

Monday, March 31, 1975  
Stuart Novins

*From Palm Springs.....*

*From Indochina.....*

*From Cairo.....comes today's news. I'm Stuart  
Novins, CBS News sitting in for Lowell Thomas, and  
reporting on the CBS Radio Network.*

*The White House says President Ford feels the  
disasters in South Vietnam are the result of North  
Vietnamese violation of the Paris peace accords - and the  
failure of Congress to give South Vietnam the additional  
military aid the President had requested.*

*News Secretary Ron Nessen said today Mr. Ford  
feels the Congressional rejection hurt the morale of the  
South Vietnamese Army.*

**VIETNAM**

*Defense Secretary Schlesinger says the Pentagon expects a major communist thrust against Saigon itself within the next month or so. Field reports indicate the Communist are advancing rapidly now against South Vietnam's lower coast - with little or no opposition from government forces.*

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*Dependents of American official personnel in Saigon are being helped by the U. S. Embassy to leave the South Vietnamese capital if they wish. There is no official evacuation yet.*

## QUI NON

*Within a few hours, American ships will begin another evacuation attempt - this time in the city of Qui Non. About one-hundred-thousand refugees have swollen the city's normal population of about two-hundred-thousand. Qui Non is now under threat of Communist advances.*

LON NOL

*Cambodia's President Lon Nol said goodbye today to government and military colleagues in Phnom Penh. He is leaving. He said that might clear the way for a peace settlement.*

*His departure is expected to set off a major re-shuffling in the government, to produce a coalition that can negotiate with the insurgents.*

*More after this....*

## CAIRO

*Reports from Cairo say Egypt has formally requested the Soviet Union to re-open the Geneva Middle East peace conference. A similar request is said to be en route to the United States Government. Moscow and Washington are co-chairmen of the conference.*

*In Washington, the State Department is reportedly trying to get some informal and indirect communication going between Egyptian and Israeli representatives. It's said to be a very limited exploration on the way the Geneva talks should be handled - and on some of the substance of the negotiations.*

**ELK HILLS**

*President Ford was touring today - the Elk Hills naval oil reserve field in California. Spokesman Ron Nessen says the President was "demonstrating his interest - in tapping" the Elk Hills reserve. This, in order "to build up a Billion barrel reserve for civilian use in case of emergency - plus Three Hundred Million barrels for military use."*

**WASHINGTON**

*The U.S. Ambassadors to Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria - have all been summoned home for "consultations."*  
*This, as part of the reassessment of the U.S. policy in the Middle East - ordered last week by President Ford.*

## VATICAN

*At the Vatican in Rome - Pope Paul made a surprise appearance today - at the window of his study overlooking St. Peter's Square. The Pontiff addressed some of the tens of thousand of pilgrims - to whom he earlier expressed an Easter wish for peace; his thoughts - again returning to international crises. The Pope prayed for an end to the "sorrowful conflicts," as he put it - "that deny so many promises of world peace."*



**JUSTICE**

*From the FBI - a report today shows a seventeen per cent increase in major crime - in Nineteen-Seventy-Four. This was the biggest increase since the present rating system was first installed. Attorney General Edward Levi says: "There are many causes" for such a jump - "but among them is the failure of our system to move quickly and effectively - to detect and punish offenders."*

## KATMANDU

*The wife and youngest daughter of Sir Edmund Hillary, first man to conquer Mount Everest - were killed today in Nepal aboard a plane that crashed shortly after takeoff from Katmandu Airport. The pilot and two others - also killed. The plane was en route to the slopes of Mount Everest - where Hillary is currently supervising the construction of a school and a hospital for Nepalese Sherpas.*

**BOSTON**

*The Massachusetts state government - is somewhat hard-pressed for money these days. And so the introduction of a bill today in the State Legislature - to abolish, this year, the month of June. The bill's sponsor says the money 'hus saved - could then be used to pay expenses for April and May.*

*Stuart Novins for CBS News.*