

LOWELL THOMAS
October 11, 1966

VIET NAM

Another grim horror of war--discovered today in Viet Nam. U.S. Air Cavalrymen--mopping up in the wake of Operation Irving on the central coast, stumbled across a Viet Cong--underground jungle prison; said to resemble nothing as much--as a "Little Dachau Death Camp."

As reconstructed by American officers--the Viet Cong were holding about Nineteen youthful Vietnamese--loyal to the Ky government; when American troops--began to close in.

Rather than surrender their prisoners--the Viet Cong chained them together; then dumped them into a big pit--where they cut them to pieces with maching guns, with a few hand grenades--apparently tossed in for good measure.

By the time American forces arrived--the Viet Cong had fled. The prisoners--all dead.

Even so the Communists responsible may have paid with their lives. American troops later encountering a force of

Viet Cong--just east of the death camp. Perhaps the same outfit--refusing to give up.

In the end--American troops killing thirty-three of the enemy--and capturing eight others; along with fifteen--suspected Viet Cong sympathizers.

MCNAMARA FOLLOW VIET NAM

Elsewhere in Viet Nam--U.S. Defense Secretary McNamara today completed a tour of American battle areas; attempting to determine for himself--precisely what it will take to win the Vietnamese war.

McNamara reportedly under heavy pressure from American commanders--to send more men. Meanwhile, a report that American troops presently on the scene--may be sent for the first time in force into the Mekong Delta;--long a virtual sanctuary for the Viet Cong.

PENTAGON

At the Pentagon -- the Army today announced plans for testing a revolutionary new weapon. A death-dealing device -- known as the "Maw" antitank guided missile system, ~~That~~ will make the American foot soldier -- the most powerful fighting man on the face of the earth -- if he isn't ^{that} already.

The "Maw" -- light enough to be carried by one man -- light enough to be shoulder-fired, ~~And~~ yet delivering a warhead -- big enough to destroy almost anything in its path. In short, the answer to a front-line soldier's dream -- of his own guided missile system.

Once it proves out -- the "Maw" to replace the Ninety millimeter recoilless rifle; currently used with such telling effect -- in Viet Nam.

DAMASCUS

Border tension between Syria and Israel--said to be at flash-point tonight. As the result of a series of week-end border raids--by Syrian terrorists who have left a trail of at least four Israeli dead--Seven wounded.

This latest; in a special broadcast from Radio Damascus--Syrian Premier Youssef Zayyen flatly refusing an Israeli demand --that he halt the border raids. The Premier adding that any retaliatory action--could set the borderland afire; and turn it--said he--"into a cemetery for Israel."

TAMPICO

"Hurricane Inez"--gone but not forgotten. Reports filtering in to Tampico today--telling of the destruction of two rural Mexican towns; in torrential rains and flash floods--that accompanied the death throes of the big storm.

The communities of Gonzalez and Estacion Manuel--all but swept away. Luckily, loss of life held to a minimum--by advance warning. But at least thirty-thousand--left homeless. Government officials quickly ordering an emergency air lift--to the stricken area.

On the brighter side--Mexican weather officials today reporting ahppily--that Inez has now "completely dissipated" herself--in the Sierra Madres.

MADRID

A sudden stir of controversy today -- at that Seventeenth International Astronautical Conference in Madrid. With Leonid Ivanovich Sedov -- so-called "Father of the Sputnik" -- at the eye of the storm.

Sedov quoted by the Spanish press -- as saying the first man on the moon would be a Russian, ^{and} ~~further, that he~~ would get there -- by the end of Nineteen-Sixty-Eight. A full year ahead of the American target date -- for landing a man on the moon.

Delegates promptly swarming around Sedov -- asking if the Russian lunar landing were really so close. Whereupon he angrily denied the story -- as a figment of someone's imagination. "I never predicted anything like that" -- said Sedov. Adding -- he never would.

