

MIDDLE EAST

Thurs. Aug. 17-67,

In the Middle East - a major break today in that Arab and Israeli impasse. With Jordan and Israel both agreeing to permit a return of Arab refugees - to their former homes on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

The mass return - set to begin tomorrow. With Red Cross officials in Amman, Jordan - predicting that close to two hundred thousand Arabs will take advantage of the agreement. Israeli authorities ~~predicting only~~ ^{saying} that free passage will end - as of August thirty-one.

At the same time - another concession today from the Israeli government; heading off ~~the~~ ^{the} threat of a religious clash - in ~~the~~ ^{side the walls of the} old city of Jerusalem.

As you may have heard - Israeli occupation forces were planning to hold services Saturday -- in the famed Haram El Shariff; an enclosure containing the dome of the rock and the Mosque of El Aksa - two of the holiest

shrines in all Islam. But in view of mounting protest
from Moslems -- those services now cancelled.

ALEXANDRIA FOLLOW MIDDLE EAST

Also on the credit side - a report today from Alexandria, Egypt. Where President Tito of Jugoslavia - today concluded his personal peace mission to the Arab world.

Before sailing for home on his personal yacht - Tito telling of assurances from three of Israel's most hostile neighbors -- Egypt, Syria and Iraq; Assurances that they are determined - as he put it - "to find a political solution" to the current Middle East crisis.

Tito adding his own conclusion - to the effect that non-aligned powers must play a major role - in any Mideast peace settlement.

SARAJEVO FOLLOW ALEXANDRIA

While President Tito was thus occupied -- his fellow countrymen were having troubles a-plenty back in Yugoslavia. Namely - an invasion of field mice - in the Province of Bosnia. Hundreds of thousands - perhaps millions- of field mice - advancing in a hungry phalanx. Devouring hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of crops - and, at last report, only six miles from the city of Sarajevo.

Yugoslav authorities trying everything to stop them - but so far nothing seems to work, short of poison - which they are reluctant to use in farmland. However, city officials in Sarajevo are massing vast amounts of poison - in case it's needed as a last resort.

Where did the mice all come from? Conservationists explaining that farmers and hunters - have killed off foxes and other natural enemies of the mice in recent years. Noting, what's more, that a female mouse can reproduce - at the rate of three hundred young per year.

VIETNAM

On the war front - American ground troops to the attack again today in Vietnam. In one engagement - U S Marines storming and capturing an enemy hilltop command post; in a drive to smash a new Viet Cong build-up on the coastal plain south of Da Nang. In a second battle nearby - U S paratroopers calling in reinforcements; in an effort to cut off ~~xx~~ escape routes for a Viet Cong regiment *I* believed trapped in rugged, rolling hill country.

Back at Saigon - an American spokesman ~~put~~ ^{put} enemy losses at nearly two hundred men, in ~~the~~ ^{recent} ~~series of battles~~ ^{fighting} ~~breaking a month long lull in the ground~~

~~war.~~

FAIRBANKS-

By order of President Johnson - the State of Alaska today was declared officially a major disaster area. Clearing the way for immediate release - of a million dollars in federal flood relief funds; badly needed - in the flood-stricken city of Fairbanks and surrounding countryside.

The President's action - following an appeal from Alaska Governor Wally Hickel; who warned that Fairbanks would be - in his words - "a goner," - unless massive aid were forthcoming - before the onset of winter in late September.

That aid - now enroute. As Fairbanks begins the tremendous task - of pumping out the water, clearing away the rubble. Its citizens bounding back with pioneer spirit - from the record flood that claimed at least seven lives and caused untold damage.

Mrs. Homer Morris - one of the hardy breed. Though her clothes, her furniture, even her house were

FAIRBANKS - 2

washed away - Mrs. Morris asserting: "This is our home.

We love it and we want to stay - regardless of a little

high water."

RACE

~~News at home~~ - Big city rioting flared anew

early today - in Houston and Syracuse. Houston police
now reporting the situation -- ~~not~~ under control. However,
Syracuse Mayor William Walsh -- tonight clamping a
curfew on two racially ~~is~~ troubled sections of that city;
hoping to head off - another night of burning and looting.

TRENTON

From Trenton, New Jersey -- a final accounting today; on those two days of summit meetings last June - at Glassboro State college.

In answer to a number of press inquiries --

New Jersey State Treasurer John Kervick setting total cost at just over twenty five thousand dollars. ~~Including, incidentally, a little item of six thousand -- for restoring the floor of a gym used as a press room. With state and federal agencies - expected to share the burden about fifty-fifty.~~

"Putting a price tag on an event of such international significance" - perhaps "rather unusual" = admitted Kervick. But, "I am sure" - he went on - "that no one would ~~sk~~ disagree --it was money well spent."

TAAL

Killer Taal - again on the loose. Reports from the Philippines telling today of shooting fireballs every five seconds - from that dread Taal volcano. In addition, clouds of steam and fine ash - spewing forth from the thousand-foot peak, To the accompaniment of threatening rumbles - thundering across the countryside.

According to the Philippine volcanology commission - another eruption now apparently just a matter of time. So they've evacuated hundreds of families - living in the shadow of Killer Taal, Hoping to avoid a repetition of the ~~the~~^{the} catastrophe two years ago - when a hundred-and-ninety died in a fiery sea of lava.

NEWARK

We all know the story - about curiosity and the cat. Now comes the story of one Robert Morris of Newark, New Jersey - apparently a victim of the same affliction.

According to police - Morris was visiting friends in their new sealed-up, air-conditioned apartment building, when he became intrigued - by a floor-to-ceiling picture with a sweeping view; a fixed window -- supposedly crashproof, shatterproof and all other kinds of proof.

Morris banging the window several times with his hands - and, sure enough, it seemed as sturdy as claimed. Whereupon he backed up - and hurled himself at the pane. Too hard - much too hard. A clatter of glass - a scream - and then silence. Minutes later,

They found him dead - ~~a few minutes later;~~
on the street - fourteen stories below.

MISS AMERICA

A footnote to the war in Vietnam - in this next from a base camp north of Saigon, Where the reigning Miss America today learned a valuable lesson - in show business. Vietnam style.

Lovely Jane Ann Jayroe of Laverne, Oklahoma - drawing thunderous applause from a crowd of G I's when she and five other state beauty queens made their first appearance - wearing frilly, feminine, chiffon mini-dresses.

Later though - the girls changed into baggy army fatigues - for a planned comedy sequence. But all they got - were boos and groans. A front-row private shouting: "That's the last way I want to see an American girl dressed."

When it was all over - the girls agreeing to toss out their prepared act. Observing that - "what the boys really appreciated - was when we went down and talked to them."

FERRARA

Then there's the story of one Tranquillo

Marangoni - of Ferrara, Italy. A gentleman confined to
the local hospital for weeks - because of a broken right leg.

Signore Marangoni - finally released today. Then,

Walking down the steps of the hospital - ~~when~~ he slipped
and you guessed it. Mama Mia! He broke his left leg.

Ending up - right back in the hospital. Where they tell us

~~well~~ that Tranquillo - ^{is now} ~~is~~ something less than ~~tranquil~~ ~~day more~~