GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A supersonic battle today -- high in the skies over

North Viet Nam; an aerial duel between America's best fighter

-- a U.S. Air Force Phantom jet -- and Russia's best -
a souped-up Mig-Twenty-One.

Winner -- the Phantom jet. Blasting its Russian-made opponent -- with a heat-seeking Sidewinder missile. This the first Mig-Twenty-One shot down so far in the Vietnamese war.

No clue -- as to the nationality of the pilot. Informed sources in London insisting, however -- that he was probably a North Vietnamese; rather than a Chinese -- as first suspected.

In any case -- a warning today from the U.S. State

Department to the effect that if Red Chinese air bases are

ever used in the war effort -- they will find "no sanctuary"

from American retaliation.

Defense Secretary McNamara -- back on the Congressional griddle today; in that continuing controversy over the size of the U.S. manned bomber force; also his decision -- to delay construction of a new strategic bomber.

Secretary McNamara -- who yesterday accused Congressman of painting a "shockingly distorted picture" of Pentagon decisions -- today was himself accused of insulting and impugning The House Armed Services Committee. The charge -- from Congressman Headbert of Louisiana; who also challenged McNamara's apparent contention -- that the Joint Chiefs of Staff support him fully on the bomber question. "That" -- saidCongressman Hebert -- "is not only misleading but completely untrue."

On a related issue -- the Senate Armed Services Committee today urging Congress -- to overrule the recommendation of Secretary McNamara: by approving an appropriation of a Hundred and Sixty-Eight million dollars -- to speed the development

of an anti-missile system.

PRESBYTERIANS

Another forward step today by the Southern Presbyterian

Church -- in convention at Montreat, North Carolina. The

Southern Presbyterians voting to join in an Ecumenical Council

--with Seven other major Protestant denominations, Including

the African Episcopal Church -- largest of all Negro

denominations. All of them -- agreed to eventual union.

Purpose of the council -- said a convention resolution:
"To explore the establishment of a united church -- truly
catholic -- truly evangelical -- and truly reformed."

A devastating explosion followed by raging fire today -at a cottonseed oil plant in the city of India of Armitavi:
some three Hundred miles -- east of Bombay. The combination
destroying the plant itself -- and causing heavy damage in
a surrounding workers' village.

Early reports indicating some Twenty known dead -- another twenty missing -- and more than Sixty injured. Several so badly hurt -- they were not expected to live. Cause of the blast -- as yet unknown.

At Tashkent in Soviet Central Asia -- a pair of powerful earthquakes today. One at dawn -- called the worst there in a hundred years. Another at dusk -- in the midst of efforts to clean up initial damage.

Four killed -- in the first tremor. The injured -- totaling at least a Hundred and Fifty more. No figures as yet -- on the second.

Russia's two top leaders -- Premier Kosygin and Communist

Party Leader Brezhnev -- were both in Tashkent at the time

of the second quake having flown to the city with a special

emergency commission -- personally to supervise recovery

operations from the earlier quake.

HEART

disease.

At Houston -- a tragic ending today to the story of Marcel DeRudder, The former coal miner from Westville,
Illinois -- who lived for nearly five days with an artificial heart imbedded in his chest.

In short -- the operation a success -- but the patient died. Marcel De Rudder -- Sixty-Five -- succumbing suddenly and unexpectedly this morning. A later autopsy disclosing cause of death -- as a ruptured left lung.

The same autopsy confirming however, that his artificial heart -- was doing precisely what was expected of it. Dr.

Michael DeBakey -- who implanted the instrument -- reporting that it worked perfectly up to the time of death. Taking over most of the work of DeRudder's damaged heart -- Permitting the organ to begin healing itself.

To that extend, at least -- a medical miracle, with the promise of new hope for millions -- suffering from heart

UNITED NATIONS

Dr. James M. M Nabrit Jr. -- a prominent Negro educator-today named America's Number Two man at the United Nations. To
Succeeding the retiring Charles W. Yost -- as Deputy U. S.
Representative to the U. N.

Dr. Nabrit -- currently on leave from Howard University-will also continue in his present assignment; that of Deputy
U.S. Representative -- to the U. N. Security Council.

JAKARTA

For a change -- a non-violent victory today for militant anti-Communist students -- in Indonesia. The students forcing Russia to close a Lenin exhibit -- at the Soviet Cultural Center in Jakarta. Merely by threatening to prevent people-- from coming in.

The Russians -- at first refusing to close the exhibit; on grounds that it was technically on Russian territory -- in full "accordance with international law." What's more -- the Russians quickly provided with an Army guard; under strict orders -- to prevent the students from destroying Russian property.

Nevertheless -- no visitors; and by mid-afternoon -- a terse announcement from the Russian Embassy. The statement simply -- "we shall lock the door."

Here's the news we've been waiting for -- only it isn't what we wanted.

At Rome -- final selection today by the International
Olympic Committee; of scheduled sites -- for the NineteenSeventy-Two Olympics. The winter games? To be held at
Sapporo -- in Japan the summer games -- at Munich.

It's been said in the past that the things we like best-are either illegal, immoral or fattening. Now it appears -they may also be radioactive.

This according to a report today -- from a couple of government scientists ... Who have found that some of man's favorite beverages -- attack the reproductive centers of animal cells in much the same way -- as atomic radiation.

Coffee, for example -- said to be one of the prime offenders. With liquor -- even worse. One ounce of alcohol a day -- said to do as much harm to your chromosomes -- as a One-Roentgen dose of gamma radiation a week.

In case you're wondering - that's Ten times the maximum permissible dose -- for employees of the Atomic Energy Commission,

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King Faisal of Saudia Arabia -- today received a White
House invitation to visit the United States. Pending completion
of details -- the trip tentatively set for some time in June.

The king -- an occasional visitor to the United States -when he was crown prince. This, however, to be his first
state visit to America -- since succeeding his half-brother
Saud to the throne -- in Nineteen-Sixty-Four.