

America's answer to the latest threat of Chinese intervention in Viet Nam--came today, at the White House. After a conference with President Johnson--Defense Secretary McNamara announced a fifty per cent increase--in U.S. military aid to the South Vietnamese. Increased funds to be used primarily--to increase the size of South Viet Nam's fighting force, from its present strength of one hundred thousand men--to one hundred and sixty thousand men.

Sec. McNamara also indicating an intensified role--for U.S. military forces in Viet Nam. This including continued air strikes to the North--a renewed effort in the South--and a crackdown on Viet Cong infiltration routes by water. Across the Gulf of Tonkin--and the South China Sea.

Def. Sec. McNamara adding that the United States has--as he put it--"ways and means to take care of" Soviet surface-to-air missiles, if and when they are installed--at the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

~~North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.~~

Meanwhile, U.S. and Vietnamese warplanes -- today pounded Communist military targets in North Viet Nam -- for the eighth straight day. But at the same time -- a major ground battle is developing tonight -- along a five-mile front in the South. This just twenty-seven miles -- from the key U.S. air base at Da Nang.

FLOOD

The swollen Mississippi raged through LaCrosse, Wisconsin, today with a crest of seventeen-point-seven feet; highest flood-level ever recorded -- at that river city. The five miles of makeshift dikes around LaCrosse -- apparently holding -- so far. But they will have to withstand at least two days of pounding -- before the river begins to recede.

In the meantime, Wisconsin's Civil Defense organization is preparing tonight to move its base of operations -- some sixty miles downstream -- to Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, where ~~the~~ the river begins now is at twenty-four feet and still climbing.

One Civil Defense official remarking that when the crest reaches Prairie Du Chien -- probably on Friday -- that city "is really going to catch it." So a full-scale evacuation is already underway.

AGENT

One of those four men -- originally implicated in the Civil Rights murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo ^{was} ~~is~~ identified today as an undercover agent for the FBI. Gary Thomas Rowe Junior of Birmingham -- said to have been on the FBI's payroll for more than five years. His dual role disclosed when he appeared in Hayneville, Alabama -- to testify before a grand jury considering possible murder charges against the other ~~three~~ ^{three} men.

Mrs. Liuzzo -- the Detroit mother of five -- slain in her car on a deserted country road -- following the Salem-to-Montgomery "Freedom March." Why didn't Rowe try to prevent the murder? A source close to the case -- ^{stated} ~~asserted~~ today that Rowe did try -- ~~in fact,~~ "did all he could," ^{but} adding, however, ~~that Rowe~~ found himself unable to prevent the crime -- "without endangering his own life."

STEEL

The nation's basic steel industry today issued preliminary plans -- for an orderly shut-down of the nation's steel mills. This in the face of a threatened May First strike -- by the United Steel Workers of America.

The steelworkers demanding a pay hike -- of seventeen-point-nine cents an hour. Nine cents an hour more -- than the industry's latest offer. And with contract talks at a stalemate -- observers tonight ^{were saying} ~~calling~~ the strike ^{is} a virtual certainty -- barring direct government intervention.

SHASTRI

That invitation to Indian Prime Minister Shastri -- the one that he visit the United States some time late this summer -- ~~will~~ it still stands. White House Press Secretary George Reedy ^{said} ~~declaring~~ today -- that there has been no change in the American position since last week. That's when President Johnson first announced postponement of the Shastri visit.

Since then, of course Shastri has been reported furious over the postponement. And yesterday he went so far as to cancel the visit entirely. In view of this -- Reedy was asked if he still expected Shastri to come. That -- said he -- ^{Prime Minister} is up to Shastri.

MEASLES

A new "quickie" test to determine whether a person has contracted German measles -- reported today in Washington by the National Institute of Health. The test to be made available to the general public by next year -- its value two-fold.

It will help doctors to determine quickly -- whether to administer gamma globulin to fight the disease. It will also help speed up the search for an effective vaccine against German measles.

The disease usually mild -- except in the case of expectant mothers -- where it can cause severe deformities in their unborn children.

LOREN

A Rome court today ordered a bigamy trial -- for Italian film star Sophia Loren and her maybe-husband -- Producer Carlo Ponti. The trial based on charges that Ponti married Miss Loren by proxy in Mexico -- while still married to his first wife -- Giuliana. The film couple's Mexican marriage -- since dissolved -- but too late, said the court.

The trial to begin July Sixty -- with Miss Loren and Ponti facing a possible jail sentence of up to five years. If convicted -- Miss Loren apparently would have to cancel out of her next scheduled film role, -- a film in which ironically -- she was to play the title role in the life of Mother Cabrini -- "the first American Saint."

CLOWN

Paul Jung -- one of the best-known clowns in America -- was found beaten to death today in his New York hotel room. The body discovered when he failed to report for a performance -- of the current Ringling Brothers Circus. Police are investigating the crime.

Paul Jung famous as a white-face clown -- with illuminated make-up -- flashing off and on. He's also credited with devising the baseball game without a baseball -- the use of a midget as a cannon ball -- the mock fire-fighting crew -- and other well-known clown routines. He was sixty-five.

FAIR

The billion-dollar New York World's Fair reopened today--bigger and better than ever--in perfect Spring weather. In less than half-an-hour--the grounds swarming with visitors--seething with activity--and echoing to the music of the opening-day mile-long parade.

Vice President Hubert Humphrey--featured speaker at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies, calling this years edition of Mr. Moses "Promised Land" a perfect exemplification --of the best in the world. How's that for high praise, Dick?

CONFESS ION

From Paris -- news today that the French Catholic Church has branded faulty driving -- as a sin that must be confessed by the church faithful. Among the infractions to be included in the church confessional -- such things as speeding, double passing and drunken driving.

A spokesman for the church suggesting that these driving faults -- are frequently the result of a show-off attitude -- on the part of an immature driver. Adding, Dick, that as such -- they ~~rank~~^{fall} among the "sins of pride."