

CUBA

L.T.-Calds, Fisher Mon. July 29 - '68.

In Havana, where Fidel Castro announced last week that he would expropriate the U.S. Embassy, the Swiss Mission protecting our interests - is now in a state of siege. The Swiss Ambassador has cut short his vacation - to take command, And a twenty-four hour watch has been set up - inside the building. Which the Swiss say they will surrender - only under force.

The Swiss ^{who} are experts & on international law, ~~and~~ they say that Castro is violating - international law.

TEST BAN

Averell Harriman had some interesting things to say today - after he emerged from his three-hour closed session with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House-Senate Atomic Energy Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee. Mr. Harriman - faced quite a barrage of questions from the lawmakers about the Atomic Test Ban Treaty which he negotiated in Moscow.

Then - another barrage from newsmen - after he came out. He told them that Soviet Premier Khrushchev does not believe Red China will have a nuclear capability of any importance - for a long, long time. Because, says Khrushchev - China doesn't have the industrial capacity, not yet. That he has been getting no technical assistance from the Soviet Union since 1960. In fact, Harriman told newsmen that Khrushchev "didn't appear very concerned".

FRANCE

President de Gaulle at his Press Conference today said more or less - what most of us expected. That is he was more conciliatory than he has been - recently. He approves - of the Nuclear Test Ban Agreement, but thinks it has - only "limited value". Nor will he give up nuclear weapons himself - until the U.S. and Russia agree to disarm completely. Nor will he go along with Khrushchev's proposal for a non-aggression pact - between Nato and the Warsaw Pact powers.

De Gaulle scoffed at the idea of a break between America and France - who have been allies through two World wars, and who have every reason to stick together - as long as the Soviets go on trying to take over.

The General also told the newsmen that he will call an international meeting - before the year is out, to discuss essential nuclear problems - as he put it - "before they become insoluble".

INDIA

The intentions of the Chinese Reds - are still causing anxiety in India. Today India's Defense Chiefs met to discuss strategy, amid reports that the Reds are building up substantial forces - all along the Northern border between India and China. The Indians think that their Chinese neighbors may be about to renounce the ceasefire they proclaimed unilaterally last Fall - and attack the Indian border once more.

In fact A Bombay newspaper reports that about one thousand Chinese planes are massing - north of the McMahon Line frontier. And that another thousand planes *are nearly to back them up,* ~~are in the rear.~~

These reports of Chinese air concentration, ~~coming~~ less than a week after the U.S. and Britain announced they would hold air exercises in India - to train Indian airmen in the air defense of the Himalayan frontier.

KOREA

That attack at the Korean border on a jeep flying the white flag of U.N. vehicles - was "deliberately planned, premeditated and executed in a gray, early dawn". So says a U.N. Command spokesman tonight. In the jeep three American soldiers - two of whom were killed, one seriously wounded.

Meanwhile in Washington the State Department says it is outraged - and is calling a meeting of the Korean Military Armistice Commission to confront the North Koreans.

QUAKE

Extra

While survivors are still being snatched from the ghastly wreckage of Skopje, in Yugoslavia - the government is already making plans to rebuild the city. But before they do anything else they will call in seismological experts - to suggest a safe location for the new capital of Macedonia.

~~As of now,~~ more than eight hundred dead - have been taken from the ruins; And about seven hundred ^{to a} ¹⁰⁰⁰ more - may still be there. Over two thousand - injured. All except able-bodied men - have been ordered to leave. (Government agencies are working round the clock - to try and get factories, markets, etc. working again; get the city, or what's left of it, back on its feet.)

DEBT

Secretary of the Treasury Dillon told Congress today he is most gratified by what he terms the improvement in the nation's economy. In fact he says our economy is so lively, that - it will not be necessary to ask Congress to raise the National Debt ceiling this Summer. All he wants Congress to do is to extend the present debt limit of - three hundred and nine billion for three months. Extend it - beyond the present deadline at the end of August.

The Secretary of the Treasury said he was embarrassed - as well as gratified in that only three months ago he told Congress that a boost in the debt ceiling to three hundred and twenty billion would be needed - before the end of the summer. How could he be so embarrassed - to find that he doesn't need that much - in fact a bit less?

In case any of the Senators should feel too optimistic, he told the House Ways and Means Committee that he'll be back in the Fall - with a request for another record hike - in the debt ceiling.

SPACE

One of the most difficult space feats ever attempted - has just been successfully accomplished. Tonight enthusiastic space officials in Washington report that Syncom Two - the first functioning satellite ever launched in what they call "a hanging orbit" - is doing just that.

The seventy-nine pound communications spacecraft is now nearing synchronous orbit up at a height of - twenty-two thousand three hundred miles. And has already received and re-broadcast, over a space loop of forty-five thousand miles, such items as - an instrumental performance of the Star Spangled Banner.

A satellite in synchronous orbit appears to ride always over the same line of longitude on earth - because its speed matches the speed of the earth's rotation.

Three of these little miracles of the space age could provide television, telephone, teletype and photo-facsimile service - for the whole world. Though the space-men are not saying - just when this will ^{happen,} Dick.

FASHION

Remember - the pageboy hairdo? Paris has brought it back again, and, with it - the Sherwood Forest Look. Yves St. Laurent, the boy wonder of French fashion, successor to Christian Dior, building his collection round Robin Hood - and all that.

Dressing his models in suede jerkins, mid-thigh boots, and Robin Hood hats. Also putting heavy chains with huge pendants round their necks - like those worn by medieval kings.

I wonder if the ladies on Fifth Avenue this Fall will be carrying - bows and arrows?