

Wednesday, May 30, 1973
Stuart Novins

REYKJAVIK

President Nixon is in Reykjavik, Iceland tonight and so is French President Pompidou. Both men will begin their scheduled meetings tomorrow. They will be discussing general relations between West Europe and the United States. Pompidou has let be known unmistakably that he is interested in finding solutions to the international monetary instability, particularly through actions by the United States. The American President is expected to emphasize that such problems can't be handled by themselves - that they must be weighed in together with the United States Military and political policies in Europe.

Mr. Nixon is accompanied by Secretary of State Rogers - and adviser Henry Kissinger - and other top-level aides.

WHITE HOUSE

Before Mr. Nixon left Washington today he met with the first envoy from Red China ever to serve in Washington. The President conferred for nearly half-an-hour - with newly-arrived Huang Chen. The President said he hopes to "go again" to China. Huang replied: "This is very good news." The President also said he was "very appreciative" - of the welcome accorded U.S. Ambassador David Bruce when he arrived in Peking. He said: "We hope that your accommodations - are handled as well here" -

ICELAND

The Franco-American summit meeting in Iceland - the Nixon-Pompidou conference - is the last western meeting of its kind before Soviet Communist Party Chief Leonid Brezhnev comes to Washington.

MOSCOW

In Moscow today - the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda - predicted that Brezhnev's upcoming visit to the U.S. - could be "a new landmark in efforts to ensure peaceful coexistence."

Pravda went on to say: "There are favorable conditions - for this." It cited U.S. public opinion polls; said to show that an "overwhelming majority" - of Americans - favor improved relations with the Soviet Union.

A twenty-day delay of immunity - for former White House aides John Dean and Jeb Stuart Magruder; was signed today by Federal Judge John Sirica - at the request of the Justice Department. The reason for this was not disclosed. But it will prevent Dean and Magruder from testifying in the Senate Watergate hearings - at least till June Eighteen.

John Ehrlichman was testifying today in secret - before a second Senate panel. The President's former top domestic-affairs adviser - told of the part he played in the Watergate investigation; starting out with a nineteen-page written statement - which he later made public.

Ehrlichman insisted that the President had given specific instructions - that the FBI and the CIA were both to be given a free hand. Ehrlichman denied he had made any improper suggestions to the CIA. The testimony, according to committee chairman, Senator John McClellan was partially in conflict with testimony given earlier by top CIA leaders.

FTC

The Federal Trade Commission today filed a class action complaint - against a large segment of the plastics industry; for allegedly promoting as safe - plastic foam that may, in fact, constitute a fire hazard.

The foam in question was alleged to be partly responsible - for the fire that killed America's three Apollo One astronauts. It was also reportedly a factor in a disastrous dancehall fire near Grenoble, France - and a liquefied gas tank explosion at Staten Island, New York.

Officials said that sales of such plastics - totaled more than a million pounds last year; for us in furniture cushions, chairs, tables, wall panels, and even plumbing fixtures and pipes.

EARTH ORBIT

High above the earth's atmosphere - the men of Skylab-One today were taking some spectacular pictures of the sun; pictures that were relayed back to Earth.

Next - the first in-orbit earth-resources study; expected to zero in on insect infestation in Texas - gypsum beds in New Mexico - and volcanoes in Central America.

SAIGON

From the Saigon government - a charge today that it was the Viet Cong - who forced the withdrawal of Canada from the international peace-keeping team. This - it was said - in order to conceal a post-truce "invasion" of South Vietnam.

In reverse, a Viet Cong charge that the Canadian delegation - "displayed a lack of objectivity and a lack of selflessness;" that it also "distorted" the Communist attitude - while covering up "the acts of violation" committed by the U.A. and Saigon.

In the meantime, another meeting of the peace team - ending in another hopeless wrangle. An observer later saying: "It's the same argument - by the same people - over the same issue;" whether any single member - can veto the wishes of all the rest.

GOLD

The price of gold soared to a new record high today - on the big London bullion market; One Hundred and Thirteen dollars and Twenty-Five cents an ounce - for a gain of a Dollar-Seventy-Five; while the dollar itself - in West Germany, at least - dropped to its lowest value since World War Two.

BONN

That Soviet fighter pilot who bailed out Sunday over West Germany - was today granted political asylum. The Bonn government's action - defying a Soviet request for extradition; thereby placed a bit of a strain - on the newly-established "new era" of friendly relations between West Germany and Russia. A Bonn official stressed however: "There are no political motivations behind this."

SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE "SEA CAPTAIN HEADDEN"

And now - it's time for a nautical note from Lowell

Thomas.

Sea Captain Headden

L. T. Tape Insert

550
A card has just come from a sea captain
who drops me a line several times a year from
various parts of the world. In this message
he includes some interesting figures. He says -
after forty two years on the seven seas I have
105
rolled up four million miles at sea. This has
included four wars, fifty times through the Panama
Canal, fifty times through Suez, eight voyages
to Vietnam carrying ammunition, forty voyages to
India; forty crossings ~~across~~ of the Equator. No
wonder Bob Keadden signs his card this time --
The Old rolling stone. Long may he roll.

And - so - long.

±

655

[Right, Howard -

Now, this message 700-

60

800

LONDON

Britain's Princess Anne and Lieutenant Mark Phillips met the press today - together - for the first time - in London. The newly-betrothed couple - parrying most questions with Royal aplomb. However, the Princess freely displayed - her new engagement ring. "You can see, it's pretty simple" - she observed - "a sapphire in the middle and a diamond on each side."

As for Lieutenant Phillips, he said he was "petrified" - at having to ask Prince Philip for his daughter's hand in marriage. The Lieutenant added though: "He was very good to me."

Earlier, the engaged couple arrived by train from Scotland - receiving the kind of welcome normally accorded pop music stars. One man shouting to Phillips: "Well done, sir." Followed by a chorus - of "hear, hear!"

Stuart Novins for Lowell Thomas.