

Wed. Dec. 10 - 69,

Latest from Vietnam - a preview of weekly casualty figures. According to U.S. sources in Saigon - American combat dead dropping to their lowest ~~level~~ in three years. This said to reflect another sharp cut in the number of battlefield confrontations. Indeed, enemy forces ^{we hear} ~~reportedly~~ ^{ed-} killing last week - nearly three times as many ~~as~~ South Vietnamese civilians as they did American ^{military}.

Here at home - the House Armed Services

Committee continues it's investigation - into the ² ~~_____~~

My Lai "massacre", ^{today} ~~today~~ hearing from an American

helicopter pilot - Chief Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson;

who was

one of the first ~~we are told~~ to report the incident.

HONG KONG FOLLOW HOUSE

~~Reverse side - a study reported today from~~

~~From~~ ^{we hear of}
Hong Kong, ^A study prepared by U. S. career diplomat
Douglas Pike -- ^{who is our top} ~~perhaps the nation's foremost~~ authority
on Viet Cong terror tactics; ^{He tells} ~~discussing~~ ^{about} in detail events
at Hue - where the Communists briefly held sway ~~there~~
during the TET offensive ^{a year ago,} ~~of Nineteen Sixty Eight~~

~~The number one~~ ^{— the Viet Cong —}
~~first and foremost~~ goal of the occupation [^] says

Pike, the systematic extinction of all community leaders and
their families. End result the Communists allegedly killing
in cold blood - an estimated six thousand innocent civilians.

In one specific case, not entirely un-typical, ^{he tells us,} ~~says Pike~~ -

a Communist death squad entering the home of a local
leader; shooting and killing him - his wife, his young
daughter - ~~his~~ married son, ^{two} and ~~his~~ wife, also, [^] servants

~~couple~~ and their young child. Pike adding: The family
cat was then strangled, the family dog was clubbed to death"
and finally, "the family gold fish were tossed on the floor,"
there to die like all the rest.

HOUSTON

For the men of Apollo Twelve - the end of
the line today at Houston. Astronauts Pete ~~and~~ Conrad,
Dick Gordon and Al Bean freed ^{from their} ~~at last from the confines~~
~~of~~ lunar quarantine ^{and} Rejoining their families -- for the
first time in more than a month. Speaking for one and all,
^{said Pete} ~~all~~ Conrad: ~~asserting~~ "You don't know how good that
sun feels" - how good it is "to be back - and out."

WILKESBARRE

another long wait
At Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania - ~~the waiting was~~

also
~~finally~~ ended today. Judge Bernard Brominski turning down

the request for an autopsy - on the body of Mary Jo Kopechne

Doing so
On the grounds ~~said he~~ *that* there is nothing to indicate

anything but death by drowning.

~~Next stop~~ *Says* Edward
Senator Kennedy; ~~in Washington~~

~~Observing that~~ the Judge's ruling means a great deal to the

and he added:-
Kopechne family - ~~"I am grateful for that"~~ - ~~said he~~.

~~Adding~~ "It is now my hope that the authorities in

Massachusetts will move forward - so that the entire matter

can be concluded as soon as possible," *says Ted Kennedy.*

WHITE HOUSE

The White House - President Nixon ~~discussed~~
turns out to be quite a
~~himself today - a true~~ patron of the arts. Asking Congress
for forty million next year - ~~that's~~ double the current
■ figure - to help spur the nation's ^u cultural enrichment^d
program. At the same time, asking for a three year
extension - on the life of the existing National Foundation
of the Arts and the Humanities. This - said he ^{is} _λ "a vital
part of our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for
all Americans - especially young people."

MIDDLE EAST MOSCOW

In the Middle East - where a cease fire is supposed to be in effect - Israeli forces found themselves engaged in a series of widespread battles today, ~~these~~ ground, air and artillery duels -- against Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian forces; a series of engagements - extending all the way from the ^{in the South} Suez Canal, to the Golan Heights ^{in the North}.

Meanwhile - in Moscow - ~~the~~ Soviet Premier

Kosygin today pledged Russia's full support of Arab

^{He calls} Guerrilla organizations. Their struggle - a just, national liberation and anti-imperialist struggle." - ~~said Kosygin~~.

~~He added~~ ^{ing}, however, that Russia "will continue" to strive "for a political settlement - both at the United Nations, and beyond it."

COTONOU

Revolt in Dahomey ~~that's in~~ West Africa.

Reports from Radio Cotonou -- identify ~~ing~~ the insurgents

as rebellious Army troops, ^{who they say have} ~~saying they~~ seized control

from Dahomey President Emil Zinsou. ^{This} after a brief

skirmish today at the Presidential ~~ap~~ palace. ^{For this} ~~the~~

former French colony ^{it's the} ~~thereby chalking up its~~ fifth coup -

in ~~just~~ nine years.

TRIPOLI FOLLOW COTONOU

A similar ~~Another~~ attempt ~~at same~~ ^{in North Africa - at} ~~reported today~~

where

~~from~~ Tripoli, ~~with~~ a group of dissident Army officers -

tried

~~trying~~ to seize power from Libya's three month old

military regime. They failed ~~though~~ ^{and are under} ~~is ending up in~~

arrest.

~~government custody.~~ A government broadcast later

pledging to "strike with an iron fist" against any and

all plotters.

At the Vatican - Rome - Pope Paul discusses
the Ecumenical movement. Asserting today that ~~people~~
Papal Primacy remains an essential element - in any
eventual reunion of the Roman Catholic, Protestant and
Orthodox Churches.

The Pope also defended again - the Catholic
doctrine of Papal in^{fallibility}. This is "not a rock against
which modern thought crashes" - said he - "but rather a
beacon leading to salvation."

ANCHORAGE

~~This next~~ ^{comes a} from Anchorage, Alaska, * report
today telling of a quirk of nature * that has left the
Northland's largest city practically snowless so far this
fall.

As a result we are told - snowmobiles are
standing idle - sleds ~~are~~ getting rusty ^{- skiers disconsolate -} snowball fights
^{even} ~~are~~ impossible; and worst of all - they say - a distinct
possibility that Anchorage will not - repeat - will not have
a white Christmas for the first time in fifteen years. But
12 don't ^{you} bet on it, Warren

LONDON

Overseas again - the flu bug was taking a heavy toll today in continental Europe. According to reports - making miserable nearly one-third of the total population in Spain - about one-fourth in France and Italy - as well as millions more in West Germany, the lowlands, Portugal and so on.

The affliction further said to be spreading across Britain - at an average rate of about twenty miles an hour. Which means - what with jets and all - it's probably due here in the U. S. any flight now. *Ands l-u-t-m.*