

President

Thurs, Mar. 9-'67.

From <sup>the</sup> President ~~Johnson~~ to the Congress ~~of the~~

~~United States~~--a frank report today on Viet Nam. The president observing grimly--that this "tragic conflict continues unabated. But we are continuing our efforts untiringly"--he went on--"to seek a peaceful settlement through the United Nations and all other channels."

The President further expanding on the subject of Viet Nam--at a later news conference; when asked for comments on recent criticism--from Senator Robert Kennedy of New York.

There is "no longer any possibility of military victory on the part of North Viet Nam"--said the president. Further contending that Hanoi, therefore, is now struggling to achieve what he called--a "propaganda victory."

Even so, the president saying he is ready and willing to talk peace--under any conditions. Declaring flatly however, that he will not tie the hands of U. S. commanders in the field--by calling for an end to U. S. bombing raids on North Viet Nam.

(more)

President--2

The President adding, finally, that he will continue to guide U. S. policy in Viet Nam--in his own words--"without regard to personality--or politics." Such guidance to be based in part--said he--on another flying trip to the Pacific late this month--for high level diplomatic and military strategy talks.

MOSCOW

2/ More on the same subject from Moscow, where Soviet President Podgorny today accused Red China's chairman Mao Tse-Tung--of personally blocking all efforts toward a peaceful solution in Viet Nam.

This in direct opposition--to the wishes of North Viet Nam said Podgorny. Adding that Hanoi-- free of Mao's influence--would <sup>be</sup> more than ~~be~~ happy to begin peace talks; if the United States would agree in turn to an unconditional end of U. S. bombing raids.

3

## VIETNAM FOLLOW MOSCOW

The war itself -- marked today by the highest U.S. casualty toll thus far. With U.S. authorities in Saigon -- reporting two-hundred and thirty-two Americans killed in action last week, along with nearly fourteen-hundred -- wounded or missing.

The one consolation -- Viet Cong losses also extremely high. The enemy losing more than seventeen-hundred-men -- in the seven-day period ending Saturday.

## MT. MCKINLEY

Today the news from Mount McKinley -- up in Alaska, that the assault team did -- successfully complete the first winter ascent of America's loftiest summit. With all seven climbers now safely off the mountain.

Ray Genet, Dave Johnson and Art Davidson -- all of Anchorage Alaska were the three who made it to the top; twenty-thousand-three-hundred and twenty feet -- above sea level. Now we hear they then were pinned down for seven days -- at <sup>3</sup>the nineteen-thousand foot level. Finally lifted from the mountain late yesterday -- by rescue helicopter.

Expedition leader Greg Blomberg of Denver and John Edwards of Cleveland -- also were airlifted from a base camp at the eight thousand-two-hundred foot level. They are now the subject of special studies -- at the Arctic Institute at the University of Alaska. Scientists attempting to get a clear before and after picture -- of physical effects of mountain climbing.



MT. MCKINLEY--2

The other two -- Shiro Michinae and Dr. George Wichman -- both of Anchorage; who earlier flashed a distress signal -- from the ten thousand-two-hundred foot level; they also made it off the mountain today -- apparently in good shape.

The first winter conquest of that great peak -- taking a month in all. Costing one life, Jacques Batkin of Paris and Alaska -- the day after it began when he plunged into a crevasse. But now its all over -- a tremendous feat.

## MARINE

Another milestone today -- in Washington. In the form of a far-reaching plan -- for unlocking the treasures of the sea. This urged by the President -- in special message to Congress; the first ever -- dealing with oceanography; to help feed hungry millions throughout the world.

The President pledging his administration -- to explore and develop fully the resources of the sea.

NEW DELHI

Madame Indira Gandhi--the world's only lady prime minister--apparently back in the driver's seat today in New Delhi. As India's ruling Congress Party heads for a showdown Sunday--on who will run the country in the years ahead.

5  
Madame Gandhi's chief opponent for party supremacy--former Finance Minister Morarji Desai; who was also a candidate for Prime Minister last year--after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri. However, Desai as yet has been unable to ~~gather~~<sup>get</sup> enough support--to oust the lady from office. With late word saying he has agreed conditionally to accept the post of Deputy Prime Minister--providing he gets "meaningful" powers.

5 1/2  
The next move--apparently up to Mrs. Gandhi. Who has indicated that if she decides to accept the compromise--it will be solely in the interest of party unity.



ILKHYCHI

From the mountain village of Ilkhychi in the Soviet Union--the story today of Balakishi Orodzata-- a hundred and thirty years old; and his wife Amina-- a hundred and fourteen; who are currently celebrating their one-hundredth wedding anniversary.

Balakishi telling well-wishers--he could have had as many as four wives under old law; but he preferred-- just one. The old man explaining: "It is a wonderful century--that I have lived with my wife."

Faithful Amina agreeing ~~that~~ that it couldn't have been a happier marriage. This shown by the fact-- said she--that "all my daughters look older than I do."

*Warren*  
Amina herself--looking not a day over ninety--they say.

PARIS

A touch of irony -- in this latest from Paris. DeGaulle will personally present the medal -- to the American general whose military headquarters he has just ordered out of France.

General Lemnitzer -- to receive the French Legion of Honor. This apparently as a parting gesture from DeGaulle -- to indicate there are no hard feelings.

However, the ceremony is set to take place -- on or about April First -- April Fool's Day.