

PEKING

February 25, 1972 - Allan Jackson

In the President's "Journey for Peace" - a farewell to Peking. The President hosted a state dinner in the final, formal event of his stay in the Red Chinese capital. Highlight of the evening - again an exchange of toasts.

First up - President Nixon - who told his Chinese guests: "In these past four days - we have begun the long process of removing that wall between us." The President also expressed hope for "a new world order - in which nations of people with different systems and different values can live together in peace - letting history rather than the battlefield be the judge of their different ideas."

And then it was Premier Chou's turn. The latter saying: "There exists great difference of principle between our two sides. Through earnest and frank discussions, a clearer knowledge of each other's position and stands has been gained. This has been beneficial."

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Chou added that China "will work unswervingly - to enhance the mutual understanding and friendship, to promote the normalization of relations, between China and the U.S." The President and the Premier will continue their discussions - en route to Hangchow, the President's next stop.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam - enemy troops today ambushed three widely-separated U.S. Army units; in the process - wounding, in all, twenty-nine GI's. This the heaviest fighting involving American troops - in nearly a year. In one case - U.S. rescue helicopters actually adding ^{of} to the casualty toll; accidentally strafing an American position - and thus wounding five more men.

COMMODORE

Fire - the dread of every hotel man - broke out in the basement of a major Manhattan Hotel just before rush hour this afternoon. The Fifty-One year old Commodore Hotel - located on Forty-Second Street at Grand Central Station - as you know if you live in New York - or have visited here. A five-alarm blaze - in the basement - but the smoke billowed up through the twenty-six floors of rooms above - all guests were ordered evacuated - and then firemen made daring forays through the smoke-filled corridors - and rooms - to rescue many from upper floors and a police helicopter darted in close to the building - checking to see if any were trapped on the roof - or in the upper windows.

SENATE

In Washington - a showdown in the Senate; which finally approved today - an anti-busing measure. This seeks to deny Federal courts - the power to order school busing on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin.

ARMAGH

In the city of Armagh - about forty miles from Belfast - Northern Ireland's Home Affairs Minister was shot and seriously wounded today. John Taylor - at age Thirty-Four, the youngest of Northern Ireland's Cabinet ministers - hit at least three times in the head and chest. This marks the second attack since the beginning of the year - against a prominent Protestant "hardliner."

Elsewhere in Northern Ireland today - the usual; which means bombings, firebombings, sniper attacks, machinegun attacks - plus assorted mayhem.

SOUTHERN LEBANON

In the Middle East - Israel struck back; in response to recent Arab border attacks - staging a massive retaliatory raid into Southern Lebanon. Israeli ground and air forces - lashed out along a sixty-mile front. At one point, reaching a position - only thirty-four miles from Beirut.

Tel Aviv later called the operation - "the largest against any arab country since the Nineteen-Sixty-Seven Middle East War." Adding that at least five guerillas were slain - and a number of buildings demolished.

BONN FOLLOW SOUTHERN LEBANON

The ransom paid to Arab guerillas earlier this week - in the hijacking of that West German airliner - an even Five Million. So announced today - by West German Transportation Minister George Leber; who added that the decision to pay - was based on an assumption the lives of the plane's crew were in "acute danger." Leber also calling the hijackers - "the most bloodthirsty group seen until now."

LONDON

By an overwhelming vote - British coal miners accepted today the terms of a new contract; thereby ending their seven-week-old strike - which led to Britain's worst power crisis in nearly half-a-century.

SUGGESTED-LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "BRAZIL-TWO"

And now - it's time for Lowell Thomas;

discussing again tonight - vast, intriguing Brazil.

Lowell...

SUGGESTED FOLLOW TO THOMAS TAPE "BRAZIL-TWO"

Thank you, Lowell.

A final note - in a moment.

CAPE KENNEDY

At Cape Kennedy - all systems are "go" tonight - for Sunday's scheduled launch of the Pioneer-Ten. A space spokesman saying: "We're exactly on schedule - there are no problems."

And so another great step in the conquest of space - soon to begin. The Pioneer-Ten will head beyond Mars - to Jupiter, hopefully, and then on into the firmament. If all goes well - it will become the first spacecraft ever to leave the solar system; although it'll take some eleven years to reach the outer limit of that system. After that - on and on - a journey that might last - for a hundred million years - and more. Now for Lowell Thomas this is Allan Jackson saying - so long.