

Maurice Webster, March 30, 1967

Continuing chaos -- in Red China. Reports reaching Hong Kong telling today of sabotage and riot -- in central Chekiang Province. The one directly opposite Nationalist China's offshore islands -- of Quemoy and Matsu.

Factories and transportation facilities -- reportedly paralyzed by the anti-Maoist uprising. With troops of the Chinese Liberation Army -- finally assigned the job of restoring order. The problem complicated -- we're told -- by an outbreak of disease. With the result that spring -30- planting -- vital to Red China -- is running far behind schedule.

A related item -- from Tokyo. Japanese scientists today reporting a major earthquake -- in Red China's heavily-populated Hopei Province. With the epicenter of the quake -- less than a hundred miles from Peking.

Destruction -- as yet -- unknown. The Japanese saying, however -- they fear "considerable damage."

VIET NAM

Last week in Viet Nam -- the deadliest week of the war; according to bitter figures -- bitter for both sides -- announced today in Saigon.

Viet Cong losses -- totaling a record two thousand, seven hundred and seventy-four men. About a hundred more than the week before -- previous high-water mark.

During the same period -- the United States losing two hundred and seventy-four men. Surpassing by far -- an American high that had lasted for eighteen months. Ever since that bloody battle for the Ia Drang Valley -- way back in Nineteen-Sity-Five.

South Vietnamese and other forces -- adding two hundred and ten to the Allied death toll. For a sum total representing what the Army calls -- a favorable "kill ratio" of nearly six-to-one. Mute testimony -- to the skill and courage of American fighting men.

~~One apparent result -- a shark~~

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One apparent result -- a sharp tapering off of enemy ground action this week. But no let-up -- in the air war. Marked today by another big American air strike -- against Communist North Vietnam.

European unity -- meaning NATO -- is in no way a contradiction -- to efforts to improve East-West relations.

In fact -- NATO -- the Western Alliance -- is a security guarantee -- to the nations of Eastern Europe, against the threats to their security -- which have flowed from nationalism in the past.

Tonight -- the Vice President flying to Rome. There to confer with Italian officials -- and also to meet with Pope Paul.

BONN

Vice President Hubert Humphrey -- in Bonn today for a major address. There challenging repeated Soviet charges -- that West Germany is secretly plotting a new war. *200*

Not true -- said Hubert Humphrey. Adding that Western European unity -- meaning NATO -- is in no way a "contradiction -- to efforts to improve East-West relations."

In fact -- said he -- the Western alliance is a strong "guarantee -- to the nations of Eastern Europe; against the threats to their security -- which have flowed from nationalism in the past."

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ADD BONN

A later report -- from Rome. The Vice President
visiting the Rome Opera House tonight -- when a young
Italian tried to hit him with a plastic bag of paint.
Luckily -- it missed. The culprit quickly apprehended
-- a ~~young~~^{young} youthful Communist.

PARIS FOLLOW BONN

Speaking of that Western alliance - - final taps today for NATO military headquarters near Paris. The flags of fifteen member nations -- together with a blue NATO banner -- hauled down for the last time. In compliance with orders from French President DeGaulle -- banning NATO forces from French soil.

Allie Supreme Commander Genral Lyman Lemnitzer -- -300
spokesman for all NATO nations. Calling the occasion -- "the end of an historic era." "We leave with regret" -- said he -- "but with a deep sense of accomplishment."

Now -- it's on to Belgium. Where the same flags will be raised tomorrow -- in another, happier ceremony. Opening brand new NATO headquarters -- at Casteau, near Mons.

KENNER

The death toll from that airliner crash at Kenner, Louisiana - - now set at eighteen. Eight of them -- as you may have heard -- young high school girls from Juda, ²⁰ Wisconsin; staying at a motel -- on the last night of their senior class trip.

The rest -- five crewmen aboard the ship -- a mother and her young son -- and three others who met a flaming death; as the airliner cartwheeled six hundred yards through a residential community -- before exploding in a ball of fire.

The miracle -- that many more were not killed. One man blown free -- his clothes completely burned off. Another -- viewing the wreckage of his house -- asserting: "My God -- I don't see how we survived."

BIMINI

400

Ousted Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell -- in
conference with a group of U.S. Negro leaders today at
Bimini. Later announcing plans to organize an all-Negro --
so-called "third force" political movement.

