

L.T. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1966

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

For President Johnson -- a free-swinging, news conference today at the White House. The LBJ ranging far and wide -- on topics foreign and domestic. On purpose or not, stirring up enough controversy to last at least the next two weeks -- during which he'll take a vacation.

First question of course, reflecting national concern about the President's forthcoming operation. Nothing to worry about -- said he -- just a little stitching. Said the President "most people in this room -- probably have faced considerably more problems."

Amenities disposed of -- the President ready to fire away -- in rapid succession -- he raked the press for careless reporting -- derided the reliability of Barry Goldwater as an election prophet -- asserted that more troops will be sent to Vietnam as needed -- warned the Communists not to press their luck in Korea -- thoroughly denounced →

criticism of the Warren report - and suggested that since Pope Paul wants the United States to stop bombing in Viet Nam - he ought to try to get Viet Cong terrorists to stop their bombing, too.

All this leading up to a rare personal attack on ~~an~~ an old political foe. The President blasting ~~Richard~~ Nixon for casting doubt on a stated Manila decision^g to the effect that U S forces will leave Viet Nam within six months after settlement of the war. ~~which~~

~~The President~~ Calling Nixon- a chronic campaigner, one who finds fault with his country and his government - at election time every two years. The President adding of Nixon: "He never did really recognize and realize what was going on when he had an official position in government. Now he is out talking about a conference - that obviously he is not well prepared on or informed about."

The President concluding that "Mr. Nixon

2
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doesn't serve his country well - by trying to leave"
the wrong "kind of impression - in the hope that
he can pick up a precinct or two - or a ward or two."

Former Viet Nam Nixon, meanwhile, on the campaign trail
today at Waterville, Maine where he expressed surprise
- "at the temper and tone" of the President's remarks.
~~This, said Nixon~~ ^{said he} Showing that the President
himself - "is unfamiliar with our position in Viet Nam."

WASHINGTON

After months of delay - the United States and Russia today signed a long-awaited air agreement ^{at an} official ceremony - in Washington. ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{Thus} clearing the way for direct commercial air service between New York and Moscow, [↔] probably as early as next spring.

Pan American ~~and~~ World Airways - to be the American carrier - reciprocating flights by Aeroflot - the one and only Russian airline.

Perhaps even more important than the pact itself - the fact that it marks the first major U S and Russian agreement - since America became heavily involved in the war in Viet Nam. As such - ~~it~~ it's seen by some as a possible portent - of future cooperation between the two countries; including - hopefully - eventual agreement on effective nuclear control.

MOSCOW

For now and for all time - the Soviet Union has clearly defeated Red China's bid for ~~sup~~ supremacy in the Communist world. So says the Soviet Communist party newspaper Pravda - in one of the most confident statements it has ever made ^{during} ~~in~~ the current Sino-Soviet ~~war~~ controversy.

Pravda declaring that ~~the~~ China in rejecting Moscow leadership - "expected to engineer a split in the world communist movement," and thereby "win some parties over to its side." Pravda asserting flatly, however, that "these expectations - have not and could not come through."

Expect for tiny Albania - said Pravda - "the communists of the world reject the dissentious line of the Chinese Communist leaders; openly ~~and~~ declaring themselves - against such action."

4

VIETNAM

News today of another fire -- aboard a U.S. Aircraft carrier. The second -- in less than two weeks.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt on station off the coast of Vietnam, was hit by a sudden flash-fire in a storage compartment containing paints, oil and hydraulic fluid. The fire lasting only fifteen minutes -- killing seven and injuring fourteen.

Back on shore -- the Viet Cong hurling a series of heavy wave assaults at U.S. infantrymen; sixty miles northwest of Saigon. We're told, however, that the G.I.'s -- "stopped 'em cold."

End result: The Americans confiscating enough rice -- to feed an entire Viet Cong division, for a full year.

UNITED NATIONS

For the one hundred and fourth time -- a Russian veto today at the United Nations. Killing a small-power resolution -- aimed at easing border tensions between Israel and Syria.

reporting that Russian scientists - secretly launched an entire space laboratory some time last month.

The Russian space lab - called Yantar - One, according to Tass - an unmanned, automatic and highly sophisticated space vehicle, powered by a new gas-plasma ion engine. Its main purpose, apparently - to test the uses of electricity in outer space. What happened to Yantar-One -- whether it burned up in the earth's atmosphere -- whether it ended up in orbit about the sun - or whether it still up there, somewhere, the Russians don't say. Findings to be published in due time - said Tass - through the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

SPACE

Hard on the heels of that American space spectacular of yesterday, the amazing flight of a Titan Three C rocket - a surprising announcement today from Moscow. The Soviet News Agency Tass reporting that Russian scientists - secretly launched an entire space laboratory some time last month.

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EUROPE FOLLOW WEATHER

Weather ^{also rough night} ~~just as bad in some cases worse~~ -

clear across Europe. Paris is glistening today - under its earliest blanket of white in a quarter of a century. ~~Moving along~~ A blizzard in the Swiss Alps - touching off the first killer avalanches of the season.

Three Swiss construction workers - ~~sent~~ ^{crushed} under tons of rumbling ice and snow, at a dam construction site - near the Lukmanier Pass. Eighteen others buried alive - but somehow managing to free themselves. Another avalanche marooning ~~some~~ two hundred and twenty villagers - in the nearby ~~some~~ hamlet of Santa Maria.

7
While to the South - much of Italy was ~~awash~~ ^h today, under raging flood waters - from ~~a~~ ^{heavy} ~~creeching~~ rain that has ~~been~~ ^h now lasted for two weeks. At least ~~some~~ seven ~~persons~~ reported dead - in the collapse of their homes on the outskirts of Florence.

Also, In the city itself - water up to three feet deep, threatening nearly every Florentine

landmark & world famous treasures of architecture
and art.

SMYRNA

From Smyrna, Georgia - the sad story today of a millionaire many times over, who nevertheless has just been placed on relief. The gentleman in question seventy nine year ~~and~~ old Otto Orkin; who made a fortune in pest control -and managed to hang on to most of it, Only to end up "a needy" person, as defined by local welfare. The problem - the fact that a few months ago - Orkin suffered a disabling illness. His wife - later assigned to act as his personal guardian. Whereupon the entire Orkin fortune - an estimated five million - was tied up in complicated litigation.

Their car has since been repossessed - Mrs. Orkin has had to pawn some of her jewelry and the bills keep piling up. But now at least - they'll have enough to eat. As "needy" persons - the couple ^{now} entitled to government surplus foods - free of charge.

RIO DE JANEIRO

As ~~persons~~ ^{we all} know - they ~~do not get an awful~~ ^{have a} lot of coffee in Brazil. In fact, ^{today -} too much. Which accounts for this ~~need~~ from Rio, ~~de Janeiro~~.

12
The Brazilian government today decreeing that four hundred and sixty million coffee ~~mm~~ trees will be chopped down over the next four months. Cooperating coffee growers to receive funds from a bank of Brazil - to replant their fields with food products - principally wheat and ~~corn~~ ^{corn}. This an effort to reverse an ironic situation - ~~in which~~ Brazil, ~~is~~ the world's largest coffee producing nation - ~~yet~~ ^{is} finding it necessary to import most all of its other foodstuffs.

The coffee cut back "likely to cause a shortage here?" ~~as north~~ ^{No -} ~~hardly~~ -- say Brazilian officials. Surplus crops in recent years - bulging warehouses with an estimated sixty-five million reserved ^{Warren.} sacks of coffee beans, Enough they say - to last at least four years, ^{and a-l-u-Mon.}

14