

As Adm L.T. OLDS... TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1963 ... Seventh

Fleet is Deployed in the South China Sea, and the

Good Evening Everybody:

The latest about Laos - comes from the four corners of the world. From Laos itself, of course - the Plain of Jars, where the battle is raging. Also Bangkok, Thailand - where the Chief of our Pacific Command is tonight. And - from Washington, Moscow and London.

What does all this coming and going - mean? The most important thing it means - is that the United States is not fooling. We've made it clear - that we're running out of patience with the Reds. With the Laotian Reds, to begin with - since they are doing the shooting. With the Chinese Reds - because they are pushing the crisis. And with the Russian Reds - because they either cannot, or will not, put a stop to it.

As Averell Harriman said in London - "The United States will not stand for any nonsense in Laos".

LEAD - 2

As Admiral Harry Felt said in Bangkok - "Our Seventh Fleet is deployed in the South China Sea, and the Marines are ready for action".

The State Department in Washington - is calling for the withdrawal of the Communist guerrillas. The American Ambassador to Moscow - is trying to get a definite answer from Khrushchev.

The hottest spot on our planet tonight - Laos. And - it may get hotter.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany has an heir apparent - tonight. It used to be that the phrase "heir apparent" - referred to the German Crown Prince. Eldest son of the Kaiser. But, the Hohenzollerns have been gone ~~ever~~ since World War One.

And now the heir apparent - is the man slated to take over as Chancellor. Replacing - Konrad Adenauer. To wit - Ludwig Erhard, Minister of Economics in the Adenauer government.

All of which adds up to - a rebellion against Adenauer inside his own party. The Christian Democrats, insisting-
that ^a successor be named now. Refusing to wait - until the eighty-seven year old Chancellor steps out. Rejecting his protest - that today's vote makes him a lame-duck chancellor.

As for the vote, it went to the economics Minister by an overwhelming majority - one hundred and fifty-nine to forty-seven. No doubt tonight, who is the West German heir apparent - Ludwig Erhard.