

Fri, May 17-68.

Soviet Premier Kosygin - a surprise visitor tonight at Prague. Dropping in by plane to confer with new Czech leaders on - quote - "questions ^{of} interest ~~to~~ _^ both sides." What questions, [?] - he didn't say.

However, Kosygin's arrival - closely follow^s ~~ing~~ that of Soviet Defense Minister Andrei Grechko; fourth Soviet military leader - to visit Czechoslovakia in recent weeks. And Grechko's main concern - we are told, ^{is} _^ Czechoslovakia's future role in the Warsaw pact - cornerstone of Russia's East European defense system.

SENATE FOLLOW PRAGUE

a Senate hearing in
More on the same - from [^]Washington. Where

Defense Secretary Clark Clifford today cited Czech reforms - as a Prime reason for continued U.S. aid abroad. "If the nations of Eastern Europe are beginning to exert greater freedom - ~~th~~^san I believe we would do well ~~n~~ot to rock out boat in this part of the world" - said Clark Clifford. Adding that a united allied front could well give other Soviet satellites - "a greater incentive to free themselves."

PITESTI FOLLOW SENATE

Meanwhile, French President DeGaulle's visit to Romania - another Communist dissident - is proving perhaps a case of too much incentive; at least -- as far as Romanian President Ceausescu is concerned.

In a joint appearance today at Pitesti - ^{Ceausescu} Ceausescu telling DeGaulle that he, too, favors closer cooperation between France and Romania. But not - said he - not at the cost of deserting Moscow. This - he added - an attempt to clear up "certain insinuations; ^{as he put it} claiming that we are presently trying to move away from our traditional friends" -- meaning Russia.

PARIS

*Evening in Paris - a chance tonight for U S
and north Vietnamese delegates to simmer down.
Hopefully, paving the way for some progress - when
preliminary peace talks resume tomorrow.*

*Up to now though - anything but Progress. In
fact, Hanoi today angrily accusing the United States -
of reneging on an agreement to negotiate an end to the
bombing of North Vietnam. Only when this is done - said
a North Vietnamese spokesman - will other matters be
taken up. These "other matters" -- said he - including
the possibility of a political settlement in Vietnam.*

*In reply, a U.S. spokesman saying our only
purpose in Paris - is "to get a just peace in Vietnam,"
adding his hope that tomorrow's session - "will lead
further towards a solution of this problem."*

DA NANG FOLLOW PARIS

In the meantime - a vicious battle today near Da Nang. U.S. Marines ^{fighting} ~~holding~~ bunker-to-bunker -- trying to take a Viet Cong regimental command post. After two days of combat - casualties reported high on both sides.

By the way - Marine Captain Chuck Robb came under fire for the first time today - also near Da Nang. The President's son-in-law -- leading a sweep of about two hundred leathernecks. ^{and} emptying his ^{own} forty-five - at a Viet Cong sniper.

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A Marine gunnery Sergeant - later asked what he thought of the new company commander. His answer: "I've served under six of them - and he's probably the best."

WALTER REED

At Walter Reed Hospital in Washington -- former President Eisenhower continues to make a rapid recovery from that recent heart ^{incident.} ~~attack.~~ Doctors reporting ~~today that~~ Ike ~~is~~ increasing his activities - also sitting up four hours a day. Indeed, he is said to be making "such satisfactory progress" - ~~that~~ daily medical bulletins are now being discontinued. No news - good news.

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW SENATE

Across town at the White House - President

Johnson presided at special ceremonies today; marking the issue of a new - "law and order" postage stamp.

The President also taking a swipe at the Senate -- for failure yesterday to ban mail order sales of rifles and shotguns.

Restricting federal control to hand guns - merely "a half-way version of a gun control bill" - said L B J. "A half-way version" - said he -- that will continue to permit "murder by mail order."

NEW YORK

The Mayor of Moscow - a visitor today ~~is~~ to New York. Mayor Vladimir Promyslov - comparing city problems with New York's Mayor Lindsay, Especially the problem of city strikes - which have plagued Lindsay of late.

Finally, the question put to Promyslov: "What do you do - when municipal employees strike for higher wages?" Promyslov replying: "In fifty years of Soviet power -- it hasn't happened once." He added that "Muscovites -- generally go along with ~~and~~ and understand our problems."

WRITER FOLLOW NEW YORK

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Reverse side of the Communist coin - in the works
of jailed Yugoslav writer Mihajlo Mihajlov; Author of
a collection of ~~the~~ essays smuggled out of the country -
and published today in Washington.

Mihajlov
Mihajlo writing: "I cannot consider a society to
be Socialist -- when a minority of six to seven percent
has all the rights - which is the case with the League
of Communists; where ^{pk} the overwhelming majority of the
population - has no rights at all."

In truth - said he - vast numbers of Yugoslavs -
"do not even have the rights given to U.S. negroes."

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So says Mihajlo Mihajlov - Warren.

AMHERST

America's League of Women Voters - fast approaching its fiftieth anniversary. But still in fighting trim - according to new league President Mrs. Bruce Benson of Amherst, Massachusetts; who reports today that the League's main concerns this election year - will be civil rights and poverty.

Mrs. Benson is also spearheading an eleven million-dollar fund drive - to help launch an ambitious golden anniversary program. All of which is exciting and fascinating - we are told; except that it keeps her away from her husband so much - especially at convention time.

"I'm gone three weeks" -- said the lady President. Adding: "It's not wine, women and song - it's women, women and talk, talk, talk."

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