

GLASSBORO

^{Tue} 4 June 1968

Richard Helms - sub.

G.M. photo

Possibly

Promo

At Glassboro, New Jersey -- a valiant attempt today

at reviving the "spirit of Hollybush." ~~and~~ President Johnson returning to the site of his meeting last year -- with Soviet Premier Kosygin. Renewing a bid for ~~peace~~ cooperation between the United States and Russia -- in the search for a just and durable peace.

This in a commencement address -- at Glassboro State College. With the President calling specifically for serious negotiations -- now -- toward a broad disarmament treaty. Readily possible -- said he -- "if our two nations can reach binding guarantees -- which preserve the security of each."

Turning to Paris -- the President noting that preliminary Vietn^am peace talks have achieved little as yet. Mainly -- said he -- because Hanoi has responded to

RETAKE

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U.S. proposals -- only with propaganda. But there is still hope -- said the President. Adding: "The road" to peace "is far less rocky when the world's two greatest powers -- the United States and the Soviet Union -- are willing to travel part way together."

PARIS FOLLOW GLASSBORO

Be that as it may -- the President's remarks -- drawing quick rebuttal from North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris. Especially the President's suggestion -- that "an honorable peace requires some gestures on the other side."

Hanoi's delegation countering that the United States alone -- "holds the key to breaking the deadlock" at Paris. Adding again that Hanoi demands -- "an unconditional cessation of American bombing of North Vietnam;" also, an unconditional cessation -- of all other "hostile acts."

All of which hardly bodes well -- for tomorrow's scheduled resumption of peace talks.

FRANCE FOLLOW PARIS

By contrast -- a series of major cracks today; in the strike front that has crippled Paris -- indeed, all of France -- over the past seventeen days.

The Bank of France resuming near-normal service -- ending a financial log-jam throughout the country. With several big commercial banks -- also scheduled to reopen tomorrow. Amid growing signs that railroads, buses and subways -- will soon be operating again. Not to mention resumption of mail service -- expected perhaps as early as Thursday.

Still millions of striking workers -- trying to decide whether to return to their jobs -- or whether to try to continue the nationwide paralysis. No question though -- the threat of civil war and bloodshed that hung over France last week -- now all but vanished.

MIDDLE EAST

On the eve of the first anniversary of last year's June war - broad-scale fighting was reported again today from the Middle East. With Israeli forces said to have attacked Jordanian artillery positions - along a twenty-seven-mile front. Jordan says the Israelis used ground to ground rockets for the first time - a charge which Israeli spokesmen deny - but they do say that Israeli planes attacked Jordanian gun positions which have been shelling Israeli villages.

Results of the battle - as usual - different to ascertain. However, the Jordanians reporting heavy casualties - thirty dead and sixty wounded in the city of Irbid, some sixteen miles east of the Jordan River. They also say they destroyed - four Israeli jets - four Israeli tanks - three Israeli artillery positions; as well as the Allenby Bridge - one of the two bridges across the Jordan.

VIETNAM

War news from Vietnam -- marked today by a pair of fierce battles south of Saigon. U.S. and South Vietnamese troops -- intercepting two large forces of Viet Cong advancing on the capital. In the major clash -- the enemy using a wounded G.I. as bait; methodically ~~cutting~~ ^g cutting down his buddies -- trying to come to his aid.

In the end though -- the Viet Cong paying dearly. Losing an estimated two hundred and fifty men -- as against American losses set at thirty-six. South Vietnamese casualties -- not disclosed.

~~and~~ In Saigon itself -- more scattered ~~shells~~ ^g street-fighting today. U.S. intelligence also reporting renewed infiltration -- by "five-man cells" of Communists wearing civilian clothes. An indication the Viet Cong intend to continue their terror attacks in the capital -- as long as possible -- as long as it serves their purpose.

Here at home -- a unanimous vote of approval ~~today~~ from the Senate Armed Services Committee; for General Westmoreland's appointment -- as the Army's new Chief of Staff. This following two hours of hearings -- behind closed doors.

Later though -- the former Vietnam commander meeting with newsmen; saying he views the current Viet Cong attack on Saigon -- as basically a propaganda move aimed at Paris. Westmoreland further quoted as saying the enemy has already lost as many men this year -- as in all of last year; and twice as many -- as in all of Sixty-Six.

CALIFORNIA

On the political front - the end of the beginning today in Campaign Sixty-Eight. With a final series of simultaneous primaries - in half-a-dozen states. Most notably - the Golden State of California; where Senators Kennedy and McCarthy - are staging a showdown battle; one that could well make or break the Presidential aspirations - of either man.

More news in just a moment...

NORFOLD-AZORES

The search for the missing nuclear sub - the U.S.S. Scorpion - has still turned up not even a clue. Navy ships, planes and additional submarines have completed a check of three areas off the Azores in the midAtlantic. According to Navy search headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia - finding no trace of the missing vessel or its crew of ninety-nine. Several pinpoint search operations - still in progress in other areas. Meanwhile, the Navy preparing to start a formal investigation - of the Scorpion's disappearance.

Latest from Florida; A report tonight that Hurricane Abby -- is shaping up as a blessing in ~~disguise~~⁹ disguise. Called a "minimal hurricane" when she hit shore at Punta Gord~~ia~~^a -- Abby disintegrating quickly into a "minimal storm." Sloshing across the Florida Peninsula -- registering scarcely a breeze in several places along the way. Bringing only welcome rain -- to parched citrus groves.

Mini-hurricane Abby proving again -- it's an ill wind that blows no good.

This is diff. - As it would say,
so long until tomorrow.

LOS ANGELES

June 5, 1968
Hughes Rudd

At Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles - the long wait continues tonight. As you doubt know - Senator Robert Kennedy still battling grimly for his life; against the effects of a twenty-two caliber bullet - fired point-blank at his head.

At last report - Senator Kennedy's condition listed as "extremely critical." With doctors predicting the next twelve to thirty-six hours - will be decisive. Adding that even if he lives - there is a possibility of extensive brain damage. Damage that could well affect - his eyesight, his speech, his consciousness.

A tragic ending - to a long and sometimes bitter primary campaign. All the more ironic - in that it capped a glorious celebration of the Senator's final California victory.

GUNMAN FOLLOW LOS ANGELES

The "why" of it all -- if there can be a reason for such a senseless act -- still a mystery tonight. Senator Kennedy's would-be assassin -- refusing to talk about the shooting -- refusing even to give his name.

And yet -- a possible motive finally ~~is~~ taking shape this afternoon; with identification of the gunman as one -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan -- age twenty-four; ~~an immigrant~~ ~~recent~~ to the U.S. -- originally born and raised in ~~immigrant from~~ the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem -- now occupied by Israel.

Observers noting that Kennedy addressed several Hebrew congregations -- during his ~~is~~ California campaign. On each occasion -- calling for Arab recognition of Israel; also calling for an end to Jordanian terrorist attacks -- against the Jewish state.

The shooting occurred, what's more, on the first anniversary -- of the start of that brief ~~is~~ Arab-Israeli war last June.

REACTION

Be that as it may -- shock waves from the Kennedy shooting -- are, of course, still reverberating across the country. Indeed -- right around the world.

In Washington -- President Johnson -- one of the first to react. Praying for the fallen Senator -- praying also "the divisiveness and violence" -- shall "be driven from the hearts of men -- everywhere." More than that -- the President ordering immediate Secret Service guards -- for all other Presidential candidates.

Across town on Capitol Hill -- the shooting further triggered^{ed} a clamor^{for} passage of the President's pending Anti-Crime Bill; including among its provisions -- tough new restrictions on the sale of hand guns.