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GUERILLAS

The Arab guerillas who last week massacred thirty ~~two~~ persons in an airline attack at Rome and Athens, had originally planned to assassinate Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Beirut a day earlier -- this according to military and diplomatic sources in Brussels. These reports say Libya ordered the attempt against Kissinger's life, but Lebanese authorities learned of it in time -- and diverted Kissinger's plane to another airport forty-five miles from Beirut.

In Paris, French officials ~~claimed~~ to have broken up a Palestinian guerilla group with the arrest of thirteen persons -- including two women -- and the seizure of a large cachet of weapons and explosives.

~~Ending~~
ENERGY ---~~2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2-2~~

~~A spokesman claiming the "remarkably low highway toll" is a result of less gasoline -- less miles travelled, and lower speeds.~~

Energy Advisor Simon is being swamped with about fifteen hundred letters a day from Americans who want to help him cope with the crisis. One Oklahoman -- who lclaims to be an inventor -- offered an energy saving devise called the "Electroplasma Gravity Hydrogen Fusing Reactor." We weren't told whether Simon will look that one over. Another inventor wrote a long letter detailing a device to put "ocean waves" to work. To dispell any doubts, the letter had this postscript "remember--they *told* *me at the Wright Bros: -* ~~told~~ Orville, it won't fly."

QUILTING

The age of the quilting bee is with us again -- an old-time past-time emerging anew -- to join other homecraft revivals such as needlepoint, knitting, crochet^{ing} and embroidery.

Perhaps it's because shortages are causing more people to stay at home -- making their own when they need it -- with quality desired more than quantity. Two art dealers in New York are presenting an exhibit -- called the "Great American Quilt Festival" -- featuring homemade quilts of the past century. One is colorfully stitched with a portrait of George Washington -- surrounded by eight large American flags -- which are, in turn, surrounded by numerous small flags of many foreign countries. ~~But wait -- didn't George Washington~~

~~live known men who were experts in his farewell address -- say something about "beware of foreign entanglements"~~ at needlepoint. — Bill — do you do any fancy needlepoint? As for me I just stick to my knitting!

WEATHER

The Tennessee Valley is braced for a major flood control effort tonight, -- ~~with~~ Torrential rains causing ~~some~~ rivers to rise at ~~about~~ ^{also -} a foot-an-hour. Many families ~~already~~ have left their homes in Mississippi -- with flash flood warnings posted from Louisiana to West Virginia. ~~Adding to the discomfort,~~ Tornadoes and high winds are bowling over homes in parts of Alabama and Mississippi.

BUS

A Continental Trailways bus -- with about twenty passengers aboard -- was speeding along a north Texas highway -- enroute to Los Angeles -- when one of the passengers -- a husky young man -- went forward and started arguing with the driver.

The argument continued as the vehicle sped on at sixty-miles-an hour-- the driver insisting that the passenger had boarded the wrong bus.

~~Then,~~ In a fit of rage, the passenger pulled a ~~large~~ knife, ~~from his~~ ~~pocket~~ -- and ~~repeatedly~~ stabbed the driver -- forty-one-year-old

Bill Young of Texarkana, Texas. Young managed to steer the bus off the highway -- then he stepped out and collapsed, ~~on the road~~. He was

dead on arrival at a hospital. His assailant -- who fled on foot --

some 6 mi's from the scene -
was captured late today with the aid of bloodhounds and helicopters,

~~about six miles from the scene.~~

ASIA

Communist forces in South Vietnam today launced simultaneous attacks against six government militia posts in the coastal province of Quang Ngai. They also succeeded in blowing up a bridge -- cutting off all traffic to the provincial capitol.

In Cambodia, four women were killed and forty-five shoppers wounded when a hand grenade exploded in a market place near Pnom Penh -- while fighting between government and rebel forces continued near the city.

MAO

No public celebrations are scheduled in China today -- even though it's the eightieth birthday of Mao Tse-tung who -- on New Year's Day nineteen-twenty-one -- declared -- "My revolutionary aim is to transform China and the world." There seems little -- or no -- doubt that, Mao, after half a century ~~later~~, Mao has transformed the weak and divided China of his youth into a powerful and ^{apparently} unified nation -- one of the world's five major powers. But he has not transformed the world -- even though there are those who claim he ^{still wants to} ~~is in the process of doing so~~ -- as he continues to rule the world's most populous nation, ^{IP} ~~of seven hundred million~~. But, inside Red China, the struggle goes on -- a struggle now centered around the question of Mao's eventual successor. Mao's number two man -- Chou En Lai -- is seventy-four himself, and the question is -- who or what group will point the way for China when ^{Mao and Chou} ~~they~~ pass from the scene. ~~Almost~~ ^{are likely to play} ~~surely, the nature of~~ China's future leadership ~~has great~~ ^{a major role -- maybe even decide} ~~significance for~~ the destiny of the world.

FUNDS

The Agriculture Department says the White House Office of Budget Management has decided to impound about forty percent of the one-hundred-seventy-five-million dollars which congress voted for next year's farm conservation subsidies.

The decision would permit the spending of no more than one-hundred-million of the allotted amount. Congress has strenuously protested earlier White House decisions to impound funds for other purposes -- notably those for the Health and Welfare Department which were recently released. The White House has insisted the impoundments are necessary to hold down inflation.

ENERGY

President Nixon -- responding to a press photographer who wished him a "Merry Christmas" -- let it be known that major efforts are being made to avoid gasoline rationing in the current crisis. The President made the statement as he posed for pictures with White House Energy Advisor William Simon who -- tomorrow -- is expected to announce an official decision on the no rationing approach. Through a spokesman, the President also welcomed as "a sign of progress" the Arab decision to lift oil embargoes against Japan and some European nations.

At the same time, federal officials announced plans to investigate a number of service station dealers who grossly overcharged holiday drivers unfortunate enough to run out of gas. Such reports have come from many sections -- one telling of a New York City dealer who sold regular gas at ninety-nine-and-nine-tenths cents a gallon.

If the gas shortage has another side, then it comes from the National Safety Council which says a record low of five-hundred-eighteen deaths were reported over the four day Christmas Weekend.

STUCK

Buoyed by the Arab Move to ease oil restrictions in Europe and Japan, the New York Stock Market staged a strong rally today -- sending most stocks higher. The Dow Jones average climbed more than twenty-two points, -- ~~closing at eight hundred thirty seven.~~