With the advent of Christmas Week - a new hope today for peace on an earth. The United States officially asking United Nations Secretary General U. Thant - to "take whatever steps necessary" to get the ball rolling - toward a lasting ceasefire in Viet Nam.

The American appeal - delivered by U S Ambassador

Arthur Goldberg; following weekend consultation - with

President President Johnson and U S Ambassador to Saigon

Henry Cabot Lodge.

Carben.- Goldberg promising that the United States will

"cooperate fully in getting" peace talks started - "and

in bringing them to a successful conclusion." Our only

objective - said he - "remains the end of all fighting
of all hostilities - and of all violence in Viet nam; and

an honorable and lasting settlement there" - based, hopefully,

on "the Geneva agreements of Nineteen Fifty-four and

Nineteen Sixty Two."

VIET NAM FOLLOW BOX UNITED NATIONS

In the meantime - business as usual today in Viet that is, Nam; the business - of war.

US jet bombers returning to the Hanoi area for the first time since those controversial air raids
of last week. Blasting an oil dump at Ha Gia - less than
fifteen miles from the Red capital.

American military spokesmen later reporting all the bombs - "on target". An apparent attempt to counter in advance any Communist claims - of another alleged attack on innocent civilians in Hanoi proper.

VIET NAM FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS - 2

Far to the south - fourteen hundred fresh American these troops arrived today at Vung Tau; the vanguard of fifteen thousand men - of the Ninth Infantry Division. With 5-8 military Commander General William Westmoreland - on hand to greet his old outfit.

The Ninth Infantry reportedly destined for duty in the Mekong Delta. The only remaining region in Viet

Nam - where the Viet Cong are comparatively safe from

American ground attack.

In New York -- still another round today -- in the "battle of the book." With the chairman of the publishing house of Harper and Row, vowing to bring out "The Death of a President" whatever Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's abjections.

a long-time friend of the former First Lady -- and fatherin-law to her sister -- Princess Lee Radziwill -- during
the years of her first marriage. Cass Canfield declaring
that the book must be published -- "in the interest of
historical accuracy and of the people's right to know."

INDIANAPOLIS

A spectacular accident today -- at Indianapolis, as you may have heard by now. A truck filled with eight thousand gallons of gasoline -- jackknifing, overturning and bursting into flame in rush-hour traffic. The resulting inferno engulfing not only the truck -- but also a number of nearby cars; trapping drivers and passengers in their seats -- before they could do anything about it.

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At least four dead and three critically injured. Three of the dead -- a young couple and their tiny daughter -- who were trapped inside their station wagon -- when it skidded into the flaming wreck.

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to same of his productions

Today in Moscow - a day of universal acclaim for Communist party chief Leonid Brezhnev, the man who took over from Khrushchev = fest two years ago, last Setular.

The occasion - Brezhnev's sixtieth birthday. An anniversary proclaimed in front-page headlines by Soviet newspapers - which normally do not publish on Monday. Also marked by a Kremlin ceremony - in which Brezhnev received the order of Lenin and the Medal of Hero-of-the-Soviet-Union - two of Russia's highest awards.

The Supreme Soviet Parliament - later capping the tribute; with a unanimous resolution - hailing Brezhnev's "efficiency, considerate attitude, thoughtful approach, modesty and great exactingness."

All this - in keeping with past Soviet tradition.

Brezhnev's response to the honors, in marked contrast - to some of his predecessors.

The Russian leader saying first that he was

"encouraged" - by the fact that one-man rule is now a thing of the past in the Soviet Union. Adding that the many awards in his behalf - represent "a great payment in advance." This - said he - "a token of great xofk added! - confidence for the future"; "a confidence which I shall still have to justify."

From Cairo - a report today that Egypt has fast negotiated a new wheat deal - with the Soviet Union. The agreement said to pledge shipment - of perhaps as much as eight hundred thousand tons of Soviet wheat. If true - enough to meet Egypt's food needs - for about four months.

The Soviet union thus filling a gap - left by the

United States; which supplied Egypt with seven hundred

and fifty-five million tons of wheat - during the first six

months of this year. The U S refusing further aid - in the

face of Colonel Nasser's stepped up anti-American campaign.

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The site of a scheduled trial for alleged mass killer

Richard Speck -- was transferred today from Chicago to

Peoria, Illinois; (a distance of a hundred and sixty miles

-- from the scene of the actual crime. The move -- ordered

by a Chicago criminal court judge) on the ground that Speck

might be unable to receive a fair trial in Chicago -
because of sensational news coverage. Speck accused of

murdering those eight student nurses -- last July.

Congilion number one . said Powell: That the

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Congressman Adam Clayton Powell - the subject of a House Subcommittee investigation - that began today behind closed doors. An investigation of Powell's conduct - as Chairman of the House Labor and Education Committee.

The inquiry meeting, however - with an immediate Powell roadblock.

The Harlem Congressman notifying the sub-committee

- that he will not appear to testify, as requested, Unless

certain conditions are met "in the interest of fair play"
as he put it.

Condition number one - said Powell: That the

House Group agree to investigate the activities of all

other committees - as well as his own. This necessary - said

he - to fight "the conspiratorial tarnishment of my name."

Be that as it may - the study goes on. Results -

The case of the preacher versus the nudist -- finally settled today in Jackson, Mississippi. A victory for... here's the story: --

It seems that Mrs. Laura Pendergrass of East Moss Point,

Mississippi --- was sunbathing in the altogether on her farm

-- which is posted against trespassers; when the Reverend

Mr. Dennis McDonald suddenly appeared -- to invite Mrs.

Pendergrass and her family to attend services at a local church.

Although she laterput on some clothes -- Mrs.

Pendergrass was subsequently fined fifty dollars; and also sentenced to twenty days in jail -- on a charge of indecent exposure; the complaint sworn out -- by the Reverend Mr.

McDonald.

But, the Mississippi State Supreme Court, ruled today that since the Reverend -- "did not immediately turn around and leave -- at first glimpse" -- of Mrs. Pendergrass; but,

rather spent more than half an hour -- talking with her suggesting, therefore, that his shock -- must have been extremely "short-lived". Hence -- Warren -- case dismissed.

Okay, Warren -- there's just enough time for me to salute Dallas Townsend who took my place while I was off on another hurried trip abroad -- and solong until tomorrow.