

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1973

BREZHNEV

From the White House comes an announcement that President Nixon has just received a personal letter - from Russia's Leonid Brezhnev. The Soviet leader expressing "profound satisfaction" - at the signing of an agreement "restoring peace in Vietnam." This - said he - "eliminating one of the most dangerous hotbeds of international tensions;" also, clearing the way - for "improving the world situation."

Brezhnev adding that this, too, "will have a positive effect" - on relations between the U.S. and Russia; in the process, opening "new possibilities" - for Soviet-American cooperation. The Soviet leader stating flatly: "We stand for such a policy."

SENATE

Secretary of State William Rogers - a witness

today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ~~There~~
expressing ^{ed} hope that the cease-fires in Vietnam and Laos -
will create "a momentum toward peace in Cambodia."

Conceding, however, that such has not been the case - at
least, up to now.

^{Sec.}
~~William~~ Rogers also discussing the question - of
post-war aid to North Vietnam. Saying: "We will, of course,
make no commitment - without the support of Congress."
Adding: "We will ask for that support - only after the most
careful planning;" only "when conditions on the ground" -
fully justify it.

In return, Committee Chairman ~~J. William~~
^{today was}
Fulbright, - pledging to help heal the divisions arising from
the war. Also, paying tribute to President Nixon - for
bringing about a general reduction in world tensions.
Adding that he now hopes to begin - "a new relationship"
with the State Department.

SINAI

Tragedy in the Middle East. A Libyan jetliner piloted by a French crew - somehow straying into Israeli air space over the Occupied Sinai. Israeli jets - attempting to force the plane down. When that failed - shooting it down. The resulting crash - said to have killed about seventy.

Israeli Premier Golda Meir - quickly expressing "deep sorrow." Israel "regrets" - said she - "that the pilot did not heed repeated warnings - which were given him in accordance with international procedures."

On the Arab side, as might be expected - a sharp reaction. Cairo saying that Israel - "will be made to pay dearly." Adding that "Israel should be held completely responsible - for whatever this act may lead to."

LEBANON FOLLOW SINAI

All this following by just a few hours - an Israeli reprisal raid deep into Lebanon. Israeli commandoes - killing dozens of alleged Arab guerillas.

These - according to Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban - "persons who were being trained and equipped to go into the wide world and kill us." Today's action thus "saved the lives of many" - he continued. Adding: "It is part of the Israeli policy - of taking preventive action."

WHITE HOUSE

From the White House - another special radio address. President Nixon discussing today - the state of the nation's economy. Saying: "For the first time in nearly twenty years - we can look forward to genuine prosperity in a time of peace."

The President also noting that inflation last year - "was cut nearly in half." Adding: "We expect to reduce it even further - in Nineteen-Seventy-Three." "The fundamental reason" - he continued - "is growing opposition to big spending!" "That will do more than anything else" - said he - "to protect your family budget."

As for economic controls, the President saying: "We would like Phase Three ~~to~~ to be as voluntary as possible; but we will make it' - as mandatory as necessary."

The President going on to say: "If we act responsibly - this new prosperity can be ours for many years to come; if we don't, then as Franklin Roosevelt once

warned - we could be wrecked on the rocks of loose fiscal policy."

"The choice is ours" - he concluded - so "let us choose responsible prosperity."

LONDON

The value of the U S. dollar continued to hold firm today - in European money markets. The price of gold - something else again; soaring to a record Seventy-Nine-Thirty-an-ounce - on the London bullion exchange. One gold dealer saying: "It could break through the Eighty-Dollar barrier - before the weekend."

TAXES

From Treasury Secretary ~~George~~ Shultz - an order today setting up a special new tax unit. Its main ^{objective to} ~~job - that~~ of easing the tax problems of returned prisoners-of-war.

Meanwhile, the men who are already back - enjoying another series of homecomings. Navy Lieutenant Commander Joseph Plumb ~~Junior~~ - arriving at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital near Chicago. "To say this is the happiest day in my life" - said he - is simply "insufficient."

At Yuba City, California - Air Force Lieutenant William Arcuri ^{was} recalling that the prisoners talked a lot about the Presidential race. "We were pretty surprised at the outcome of the election" - said he; "surprised that McGovern lost ~~it~~ by such a big margin."

At Travis Air Force Base - the final chapter in the saga of the "POW twins." Air Force Captains Kevin McManus and Edward Mechenbier - close friends since school days; serving together - getting shot down together - sharing the same prison room for nearly six years.

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Now going their separate ways - with each returning to his wife and family.

Before he left - Captain McManus was asked whether he felt sad about leaving his sidekick; to which he replied, in a word - "nope!"

POINT MUGU

Earthquake in Southern California - again. This one centered near the coastal town of Point Magu - about sixty miles west of Los Angeles, a long; rolling quake - measuring five-point-five on the Richter scale; enough to shatter windows - crack walls and cause extensive property damage.

Only three injuries; none - said to be serious.

WEST BELFAST

At West Belfast in Northern Ireland - a sniper's bullet today claimed the life of a British Army sentry; the third trooper to be so gunned down - in just over twelve hours. A British Army spokesman calling this the most vicious series of attacks since the start of the new year.

PILL

A new so-called "morning-after" birth control drug - called di-ethyl-stibestrol or DES - ~~will~~^{is} soon ^{to} be formally approved for public use. The announcement coming today from Dr. Charles Edwards of the Food and Drug Administration - in testimony before a Senate panel. Dr. Edwards saying that DES has actually been found safe and effective - when treatment is initiated up to three days after exposure.

The doctor stressed, however, that DES - has "some immediate minor side reactions." Adding: "It should not be considered as a method for continuous birth control" - but for "emergency ~~treatment~~ only."

BEL GRADE

In the newspaper Politika - published at Belgrade
in Yugoslavia - a recent story about the development of a
new drug; followed a few days later - by a flood of letters.
The writers saying they had read the story but forgot to save
it - and now they couldn't remember the name of the drug.

So - the story was reprinted. ^{Then, another} ~~Again~~ flood of
letters ~~much the~~ same as before. Again - the story was
reprinted. Politika also noting that the drug in question -
^{is} ~~was~~ supposed to cure forgetfulness; adding that some ^{of} its
readers - ~~sure~~ could use it.

AUSTIN

In the State Senate at Austin, Texas - they are
consider^{ing}~~ation~~ of a bill ^{to} ~~banning~~ secret meetings of
governmental boards and agencies. Those in favor of
the bill - say~~ing~~ it ^{is} ~~was~~ essential to protect freedom of the
press - to protect the public's "right to know." Which may
have convinced some - but not Senator Jack Ogg of Houston.

"I just feel like the newspapers of this state - have
been diligent enough" - said Senator Ogg. Adding that this
was certainly true - in the Houston area. Why, back home -
said he - "whenever there's a secret meeting that comes up
- everybody knows about it."