

L. T. -- MONDAY, MAY 16, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

First, a salute to Dallas Townsend for taking my place while I have been on the other side of the Atlantic. I flew in late today to find a news dispatch on my desk saying that in Washington the President has been conferring with advisers throughout the day, and at conclusion of the meetings -- calling for continued U.S. effort to unify "all non-Communist elements in South Viet Nam." Also - said he -- "to carry forward the movement - toward a Constitutional government."

The President emphasizing -- that our overall goal remains the same. Now as before -- "to defeat Communist aggression and social misery in South Viet Nam" - said he.

VIET NAM

Meanwhile

~~That~~ latest crisis in Viet Nam -- continues, ~~unabated~~
~~tonight~~. Militant Buddhist leaders -- defying government
forces in Hue and occupied Da Nang. Calling a big general
strike -- a smaller hunger strike -- and threatening to permit
the self-immolation of three elderly monks.

In addition -- the Buddhists urging the United States --
to end once and for all its support of Premier Ky. Promising--
if their plea is ignored -- to fight Ky's military government--
"to the last drop of blood." With but one goal -- to save
South Viet Nam from what they called -- "savage, cruel
betrayal."

In line with the threat -- loyal troops digging in tonight
at Da Nang; against the possibility of a surprise counter
attack -- by die-hard Buddhist soldiers.

WAR FOLLOW VIET NAM

At the same time
Meanwhile, ~~almost incredibly~~ -- the war goes on. Loyal South Vietnamese Rangers -- today storming a Viet Cong base camp in the Mekong Delta. Seizing a Twenty-bed jungle hospital -- and a Communist arms factory. While allied units were storming a nearby Communist village -- and setting a trap for Communist marauders. The combined operation claiming a total of Thirty-Seven enemy lives -- as against one government casualty -- a wounded Ranger.

On the debit side -- Communist terrorists hurling hand grenades today -- at four police check-points in suburban Saigon. At least Fourteen persons -- including an American serviceman -- are said to have been wounded in the flurry of attacks. One of the terrorists -- also reported killed.

RUSSELL

Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee -- was the target of a blistering speech today on the Senate floor. This by Senator Russell, Chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee; opposing an attempt by the Fulbright committee -- to join in supervision of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senator Russell -- who heads the CIA watchdog committee by virtue of his Armed Services chairmanship -- calling the present set-up entirely adequate. Further asserting that a charge the CIA "has attempted to make -- or fix -- foreign policy" -- is nothing but "pure poppycock." Senator Russell adding flatly: "Unless our committee has been derelict -- there is no justification for any other committee muscling in."

STRIKE

British Labor Minister Ray Gunter went before Parliament today -- with a public appeal to the striking British seamen's union. Urging a return to work -- pending a full government investigation of the strike situation. One -- said he -- that "would look into the whole range of working conditions at sea."

The appeal, however -- apparently for naught. The strike -- at last report -- still on. And rapidly posing the greatest threat to Britain's economic lifeline -- since World War Two. In notice of the dispute -- the pound sterling slipping back nine points today -- on the foreign exchange market. →

ADD STRIKE

In a later television address to the nation -- Prime Minister Harold Wilson, ^{today} ~~promising~~ ^{if} to take whatever action necessary -- to end the strike. But what that might be -- he didn't say.

KOSGYIN

Soviet Premier Kosygin -- still in Egypt, spoke today to a political rally at Cairo University -- the bitterest attack against the United States -- of his current tour in the land of the Nile.

Kosygin asserting that alleged American aggression in Viet Nam-- is part of a world-wide "imperialist policy;" reminiscent "of the Hitlerites and imperialists" -- of World War Two. Adding that the war in Viet Nam -- is a "shameful War;" with American "intruders" -- destined to meet "a shameful end."

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency Tass -- today released contents of a message from Egypt's Col. Nasser -- to North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh. The message -- obviously timed to Kosygin's visit; applauding Ho Chi Minh and his fellow countrymen for what he called their "heroic mission."

MOSCOW FOLLOW KOSYGIN

Back in Moscow -- a trio of royal visitors from the Far East. King Savang Vathana arriving today from Laos -- along with his queen and Crown Prince Savang. En route to a vacation on the Black Sea.-- at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

King Savang Vathana saying he was there -- simply "for a rest." Laotian Premier Souvanna Phouma -- who had been expected to accompany his king -- and confer with Soviet officials -- seems to have stayed at home.

MALAYSIA

Cautious optimism -- the order of the day today at Kuala Lumpur; following a further weekend easing of the three-year-old confrontation -- between Indonesia and Malaysia.

Sukarno quoted Sunday as saying he is ready to talk peace-- with Malaysian Prime Minister ^{Sultan} ~~Prince~~ Abdul Rahman, ~~The Prime Minister~~ today calling this -- "very good news." Adding -- "I am willing -- and will be happy to meet with President Sukarno."

The meeting -- if held -- would be the first between the two opposing leaders -- in nearly two years.

MOBILE

From Mobile, Alabama -- the story today of a woman -- with a bullet-proof smile.

Mrs. Ella Mae Morris -- in the midst of a lover's quarrel with her husband; when he pulled out a Twenty-Two pistol -- and fired point blank at her face. Certain death -- or so it seemed. Except that the bullet knocked out three of her lower front teeth -- and then dropped harmlessly to the floor.

To top it ~~xxx~~ off -- Mrs. Morris refusing to press charges.

~~Warren~~
Instead, returning to the arms of her husband -- when he promised to buy her a set of false teeth.

CAPE

At Cape Kennedy -- Astronauts Tom Stafford and Gene Cernan were given a final "go" today -- for the flight of the Gemini-Nine. A storm that was said to be brewing in the Atlantic recovery area -- vanishing just as quickly as it appeared. Clearing the last natural obstacle to lift-off -- scheduled for shortly after noon tomorrow.

If all goes as planned -- the flight to include another spacewalk -- with Astronaut Cernan even to attempt a handstand atop the space capsule; along with a scientific hunt -- aimed at recovering any living organisms -- that may be floating around up there in space.

It may be America's most ambitious space venture to date. Tomorrow the plan is -- another walk in space.