

Friday, January 26, 1973

WHITE HOUSE

*In the pursuit of peace in Vietnam - the beginning of the end. President Nixon proclaiming seven o'clock eastern time, tomorrow night - a "national moment of prayer and thanksgiving." The precise moment - when the guns of war are scheduled to fall silent; to be followed over the next twenty-four hours - by a "national day of prayer and thanksgiving."*

*A long and trying ordeal has ended - said the President; "our nation has achieved its goal - of peace with honor in Vietnam. "As a people with deep and abiding faith - he continued - "we know that no great work can be accomplished - without the aid and inspiration of Almighty God." And thus - he said - "no time could be more fitting - for grateful prayer and meditation."*

*The President also urging "all men and women of good will - to join in a "prayerful hope" - the hope - said*

he - "that this moment marks not only the end of the war  
in Vietnam - but the beginning of a new era of world peace  
and understanding for all mankind."

## PENTAGON

*In the same vein the Pentagon was laying plans today - for "Operation Home Coming" - with special medical evacuation teams - assigned the task of picking up freed American prisoners some of whom will now be coming home - we are told - "the first week in February."*

*It was also suggested that President Nixon might be on hand - to greet the first of the returning prisoners.*

*The Pentagon stressed, "this is not a ceremony or fanfare operation." "It is designed to get the men in medical channels - and home with their families as quickly as possible."*

## ROGERS FOLLOW PENTAGON

*Meanwhile, Secretary of State William Rogers - was flying today to Paris; as you know, there to sign an official cease fire agreement - as of tomorrow morning.*

*Rogers issuing a brief departure statement - saying: "By the time I return to the U S tomorrow the cease fire will be in effect throughout Vietnam. We hope and expect - he continued - "that shortly the cease fire will be in effect in Laos and Cambodia too; and that finally - this long and difficult war will come to an end."*

*Rogers adding: "We hope that this does usher in - a generation of peace."*

## PARIS

*Hanoi's Le Duc Tho was departing Paris today.*

*The man who spent so many long hours with Henry Kissinger - telling reporters: "My task is over - "I'm going home."*

*But more than that - Le Duc Tho noted with great emotion: "Tomorrow the guns will be silent and peace will return to Vietnam." This is "a great victory" - he continued - "for the Vietnamese and for peace-loving people throughout the world. And we look forward - he added - "to developing friendly relations with all peoples of the world - including the American people."*

## AGNEW FOLLOW PARIS

~~Here at home again - an announcement~~  
*Vice Pres.*  
~~today that Spiro~~ Agnew will be leaving Sunday on  
a special tour of Southeast Asia. The Vice President  
to engage in so-called substantive discussions, with  
the leaders of South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia,  
Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. This -  
said the White House an attempt to "reaffirm our  
desire for peace and self determination - ~~and~~ for  
all the countries of Southeast Asia .

On the domestic front - the White House  
also announced that President Nixon will make a  
nationwide radio address - Sunday night ~~there~~ to  
discuss a proposed budget of nearly two ~~hundred~~ hundred  
and sixty <sup>eight</sup> billion - for fiscal seventy-three.  
The President reportedly planning a number of  
major cutbacks - in order to curb spending ~~in~~  
and thereby avert a tax increase.

## VESTMANNAEYJAR

The town of Vestmannaeyjar on the island of Heimaey -- once the fishing capital of Iceland - now a virtual ghost town - ~~with~~ its streets knee deep in volcanic ash; as the neighboring Helgafjell volcano - continues its violent eruption.

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Indeed, the volcano spewing forth - several new streams of lava today. Officials adding that more eruptions could come at any time - perhaps even in the center of town; which remains still standing -- we are told -- only because most of its buildings are made of concrete.

What about the possibility of bombing the volcano? They're considering it - but they're also fearful of making matters worse. The damage at Vestmannaeyjar even now - running around a ~~one~~ hundred and forty million; and this at a time when Iceland's economy is already shaky - due to a string of bad fishing seasons.

NEW DELHI

Today in New Delhi - a spectacular parade in ~~celebrating~~ celebration of India's twenty-fifth annual republic day; the twenty-fifth anniversary of its ~~independence~~ independence from Great Britain, <sup>in 1948,</sup> The total procession - covering more than six miles; including six gaily caparisoned elephants - numerous floats and hundreds of folk dancers; along with bands and marching units - representing virtually every ~~for~~ branch of federal service - military and civilian.

There was also an impressive display - of India's new found military might; including surface to surface ~~with~~ missiles such as used in defeating Pakistan just a little over a year ago; plus a new ship to air ~~in~~ missile called the "Sea Cat;" as well as torpedoes that can search out and destroy enemy submarines. All of which



**was proudly reviewed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and President V. V. Giri. Chief among the foreign guests by the way: Madame Valentina Tereshkova of the Soviet Union - up to now, the first and only woman cosmonaut.**

## **BRUSSELS**

*From Nato headquarters in Brussels*

*a report today that Russia has greatly reduced the size of its Mediterranean fleet; from a top figure of about eighty ships a year or so ago - to a present size of about forty ships. This said to reflect an outwardly modest attitude - with regard to the current mis-East situation.*

## JERUSALEM FOLLOW BRUSSELS

Speaking of which a warning today from Israel's ~~αα~~ armed forces chief of staff. General David Elazar warning that Egypt "would very much like to renew hostilities" - in hopes of improving its bargaining position. Observing that said hostilities might take the form of "another war of attrition." Elazar stressed, however, that such a development - would be considered a direct challenge; and Israel would then set as its goals - said he - "a speedy and decisive victory."

Elazar adding that this alone - might serve as a deterrent. Egypt's leaders are well aware - "said he - "that they are liable to get hit much harder than they intended."

L B J

Lyndon Baines Johnson so well remembered!

So well, in fact, that the New York Times <sup>today</sup> printed ~~today~~ some of the stories that his friends were recalling fondly in the wake of his death.

For example, the former President always refusing to be photographed wearing his glasses.

When a cameraman once told him "there's nothing wrong with glasses" ~~LBJ~~ L B J replying: "Ah, but it's much nicer without them - the women <sup>they</sup> never get over thirty-five!"

Another time - the former President inspecting some troops bound for Vietnam. When he was finished - he began to walk toward a long line of ~~helicopters~~ helicopters. A young corporal saluting smartly saying: "~~Mr.~~ "Mr. President your helicopter is over here." Whereupon L B J replied: "Son, they're all my helicopters."

Perhaps the most poignant though - a story dealing with a TV show on the night of his death. Hubert Humphrey and former White ~~House~~ House aide Joseph Califano -- discussing L B J's constant use of the telephone. Noting he had phones in his car, in his bath room, ~~practically~~ everywhere. And seemed always to be calling someone -- friend or foe.

And just then - the phone rang in the TV studio. Hubert Humphrey saying: "Don't be surprised if that's him calling now."

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NEW YORK

New York - the third largest diamond ever discovered - was placed on display today at the American Museum of Natural History. The fabled Star of Sierra Leone; which weighs nearly a thousand ~~karats~~ karats making its last official appearance totally intact. Harry ~~W~~ Winston of New York planning to cut it up shortly - thereby obtaining about four hundred karats of finished diamonds ~~and~~ in various shapes and sizes. - and as Anita Loos said - "still a girl's best friend!" of 2-Mon.