

Fri. Jan. 15, 1971

ASWAN

Far up the Nile, beyond Luxor and Thebes, in what used to be called the Nubian Desert, today a group of pretty Egyptian girls released flocks of doves into a clear blue sky. This was the signal for a series of salutes from anti-aircraft batteries, and then came the formal dedication of the great Aswan High Dam, the dam that would have drowned Ramses II and his queen if it hadn't been for Mrs. DeWitt Wallace who gave a million bucks to save Ramses.

Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and visiting Soviet President Podgorny with gold-plated scissors cut the ribbon that might have been cut by President Nixon if John Foster Dulles and President Eisenhower hadn't turned down the Aswan High Dam idea.

Today's ceremony announced the completion of a construction project sixteen times bigger than the biggest Pyramid. The great Aswan Dam is expected to supply electrical power to all of Egypt's homes - to speed the

the wheels of economic expansion - to provide an additional two million acres of arable land and make the Nile wider in some parts than it was in the days when Pharoah's daughter found the infant Moses in the bullrushes.

Nasser's eldest son - Khaled who was present, in his speech said: "My father would have loved this! He would have been very proud!" Especially so - in as much as today would have been Nasser's fifty-third birthday.

Later on - Podgorny in a radio address to the Egyptian people said that peace would come in the Middle East only with Israeli withdrawal from all occupied lands and full respect for Palestinian rights. Podgorny concluded by adding that Soviet friendship with Egypt - "will last for centuries."

SARAFAND FOLLOW ASWAN

Meanwhile, Israeli commandoes today were making their deepest strike so far into Lebanon. Hitting an Arab guerrilla camp - near the Lebanese coastal town of Sarafand. Jerusalem saying this is the home base of Arab frog men - who had been sent into northern Israeli on an abortive kidnap attempt. Lebanon promptly fi'ed a protest with the U N Security Council calling the Israeli attack politically motivated - adding that it could well destroy the current Mid-East cease fire.

KIRIROM PLATEAU

In the war news from Southeast Asia - a combined assault today on the Kirirom Plateau in Cambodia.

South Vietnamese and Cambodian troops - attempting to dislodge Communist forces still holding two key passes; hoping thus to clear vital highway four, Phnom Penh's lifeline to the sea; with U. S. war planes also lending a hand.

At last report the drive meeting stiff resistance; casualties heavy on both sides. Field commanders say the enemy has given every indication - he intends this time to stand and fight.

Here at home - Secretary of State Rogers - calls the situation in Cambodia extremely "dangerous": Also that the U.S. is anticipating the possibility of a major spring offensive by Communist forces. But he added, come what may - "we are not going to use American ground forces in Cambodia."

SAIGON FOLLOW KIRIROM PLATEAU

In Saigon - South Vietnam's economy minister was discussing - a U.S. decision to suspend part of its "Food for Peace" program because of wide spread abuse. Pham Kim Ngoc saying - this "isn't a catastrophe." He explained that South Vietnam can and will meet its own food needs. Pham Kim Ngoc also observing, somewhat sadly: "When you give things away for free - you are creating conditions for corruption."

LOS ANGELES

Out in Los Angeles - the Tate murder trial finally came to an end today - after seven months of testimony. A jury promptly beginning deliberation that will determine the date of Charles Manson and his three hippy women co-defendants. A verdict - expected shortly.

KING FOLLOW WASHINGTON

President Nixon also issued a special statement today - commemorating the birth date of the late Martin Luther King. The President saying: "I remember Doctor King - not only for his dream but also for his personal courage." And he added that the slain civil rights leader "will remain an inspiration to the nation - long after his dream becomes a reality of American life."

MEMPHIS

Memphis, Tennessee - a visit today from White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, age thirty-one - there to be honored - as one of the nation's ten outstanding young men. Ron Ziegler noting that the present White House staff - is one of the youngest in history; adding that the President - "depends a lot on the thoughts of these young people;" in part - said he - because "the President has great faith in the young people of his country."

CINCINNATI

At a meeting of the American Cancer Society today at Cincinnati, Society President Doctor Marvin Polland set a fund-raising goal of one billion - repeat, one billion - over the next decade. Doctor Polland - declaring flatly "cancer can be conquered" - and all it takes it "enough money."

MADRID

From Madrid comes - an announcement that Prince Juan Carlos DeBourbon - will be visiting the U.S. week after next. The man chosen as Generalissimo Franco's heir apparent - and his wife, Princess Sophia - to be given a state dinner, January Twenty-Sixth at the White House. They will also visit Annapolis; also Cape Kennedy for the launching of Apollo Fourteen.

SUBSIDIES

From the general accounting office in Washington comes a report dealing with "questionable" farm subsidy payments to the tune of six hundred thousand dollars paid out to a thousand farmers in six states.

Many of the so-called "farm lands" in question - were anything but. Some long since converted to garbage dumps, gravel pits, housing developments - one even a nudist camp.

Or Warren, would you call that strip farming?"

MOSCOW

For Senator Muskie of Maine - who is currently visiting in Moscow - a red carpet welcome today at the Kremlin; where he conferred with Soviet Premier Kosygin - for three hours and forty-five minutes; according to Kremlinologists, the longest talk that Kosygin has ever held with any unofficial visitor. Indeed, this apparently marking the Kremlin's first such marathon session - since the days of Nikita Khrushchev; who was, of course - an indefatigable non stop conservationist! And so long until Monday.