

PEACE

Wed. May 1st '68.

In Washington -- Saigon -- around the world -- a sudden resurgence of peace fever today; With President Johnson -- accepting an offer from Indonesia. An offer to provide a neutral ship for preliminary peace talks -- ^{that is, a ship to be put} somewhere in international waters off the Gulf of Tonkin. The White House observing that "both the United States and North Vietnam -- have ambassadors in Indonesia." Adding that "a neutral ship on the neutral sea -- would be a good meeting place."

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Reaction from Hanoi -- so far -- none. Indeed, many insisting that North Vietnam must reject the offer -- because of Indonesia's recent record of anti-Communism. Still the hope persists that this may finally be the key to ^{Solving The now} ~~to breaking the~~ four-week deadlock on a peace ~~talk~~ ^{talk} site.

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New York's Governor Rockefeller -- off and running today for the Republican nomination for President. A surprise write-in victory in Massachusetts *to cheer ~~him~~ him on* his way to Philadelphia; where the governor broke at last -- his long silence on the war in Vietnam.

Nelson Rockefeller declaring that U.S. planners -- have been guilty of "Americanizing" the war. This the result of a "misconception" -- said he; a misconception -- "that victory depended on control of territory." Result -- *I* said ~~he~~ Nelson Rockefeller: An "open-ended escalation -- easily matched by Hanoi Peking and Moscow;" leading to "stalemate -- at an ever-higher level of violence."

The only solution ^{*now?*} -- ~~is~~ peace through negotiation -- said he. ^{*Further indicating that*} ~~Adding that~~ dissident elements in South Vietnam -- must be represented in any future government.

SAIGON FOLLOW PHILADELPHIA

For saying much the same thing -- halfway round the globe -- South Vietnamese Truong Dinh Dzu was tossed in the clink today in Saigon. Truong Dinh Dzu -- an opposition "peace" candidate -- who ran second in last year's Presidential election. Under arrest now for questioning -- in connection with ^{his} recent statements [✓] urging establishment of a coalition government -- including members of the so-called National Liberation Front. This -- as you know -- the political arm of the Viet Cong.

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DA NANG FOLLOW SAIGON

To the North -- at Da Nang -- South Vietnamese President Thieu was vowing today to fight on; even if the United States and other allies -- should suddenly decide to pull out. While back in Saigon -- Vice President Ky was attacking Senators McCarthy and Kennedy. Asserting that both would change their views on the war if they ever visited Viet Nam to see what was really going on.

And still -- the fighting continues. American paratroopers decimating a full enemy battalion -- just north of Hue. Apparently thwarting a planned May Day attack -- on the old imperial capital.

endurance -- which has seen this country through every crisis.

WHITE HOUSE

Here at home -- at the White House -- a rare double award ceremony today. President Johnson presenting the nation's highest decoration -- the Medal of Honor -- to two Army infantrymen. Captain Robert Foley of Newton, Massachusetts, and Sergeant John Baker Junior of Moline, Illinois -- both from the same company; both cited for exceptional courage -- in the same combat action in Vietnam.

The President noting that "we are now pursuing the hope of peace -- with all the resources at our command." "But until honorable peace is a reality" -- said he -- "we must continue to depend on the qualities of courage and endurance -- which have seen this country through every crisis."

HOUSE

For President Johnson's long-awaited tax increase -- a giant step today toward Congressional approval. On the strength of a new White House economy plan -- expected to trim the Federal budget by some Eighteen Billion.

The House Appropriations Committee -- first to accept the new spending guidelines. With Chairman Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee -- now expected to speed action on the stalled tax bill. Mills earlier refusing to act on the tax measure -- until there were substantial cuts in Federal spending.

CAIRO

In Cairo -- Egypt's foreign minister today branded as a complete failure *all* United Nations efforts to work out a Mideast peace settlement. Jordan's young King Hussein -- also said to feel there is little hope for the U.N. peace bid. Nevertheless, Hussein reportedly sending a personal message -- to Egypt's Colonel Nasser, Urging Nasser not to "kill off" the U.N. peace mission -- as long as there's still a chance, however faint.

LANSING

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At Lansing, Michigan -- a victory today for motorcyclists -- a setback for safety. The Michigan State Court of Appeals declaring unconstitutional -- a law that motorcyclists must wear protective helmets. On grounds that the law has no relationship -- "to ~~the~~ public health, safety and welfare;" since its only purpose -- is "protection of the individual motorcyclist from himself."

The court thus declaring, ^g in effect: It's okay to risk your own life -- as long as you don't endanger anybody else. In other words -- to each his own.

ARLINGTON

Next up -- a pair of items, illustrating the winds of change -- currently sweeping across the ^{new} South.

In the Lone Star State -- the University of Texas at Arlington -- voting to stop using the Confederate flag as a school banner -- as of July One. Also voting to phase out the name "Rebels" -- as U.T.A.'s nickname.

Meanwhile, in Memphis -- it was curtains for "Hambone's Meditations"; a syndicated cartoon feature more than half a-century old -- featuring a Negro full of home-spun wisdom. Mrs. Nona Alley Jackson -- who sort of inherited the cartoon from her father-in-law -- explaining that "times are changing fast." She added that Hambone himself -- would have consoled his mourners as follows:

"Dry dem tears. You cain't see de road // wid yo' eyes full o' cryin'. De Lawd leads de way -- fuh de folks what's a-tryin'."

NUDE

A new "secret weapon" for the Viet Cong--was bared for the first time today by the Sea Tiger--a U.S. Marine publication. The Sea Tiger telling of nude girls--swimming in pools and lurking in dark doorways; serving as bait for amorous G.I.'s--who soon find themselves in the arms of the enemy.

The Sea Tiger warning Leathernecks to--"look-^{- but} don't touch;" as the best means of thwarting this tactic of--"seduce and destroy."