Too early as yet -- to tell whether it will develop
into a real third party -- said Powell. Adding, however, that
it will "criss-cross the nation -- to tell the people that
the future of America depends on the black man."

SAFETY

All but one of eighteen appeals from automakers -- aimed at easing new Federal auto safety standards -- rejected flatly today in Washington.

The one exception: An industry appeal against padding requirements -- said to involve extensive redesign of car interiors. The National Traffic Safety Agency -- ordering a public hearing on the matter as soon as possible; at which time -- the automakers will be asked to present proof; that the standard cannot be met -- in time for Nineteen-Sixty-Eight model cars.

Meantime, all other safety standards -- remaining the same as originally announced in January.

TURBINES

Here's an item -- that comes as a bit of a shock

News today that millions of American -- may soon be lighting their homes and running their factories -- on Russian-made electricity.

The story -- from the U.S. Department of the Interior

Which is planning to install six new giant turbine generators

-- at Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State. Part of an expansion project -- that will more ^{than} double the dam's electrical output

As customary -- the turbines will be purchased from the lowest bidder. And Russian officials have already indicated -- they will try to get the ^{CONTRACT.} ~~job~~

Why the Russian interest -- in making American electricity? We're told it's apparently part of a Soviet attempt -- to test the sincerity of President Johnson's newly-stated ^{TRADE} goal. That of building economic bridges -- between East and West.

ATHENS

A new Greek political crisis -- is reported today from Athens. Caretaker Premier John Paravaskopoulos -- submitting his resignation to King Constantine. Giving up after four months of futile effort -- trying to arrange for new elections.

The final straw for Paravaskopolous -- loss of support from Greek's Conservative Party. Its members in revolt -- against a newly-enacted electoral law amendment; one that would have granted temporary immunity -- to former Premier George Papandreou and his son, Andreas. Both linked with an organization -- said to be plotting to overthrow the King.

Constantine now faced with the difficult task -- of finding a successor to Paravaskopolous -- acceptable to both sides. Meanwhile, police and armed forces placed on the alert -- to guard against possible violence.

LAND'S END

Bombed out and burned out -- but still refusing to

sink -- the super-tanker Torrey Canyon finally emerged
victorious today; after three days of brutal pounding from

British warplanes -- off Land's End, England.

The final salvo -- another hundred thousand pounds

of bombs: ~~aimed~~ ^{aimed} at obliterating ~~and~~ ^{once} and for all -- the

source of that sticky mess still polluting British beaches.

But apart from a few new holes -- the bombs apparently

accomplishing little. With the British Home Office later

reporting: "It looks as though -- this is probably the end of ^{the}

bombing operation."

At that -- it's a pyrrhic victory for the stricken

vessel. The British saying its huge cargo of crude oil --

has all been burned up. It can do -- no more harm.

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MALAYSIA

A famous Chinese soothsayer -- enlisted today in the search for American silk tycoon James Thompson; missing nearly a week in the jungles of Malaysia -- near the resort of Cameron Highlands.

The medium -- Thong Went, by name -- placing himself in trance; after which he predicted that Thompson would be found -- before nightfall.

However, no such luck. At dusk -- hundreds of would-be rescuers -- forced to call off the search. Thompson still missing -- with little hope that he will ever be found alive.

In the absence of clues -- ⁹ police now speculating that he was the victim -- of a man-eating tiger.

HOUSTON

At the Manned Space Center in Houston -- another setback today for the fair sex. With first pruning of a list of nearly a thousand applicants -- for six available places in the U.S. scientist-astronaut training program.

At least four women -- known to be among the candidates; vying for a change -- to become America's first "astronette." But of the sixty-nine who survived preliminary screening -- all are men. Final choice of the lucky six -- set ~~at~~⁹ for mid-August.

LONDON FOLLOW HOUSTON

Reverse side of the coin -- this next from London.

Where women musicians were admitted today for the first time -- to the ranks of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The move -- breaking an iron-clad ban on women; established by the late Sir Thomas Beechan -- when he founded the orchestra twenty-one years ago. Sir Thomas explaining his aversion to women musicians -- in the following words.

"If they were exceptionally pretty -- they would distract the orchestra" -- said he. Adding: "If they were ugly -- they would distract me."

And that's it for tonight.