

SAN CLEMENTE

**April 20, 1970
Salt Lake City**

The number one story tonight: President Nixon's scheduled report to the Nation on Viet Nam - coming up shortly from San Clemente. The President's address - billed as an "updater" on U.S. strategy. It's also expected to include plans - for a fourth-phase U.S. troop withdrawal. An address that will be carried "live" - on many of these CBS Radio stations.

SAIGON FOLLOW SAN CLEMENTE

Meanwhile - the war goes on; with Saigon reporting - the heaviest loss of U.S. helicopters in nearly a year; five shot down by enemy gun fire - over the past twenty-four hours. The crashes killing - at least four American crewmen. And further raising the fear that U.S. helicopter losses this year - may be the highest of the entire war.

Elsewhere in Saigon - a hue and cry over the alledged massacre of Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia - by the Cambodians. Opposition leaders in the South Vietnamese Senate - going so far as to urge the creation of a so-called "Expeditionary Corps"; to attack Cambodia - if the killings are not stopped.

WASHINGTON

The demise of an anti-war group. In Washington - the nationwide Viet Nam Moratorium Committee - announcing plans to suspend operations as of the end of April.

This the group that sponsored the Washington "Peace march" last November. It also sponsored a scheduled , a somewhat feeble nationwide protest last week; in the wake of which - Moratorium Leader Sam Brown now says "We as an institution - no longer fill the need for which we came together." And he added: "There is little prospect - of any immediate change in the Administration's policy on Viet Nam."

NEW YORK

Defense Secretary Laird - guest speaker at a publisher's luncheon today in New York, told his audience the Soviet Union - has quadrupled th "Megatonnage" of its strategic weapons since Nineteen Sixty-Five; while the U.S. - during the same period - has actually reduced it s nuclear strength by forty per cent .

Secretary Laird says - an expansion of the Safeguard Antiballistic Missile System is essential to U.S. security. Either that - said he - or we'll need an increase in U.S. offensive nuclear weapons; and adding that no action at all - would simply "pose intolerable risks."

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - Egyptian jets Sunday attacked a number of Israeli targets on the Gulf of Suez. Today - Israeli jets responding in kind - and then some; pounding Egyptian targets all the way to Cairo; one of their heaviest air raids.

In Tel Aviv - Israeli Premier Golda Meir said today - that Israel has had contacts with some Arabs of late; Arabs "who wish to have peace " - but so far have been unable to bring it about - said ~~she~~^{he}. And now begins Passover - an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the flight of the Israelites from Egypt - some thirty-two hundred years ago.

AMAZON

Have you heard about Frank and Helen Schneider the first man-and-wife - in fact the first - ever to trace the mighty Amazon from its head waters to its mouth? Their unique adventure began high in the Peruvian Andes - and ended some four thousand miles later on the Atlantic sea coast. Along the way - the Schneider's and their raft shot tremendous white-water rapids - battled giant whirlpods; and later - when they hit the currents of the full river - in their own words, they were bobbing around "like a straw in a rain gutter."

On their way across Brazil they also met a host of odd and interesting characters - at various times visiting briefly with: a missionary who was traslating the Bible into tribal tongues, a German who was gathering tropical fish for export, an American who was hunting chicle for chewing gum, a chinese entrepreneur who arranges alligator hunts and jaguar shoots, a Brazilain travel agent who was setting up blow-gun demonstrations - not to

mention an international hippie commune deep in the jungle.

All these and more are fascinatingly described in a new book - "Exploring the Amazon" - which the Schneiders have just published in cooperation with the National Geographic. Frank and Helen Schneider coming to the conclusion - and proving it - "that the Amazon - not the Nile - is the world's longest river" - as well as the mightiest. At journey's end - Helen Schneider observing: "We didn't make it - the river just let us go."

HOUSTON

At the U.S. Manned Space Center in Houston - the three Apollo-Thirteen astronauts today began their de-briefing. Attempting to relate to space officials - everything they can recall about their harrowing adventure in space. In particular, seeking the cause of that explosion a week ago - the ripped away thirteen-foot section of their moonship - all but ending their flight. Indeed, Jim Lovell admitting today in Houston - "there were times when we really didn't think we'd make it back here."

STINSON BEACH

From Stinson Beach, California - the story today of an attempt to set a new kite-flying record. Three young Californians attaching five kites to a main line - which eventually attained a length of about five miles; but they managed to reach an altitude of only a few thousand feet - nowhere near the record.

The all-time kite-flying high - an astounding twenty-three thousand, eight hundred and twenty-six feet, by a team of U.S. weathermen at Mount Weather, Virginia - flying ten kites in tandem on a fine steel wire eight miles long. They did it back in Nineteen Ten.

Behind the Iron Curtain - in Moscow - the

**Communist Chinese stole a march today on the rest of the
Communist World. Chinese diplomats laying an elaborate
wreath at Lenin's tomb - this as the opening of the Lenin
Centennial observances in Moscow, doing it a day ahead of
schedule. They refused to wait for ~~the~~ official start of the
ceremony - because, they said they weren't invited.**

MOSCOW

Moscow again - the Kremlin has asked the Ford Motor Company to build in Russia - the world's largest truck factory. Henry Ford the Second making the announcement today - in a press conference at the U.S. Embassy in the Russian capital. Ford adding he will consider the proposal - at the same time, continuing discussions with Russian officials. The U.S. auto-maker explaining his position - saying: "I am a free trader - and I am willing to consider anything that does not involve the defense interests of the United States."

That whirling noise you hear? Warren, Lenin whirling in his grave!

COLUMBIA

Here's one - a bit of a surprise. Professor Rhodes

Fairbridge of Columbia University - says the Sahara Desert was once at the South Pole. The Professor basing his contention on a series of exhaustive studies - said to show the effects of a "continental glaciation" that could have occurred only under a polar ice cap.

Professor Fairbridge adds that the Sahara probably arrived in its present location - about four hundred and fifty million years ago when he says the earth's crust sort of slid around the globe. And so long until ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow.