

CHILE L.T. - *Dispatch File* Aug 12, 1965

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From Santiago - a report today that at least twenty-five persons have died in Chile - in the last three days, ~~As~~ the result of a ~~xx~~ series of violent storms - that have given the country its worst stretch of winter in some thirty years.

In all, twenty-two of Chile's twenty-five provinces - hit by heavy rains and gale-like winds. With flood deaths reported at Vallenar, Coyhaique, Curico and Valparaiso - as well as Santiago. High seas ~~are~~ also causing heavy damage - at such coastal cities as Talcahuano and Antofagasta.

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The weather blamed, what's more - for that double avalanche. The one that took the ~~xxx~~ lives of five ^{patrolmen} ski ~~guards~~ yesterday - at Chile's world-famous ^{high-Andean} Portillo ski resort.

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FUNERAL

For the first time - a code of good practices was put forward today - by the National Selected Morticians Society. One that would require its eight hundred members to offer low-cost burial services to anyone who wants them. Also, to furnish a detailed accounting - of all funeral expenses.

Copies of the code - submitted to the White House, ^{and} the Senate anti-Trust Committee, ^{also} and the Federal Trade Commission - for final approval. Today's action - the result of widespread criticism of pricing practices in the funeral industry.

SINGAPORE

Confusion in Singapore - was compounded still further today. By a government announcement - disassociating Singapore from the southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

Singapore's attitude toward Seato - "not one of understanding or sympathy" - said Foreign Minister Rejaratnam. Adding that thus - Britain will be permitted to retain its military bases in Singapore. But on condition that it use them for Seato purposes - only when such purposes coincide with the interests of Singapore.

When might that be? When they are "purely defensive purposes" - said Rajaratnam. Meaning, apparently - only if Singapore itself were under enemy attack.

WHEAT

Russia's decision to purchase wheat abroad is seen as the possible harbinger of another crop failure and this was confirmed today in Moscow -- by a report that Russia does expect a poor harvest.

Also Russia's preoccupation with agricultural problems is seen as at least partly responsible for its refusal to be drawn further into the Vietnamese conflict.

GOLDBERG.

Arthur Goldberg today flew from Washington to New York, to confer with Secretary General U Thant -- on the U N's continuing financial crisis. The talk -- ~~last~~ lasting more than an hour. With Goldberg -- said to have outlined a new U.S. stand on the East-West stalemate -- that has deadlocked the U.N. for nearly a year. As to what out stand is -- no official word as yet. But today -- a famous British newspaper, The Guardian stated flatly that America has given up its fight -- to force payment by Russia, France and other U.^N. delinquents. Goldberg to announce this decision Monday -- said the Guardian -- adding -- "In the almost cast-iron knowledge that Russia and France -- will make substantial voluntary contributions" to the U.N.

TRAIN

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Across the Atlantic - the crack trans-Europe
express today crashed into a standing freight train - near
Frankfurt in West Germany. Three Europeans dead -
three seriously injured - in the resulting tangle of
wreckage.

A number of American tourists ~~also~~ on board the
~~train~~ as usual at this time of year, ~~but they~~ escaped,
~~relatively unscathed.~~

VIET NAM FOLLOW LODGE

Meanwhile, A U S Navy jet was shot down today
= about fifty miles from the North Vietnamese capital of
Hanoi. Returned pilots reporting that it looked as if
it had been hit - by a surface - to air missile. If true^{it is}
the second U S plane so downed - in less than a month.

Back on the ground - a force of American
paratroopers and infantrymen - dug in today at Pleiku,
Following an overnight airlift - to the big government
stronghold in the Central Highlands. They will eventually
join and reinforce the government column - that fought
its way into nearby Duc Co only last night.

Their job - to secure vital highway Nineteen.
Pleiku's chief supply route - to the coast.

LODGE FOLLOW HOOVER

The President also attended a White House ceremony today - at which Henry Cabot Lodge was sworn in for a second time - as U S Ambassador to Viet Nam.

The President taking this occasion - to knock down a statement earlier attributed to Lodge. One ~~xx~~ to the effect that the U S would keep its military forces in Viet Nam - even if the Vietnamese government should now request that they be withdrawn.

Said the President: American fighting men would not be in South Vietnam - if the Saigon government had not wanted them and asked for them. "We are there" he ~~sa~~ went on - "only to help the people and their government ~~at~~ to help themselves."

As for Lodge - he was asked about the disputed statement and replied simply: "I didn't say it."

HOOVER

In Washington - it was open house at the White House today. The President inviting prominent Republicans - to join in a special tribute to the late Herbert Hoover.

As highlight of the occasion - the President signing into law a bill, ^{aside} That will set ~~up~~ the Herbert Hoover National Historic site - at West Branch, Iowa, Where the one-time President was born - and where he was buried just a year ago. *This a national shrine.*

Herbert Hoover - a man who knew no pettiness. Who endured the cruelties of public life - without becoming embittered. "A big man, a dedicated man, a good man - above all, a devout and honest and ^{com}~~x~~passionate man."

So said the President. And so indeed - he was.

PAY

Congress today voted its final approval - of that billion dollar military pay raise. With a special bonus - for U S fighting men in Viet Nam.

The President expected to sign the bill - before the end of the month. If he does - it'll mean bigger pay envelopes - for more than four million U. S. military personnel, starting September First.

SKEGNESS

The city Fathers of Skegness - a popular British sea resort - were up in arms today. Over an invasion of novelty salesmen. Hawking cans that are said to contain - quote "bracing sea air from Skegness" -- unquote.

One whiff of the so-called Skegness air - supposed to stimulate the appetite, increase vitality, soothe frayed nerves ~~and~~ give new zest to life, But "this is ridiculous" - says the Skegness City Council. Calling it a crass commercial attempt - to capitalize on the resort's healthful reputation.

One councilman noting that worst of all - the cans were processed in London, ~~And~~ therefore contain no skegness air at all. Just plain old London smog. And that never did anybody any good - said he.