

SEATO

L.T. - Colds.

Wed, Mar. 29-61,

The communique issued by the SEATO Conference in Bangkok - is a milder document than Secretary of State Rusk wanted. The American spokesman urged the others to join him in saying flatly - that they would intervene in Laos to stop Red aggression. Intervene with military forces - unless Khrushchev called off the Red Rebellion.

The main obstacle to such a declaration - France. The French Foreign Minister, proposing - a more moderate formula. Couve de Murvielle, protesting - that a strong commitment would only prejudice a peaceful solution. And - he had his way. Secretary Rusk, putting his signature to the communique - along with everybody else.

As a result, the members of SEATO simply express - "grave concern" over Laos. Adding - that the International Organization will take "whatever actions may be appropriate." Leaving out - a specific warning to Moscow.

But this doesn't mean - that SEATO can't be relied on. The members may disagree - on the wording of their official communique. But, as predicted - they're

unanimous about the need of meeting this Communist threat, head-on. Ruling out any appeasement - that would amount to surrender.

In fact, SEATO has a common strategy - already worked out. What to do - if it becomes necessary to move into Laos. The plan mentions - two basic points: -  
First - a drive into the Upper Valley of the Mekong River. Purpose - to <sup>w</sup>rest a critical area of Laotian soil from the Reds. The second point - air strikes at Communist bases in North Viet Nam. Purpose - to smash the Red supply lines that funnel food and ammunition to the Rebels.

At the same time, American forces in Southeast Asia are ready for action in Laos - if Washington gives the signal. Ships, planes and ground troops - standing by at strategic points, Ready to cooperate - with SEATO, Or - to act independently, if necessary.

DIPLOMACY follow SEATO

Secretary Rusk left Bangkok for New Dehli, and urgent talks with ~~Jawahar Lal~~ Nehru. The Indian Prime Minister may be the key figure - in the Laotian crisis. The world leader who could tip the balance as a go-between. Tip it - by persuading Khrushchev to negotiate.

The Big Question - will Khrushchev listen to Nehru, or to anyone else? The Soviet Press continues to blame the West - for the Laotian crisis. But, the Soviet Air Lift to the Rebels has not been stopped. Khrushchev, evidently ordering it to maintain the supply line - while he's making up his mind what to do.

A persistent rumor among Westerners in Moscow - is that the Boss of the Kremlin won't say anything until he has sounded out the Boss of Red China. Khrushchev, wanting to make sure that he can count on Mao Tse-Tung - before announcing his decision on Laos. Which could mean, that Khrushchev doesn't intend to take Russian support for the Rebellion out of Laos - only to see it replaced by support from Red China.

## HORNETS

The SEATO Conference today ran into an enemy - they hadn't allowed for. They were under attack - before they realized what was happening. And were forced into a strategic retreat - from the battlefield.

The enemy - hornets. The Southeast Asian variety - big, fast, irritable, and armed with a sting about an inch long. As the SEATO delegates broke up in Bangkok - the hornets attacked. Zooming in - by the hundreds. Hitting <sup>nearly</sup> everyone, - ~~they could catch~~. They missed Secretary of State Rusk - who got out of the way in a hurry. So did - his colleagues.

But the newsmen covering the Conference - weren't so lucky. Most of them, accumulating - a few stings. ~~And~~ one Secret Service Agent ~~was~~ stung ~~4~~ twenty-five times. The assault, so massive - he had to be given emergency medical treatment. ~~The victors~~ ~~remaining in possession of the battlefield.~~ ~~The triumphant~~ ~~triumphant hornets~~ - of Bangkok.

## LAOS

That kidnapping in Laos was a case of -  
mistaken nationality. Communist Raiders, filtering  
through the jungle toward Vientiane - in search of  
Americans. Seizing a couple out on a picnic - releasing  
them, when they turned out to be French. Why the  
distinction? The guess is - a Communist attempt to drive  
a wedge between the French and the Americans. Many of  
the French are not reconciled - to the situation in Laos.  
Angry -, that America has taken over the leadership in what  
used to be a French possession.

March 29, 1961

HOUSING. Today President Kennedy asked Congress to earmark three billion dollars - for spending over the next forty years. Most of it - during the decade of the sixties. Subject - better housing for Americans. In particular - urban renewal in our older cities. The President points out - that our cities are deteriorating, and will continue on the downgrade - unless the Federal government steps in with financial assistance. Three billion dollars worth.

## POLITICS

The Administration Budget is causing a split on Capitol Hill - along party lines. Most Democrats, backing President Kennedy - on the need to spend more than the Eisenhower budget called for. On the other side of the aisle Republicans are <sup>uniting</sup> ~~making~~ against - what they term "a deficit decade."

The GOP Leaders in the Senate and House - issuing a joint indictment of the Administration. Senator Dirksen of Illinois and Congressman Halleck of Indiana - charging that there will be Red ink in the national accounts this June. <sup>and</sup> More red ink - in June of Nineteen Sixty-Two. And so on - in a snowballing deficit. Dirksen and Halleck, summing up with the charge - that the national debt ceiling will have to be raised.

To which the Democrats retort - that there are measures that have to be taken for the good of the country. And that the Administration is right - to promise that those measures will be taken.

## WEATHER

Tonight the States of Iowa and Wisconsin - are caring for four thousand refugees. That many people, driven from their homes - by rampaging flood waters. The villain of the piece - the Cedar and Kickapoo Rivers.

Wisconsin seems over the worst - with the Kickapoo subsiding. Residents of the Valley - beginning to trickle back. Starting to clear up - the debris left by the flood. ~~A very dirty job - as one Red Cross Worker puts it.~~

Iowa is still braced - for trouble. The flood crest of the Cedar River has passed Waterloo - and is plunging on downstream, threatening to turn another fifteen hundred families out of their homes.

## JOHANSSON

The first round in the heavyweight title match between Ingemar Johansson and Uncle Sam - is a draw. Ingo, receiving permission - to go back to Europe. But agreeing to leave behind - a sizable bank account, ~~And -~~ promising to return when the Yankee Court wants to see him again.

This bout was arranged by - the Revenue Department, ~~which~~ which clipped Ingo with an uppercut - in the form of a million-dollar tax claim. The former heavy-weight champion, accused of owing that much - on his earnings in this country. Ingo, counter~~punching~~ing with a claim that the American tax doesn't apply to him - because he's a citizen of Switzerland.

End of - Round One. Round Two, coming up - as soon as the Revenue Department has its Court Case ready. Ingo says he'll show up - for the showdown with Uncle Sam. Adding - he thinks the outcome will be different from what happened when he met Floyd Patterson two weeks ago <sup>when</sup> ~~ago~~ The Smorgasbord Smasher was knocked galley west ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> the American champ! Round 2 for you - Dick

## FLAG

Here's the story of the man - who didn't wave the flag. He was waved - by it.

The place - Calipatria, California. A wind-storm started to rise over Calipatria - so Patrolman Doyle Wallis decided to lower the flag from the town flagpole. He was holding onto the hoisting cable when a gust of wind caught the flag - and whipped it up into the air. The Calipatria cop - became airborne. Zooming - back and forth. Losing - his cap and nightstick, ~~Kicking his feet~~ - and hanging on for dear life.

Finally - his strength gave out. He let go - and tumbled to the ground. Landing, a hundred feet - from where he took off. Unharmed - except for <sup>some</sup> ~~a touch~~ of embarrassment. The man - who was waved by the flag.