -- said he -- the Federal government will set standards for them.

READING

There's a saying in baseball -- to the effect that "nice guys finish last." But what about -- "bad guys?" Well, the answer maybe in this next -- a baseball story today from Reading, Pennsylvania.

First "crucial" game of the season -- a battle between the Reading Bone and Fertilizer team and the local Police Athletic League nine. About half-over -- when a policeman assigned to the ball park spotted a wanted man; the second baseman on the Bone and Fertilizer team -- charged with two violations of the State Motor Vehicle Code.

Calling time -- the policeman arrested him on the spot. A case of two strikes -- and out. Out of the ball park -- and into the hoosegow.

Who won? Oh the police team -- eleven-to-nothing. And solong until tomorrow.