MOSCOW FOLLOW MADRID

Speaking of space and such -- France and Russia today signed a new agreement in Moscow, providing for joint cooperation -- in space exploration and nuclear research. The pact a direct result -- of DeGaulle's heralded "mission to Moscow" last June.

The first joint space shot -- expected to be a French satellite on a Soviet rocket. French officials predicting it probably will take place -- sometime in Nineteen-Seventy. Further suggesting the spacecraft -- will probably be a lunar orbiter.

PEKING

Red China's militant Red Guards--at it agin today, this according to the next dispatch from Peking--by way of Tokyo.


Travelers from the mainland reporting that the young Communists--have just taken over a major Peking high school. With the help of a small band of teachers--driving the principal and his supporters from their teaching jobs. For alleged "interference"--in the Red Guards' announced attempts to "study the thought of Mao Tse Tung."

The principal still getting paid--but his job now--janitor. Teachers who supported him--similarly reassigned--we are told; to "sweeping floors--growing vegetables--and other so-called labor reform jobs."

WHITE HOUSE

President Johnson's on-again, off-again trip to New York -- for some Columbus Day political campaigning -- currently on again. The White House today announcing -- that the President will make a speech in Baltimore at noon tomorrow, After which he has made tentative travel arrangements -- to appear in New York later in the day -- in support of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Frank O'Connor.

It appeared earlier that the President might change his mind about the trip -- because of premature disclosure of his plans. The White House today emphasizing, however, that -- "he hopes to go -- he plans to go."



ADD WHITE HOUSE

A later report -- on that scheduled Baltimore speech.

Administration sources predicting that the President will call for an average increase -- of ~~ten~~ per cent in Social Security benefits.

If approved by Congress -- the new benefits to take effect next year.

CHICAGO

An organization unique in the annals of American education -- established today in Chicago. It's called -- the National College Admissions Clearing House. Its purpose -- to match prospective college students -- with available college space.

The clearing house sponsored by the non-profit -- Foundation for American Education. Its program set up with the cooperation -- of more than Seven Hundred participating colleges. Designed, hopefully, to ^{best} meet the needs of an estimated ² ~~Hundred~~ Thousand high school seniors ~~who~~ who will be trying to enter colleges and universities across the land next year.

NEW LONDON

At least twelve persons have jumped to their deaths in recent years--from the Gold Star Memorial Bridge in New London, Connecticut, to the point where headline writers now commonly refer to the span-- "Suicide Bridge."

Hence, a decision today to build a nine-foot fence--on either side of the bridge; in an effort to prevent any more from jumping off.

Highway Commissioner Howard Ives conceding that a person bent on jumping--will still find a way;"regardless of the barriers--placed in his or her path." Admitting, however, that he's willing to try anything--if it will end the bridge's present suicide rate.

CHAPLIN

Famed comedian Charlie Chaplin -- a man who has probably taken more falls on film -- than any other in the history of motion pictures. Which makes this next perhaps one of the most embarrassing events -- in a long and checkered career.

The Seventy-Seven-year-old funnyman -- hard at work finishing up his latest film today in London; when he tripped on a piece of loose turf -- and broke his right ankle. Which will remain in a cast -- for anywhere six-to-eight weeks.

1/2 Will it slow him down, you think? Not on your life. Charlie Chaplin immediately ordering a wheel chair -- so he can finish work on the film as promised; ² in ~~plenty of~~ time for its world premiere -- in January.

THE HAGUE

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands--said to be one of the richest women in the world. And a good thing--for it now appears she may have to dip into her own personal funds--to continue to support the royal Dutch family in the manner to which it has become accustomed.

Unable to muster the needed support--the government today withdrawing a request earlier made to Parliament; asking for a cost-of-living increase--in the Queen's personal allowance--an increase to a million-and-a-half a year. Which means that of for now, at least--the Queen must make do--with her present Seven Hundred Thousand a year, Hal--and so long until tomorrow.