

Friday, March 2, 1973

SUDAN LEAD

One of the Sudanese government top officials - Vice President Mohammed Al Bagir Ahmed announced tonight that the Black September Palestinian guerrillas who seized the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum, have executed the U.S. ambassador - Cleo Noel - the American charge d'affaires Curtis Moore and the Belgian charge d'affaires Guy Eid. Ahmed said he learned of the executions in a phone call from the Embassy by the Saudi Arabian Ambassador one of those being held hostage, along with a Jordanian diplomat. The executions had been reported earlier over the Sudan Omdurman Radio and picked up at Cairo.

The guerrillas had threatened to execute the hostages one by one unless their demands were met for the release of scores of guerrillas jailed in several countries - also Senator Kennedy's assassin Sirhan Sirhan - now at San Quentin Prison in California.

INDIANS

Those two hundred Indians remain barricaded tonight in the trading post at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Senator George McGovern says the situation is "very tense." A shot was fired today at Federal authorities as they were negotiating during the sort-of truce.

The Indians - surrounded by a small army of Federal Marshalls and police have released the eleven hostages. They had been held since the seizing of the trading post four nights ago. The Redmen are demanding a Senate investigation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and a full review of present Indian treaties - especially treaties relating to the Sioux in South Dakota.

VIE TNAM

President Nixon told a news conference today that post war aid for North Vietnam is a necessary investment in peace. He pledged such aid would be supplied without cutting back on programs here at home. He concedes there is opposition in Congress to aid for our recent enemy, but - he added - "it's in our interest to give Hanoi a stake in peace". The President also announced plans to meet with South Vietnamese President Thieu at the Western White House on April second.

On another subject, he challenged members of Congress to vote on the issue of amnesty for deserters and draft dodgers - something he steadfastly opposes. The Senate appears unwilling to pick up the challenge. A Senate survey shows at least ninety opposed to unconditional amnesty and luke warm on all alternative proposals.

The next release of one hundred and six American prisoners is set for Hanoi airport this Sunday; also thirty more by the Viet Cong probably on Monday.

In Paris twelve foreign ministers today signed an agreement to guarantee Vietnamese peace. The ceremony was interrupted by Chinese Minister Chi Peng-Fei who delivered a surprise denunciation of South Vietnam - charging Saigon with jeopardizing the peace by refusing to recognize the Viet Cong.

COLLAPSE

Several floors of a building under construction in Virginia, near Washington, collapsed with a roar today killing at least six persons. Some seventeen others are missing; believed trapped under the rubble. Thirteen more were treated for injuries. The scene was Bailey's crossroads, in Virginia eight miles southwest of downtown Washington. The upper floors of the structure remained intact when the lower floors and one side of the building crumbled - sending up a cloud of dust. Army helicopters from nearby Fort Belvoir rescued three from the roof, as disaster units from ~~disaster units from~~ nearby hospitals were arriving.

DEDUCTION

Some twenty five million tax payers have already filed their Federal income tax return for Nineteen Seventy Two - with only three percent of these taking advantage of the new law permitting them to designate one dollar of their taxes to support Presidential candidates. Under that law, a candidate accepting such public funding would not be allowed to accept private campaign donations. The Democrats made this a law three years ago over the vigorous objections of the President and the Republicans.

DOLLAR

American in West Germany discovered that their travellers checks were worth nine percent less today when they sought to convert dollars to German Marks. Some found them turned back to them when they tried to convert more than a hundred dollars. Meanwhile German banks were closing their doors against a flood of dollars from speculators seeking a more stable currency.

Nine European Common Market finance Ministers will hold an emergency meeting Sunday to consider a German proposal to "float" all their currencies against the dollar. President Nixon says we will not knuckle under to currency speculators by devaluing the dollar again.

SHOOTING

In Corinth, Mississippi - a feud. A police captain today shot and killed the city's chief of police in an exchange of gunfire at city hall. Sixty-one year old Chief Art Murphy was shot. No charges were filed against thirty one year old police captain Jerry McDaniel after a coroner's jury ruled it a case of "justifiable homicide."

Officials say McDaniel had been feuding with the chief for weeks - ever since McDaniel was suspended for alleged mis-conduct. Witnesses say the two were engaged in a heated argument when Chief Murphy whipped out his revolver and fired and missed. Then McDaniel, according to the witnesses, fired his own fatal bullet.

COFFEE

The cost of your morning cup of coffee may be on the way up. The nation's largest coffee processor - Maxwell House - says wholesale coffee prices are being upped some four cents on the pound.

SIKORSKY

Sikorsky is known the world over for its production of helicopters. Next Monday they'll observe their fiftieth birthday. A national hero, Air Force General Jimmy Doolittle will be there for a special celebration at the Sikorsky main plant, Stratford, Connecticut. General Doolittle will unveil a bronze sculpture of the Igor Sikorsky - founder of the company.

Sikorsky, born in Kiev, Russia, in eighteen-eighty-nine - built his first helicopter in Nineteen-Oh-Nine. That was only six years after the Wright Brothers made their Kitthawk first flight. Later, he built the world's first four-engine aircraft, some seventy-five of them for Russia, in World War One. Then, when he came to this country his flying boats and amphibians blazed air trails between continents - also across the Atlantic and the Pacific including the famous Pan American clipper. Sikorsky! a name that will live long in aviation history.

MUSEUMS

The curator of Cleveland's Museum of Ancient Art - John Cooney says the walls of America's museums would be bare if all the works of art smuggled into the United States were sent back where they came from. Curator Cooney's comments came in the midst of a controversy over a twenty-five hundred year old Greek Vase recently purchased by the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Italian authorities suspect it was smuggled out of their country. The Metropolitan denies this saying it was acquired from a private collector whose family had it for a half a century. Without referring specifically to the Greek vase matter, Cleveland Curator Cooney says, Bill, that ninety-five percent of the ancient art materials in U.S. museums were smuggled into the USA.

WIG

In San Francisco, an Air Force reservist has filed a suit against both the Air Force and the California National Guard. He says he was expelled from monthly drill meetings because he wore - a wig. This, in order to comply with military regulations against long hair. John Wentz wore the short style wig with his hair tucked up, and he hoped, concealed underneath. Everything went fine and his hair was unnoticed and unchallenged until one day - Wentz says - "a lieutenant stared at me for about five minutes from a number of different angles and finally asked - Wentz - is that a wig? when I said yes, he bounced me!"