

Wednesday, December 22, 1971

UNITED NATIONS

At the United Nations - off with the old, on with the new. Kurt Waldheim of Austria - winning speedy approval from the U N General Assembly; whereupon he was immediately sworn in - as the successor to U N Secretary U Thant.

In his maiden speech - Kurt Waldheim pledging to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor; pledging to bring "imaginative and realistic" new approaches - to the quest for world peace.

In the same vein - Waldheim noting that the U N "has arrived at present - at an important cross-roads;" with the participation of the people's Republic of China - a major step on the road towards universality," as he put it. "A further step in this direction" - said he - "would be admission of the divided countries;" North and South Vietnam - North and South Korea - East and West Germany; "which I

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hope" - he continued - "will be brought about in the not too distant future.

For Kurt Waldheim - a standing ovation. And then the same for U - Thant - who served more than ten years as Secretary General, longest ever period. The end of an era and the beginning of another. What it holds in store, who can predict!

TOKYO

Ryokichi Minobe, Governor of Tokyo, has just returned - from a visit with Red China's Premier Chou En-Lai, with the word that Red China "is making serious preparations for war." Adding that these efforts - "are directed - against the Soviet Union."


What about the U.S.? Just the opposite - said the governor. Observing that Chou En-Lai had indicated - "warm feelings toward the U.S." This, he said "because the U.S. has never made territorial claims against China - and has given assistance to developing education and universities in China."

Incidentally, Chou En-Lai is also quoted as saying he has been strongly criticized - in his own country - for agreeing to meet with President Nixon. Chou En-Lai reportedly stressing - the "groundwork" for such a meeting has been well laid. What will come of it though, added the governor - "he could not predict."

From the White House ^{comes} a document today
entitled, "Richard Nixon's Third Year". Achievements
cited including: The President's new economic program; -
reduced crime rates; - improved traffic safety; - a better
outlook for farm prices; - and so on and so on. ^{all} Coming
to the conclusion that Nineteen Seventy - One - "was a
year of large conceptions, of daring innovation and of
substantial progress."

^{With}
~~And~~ the best - yet to come - ^{is} ~~said~~ the report.

Asserting that Democrats in Congress will find the best
way to get re-elected next year ^{will be} ~~is~~ to support the
President's programs next year.



PRESIDENT FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

The White House again - President Nixon today signed legislation - insuring himself another sixteen months of economic control; and that will be more than enough - said ^{he.} ~~the~~ President. Adding that "our battle against inflation - can be continued and completed within the coming year."

SAIGON

In the air war over Indo China - another so-called "protective reaction" strike; with American jets hitting an enemy missile ^{site} ~~sights~~ - barely eighty miles from Hanoi; the closest approach to the North Vietnamese capital - in more than three years.

Back in Saigon - the South Vietnamese government ordering the release of nearly seven hundred prisoners - as of Christmas day. These, - civilians ^{were} ~~all~~ originally picked up - on suspicion of Communist political activity. Some - held as much as two years without trial; but now - we are told - apparently "neutralized".

DACCA

For the leaders of the Bangladesh movement - a triumphant arrival today at Dacca, in East Pakistan. There they were met by a cheering, screaming, near hysterical crowd - estimated at one million Bengalis. So intense was the crush that armed guards were forced to use their gun butts to beat back the celebrants; several of whom died in the heat and press of the throng.

Nevertheless - a joyous event; with Bangladesh President Syed Nazrul Islam - briefly mounting a platform and leading his countrymen - in cries of "Jai Bangla" - long live Bengal. Syed Nazrul Islam also telling the crowd that Bangladesh is here to stay. "Now a reality and no power on earth can undo it," said he.

TREASURY

From the U S Treasury Department - a report today that foreign governments still owe the U S - about fifty billion in ~~out~~ outstanding debts; many of them - dating back to World War One.

At the head of the list - Great Britain ; which still owes us - better than fourteen billion. Next - France - more than seven billion; followed by a host of former war-time and peace-time allies - and even a few ex-enemies. Indeed, our only debtors paid up to date ; ^{and} Finland, and West Germany; ~~and~~ The only ones who have ~~already~~ paid in full - Cuba and Liberia. So says the U S Treasury.

RENTS

Also here at home on the economic front - the President's price board today approved an automatic nationwide rent increase; expected to figure out to roughly two and a half per cent, on each of twenty-four million rental units.

But the cost of operating ~~these~~ these units is going up nearly twice as fast - says Commission Chairman Grayson. As he put it, this will not be a "boondoggle ^{for} landlords," rather - a hardship.

WASHINGTON

Is the sea around us fast becoming the sea above us? Steacy Hicks of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, says that sea level from Maine through Virginia has been rising "at an unprecedented rate" since Nineteen Sixty Three; in all, about three inches; three times the previous rate; which means many shore resorts and coastal industries may face a serious problem in a few years.

Scientist Hicks says either the sea actually is rising or the land subsiding. Either way results the same. We're going under, Warren. Shall we reach ^{for} our water wings or make for the hills?

BANGKOK FOLLOW SAIGON

Another drenching monsoon rain today - at Bangkok in Thailand, forced the Bob Hope troupe to miss their first show in eight years. This one a scheduled booking aboard the U S S Coral Sea.

Bob Hope did meet with reporters telling them the G I's he has entertained so far this year have been his best audiences ever. He was asked - does he intend to make another "Road" movie with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour? Replied Bob: "Sure - if we can ever find a road that's downhill - cause Crosby is that old!" said he.