

Friday, April 18, 1969

WHITE HOUSE

*The White House; - as you have doubtless heard by now - President Nixon lays it on the line. Blasting North Korea's downing of that unarmed Navy plane - as "unprovoked, deliberate, and without warranty." Further observing that North Korea - has ignored an official U.S. protest. Therefore, ordering immediate resumption of such aerial reconnaissance - vowing: "these flights will be continued. They will be protected." Adding gravely: "this is not a threat. It is simply a statement of fact."*

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*Why the need for said reconnaissance?*

*Because - the President went on to explain - "there are forty-six thousand American troops stationed in South Korea;" fifty-six thousand men - against whom North Korea has increasingly "threatened military action in recent weeks." "As commander-in-chief of our armed*

forces" - the President continued - "I cannot and will not ask our men to serve in Korea - I cannot and will not ask our men to take flights like this in unarmed planes - without providing the protection" they need.

"Looking to the future" - as he put it - the President stressed that this is merely "interim" action. Where we go from here - that will depend on North Korea - said he; on "any other developments that occur - as we continue these flights." However, the President stating flatly: "When planes of the United States or ships of the United States are in international waters or international air space - they are not fair game."

Beyond that - the President's broadcast news conference also covered a broad range of additional subjects. For instance, the President asserting that "chances for peace in Southeast Asia - have significantly improved" in recent months; although peace is not just

*"around the corner - this summer or fall" - said he.*

*As for the necessity of a U.S. ABM system - it's "to avoid falling into a second-class or inferior position vis-a-vis the Soviet Union," - said he. And he also pledged to end the present ten percent income tax surcharge - "as soon as we can do so."*

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VIET NAM

*Turning again to Viet Nam - more news today tells of a mass exodus of Communist troops from northern South Viet Nam. According to U.S. Intelligence - thousands of enemy soldiers streaming across the border - back into neighboring Laos.*

*This - we are told - in part, because of heavy Allied pressure. But is it really a de-escalation of hostility? Too soon to tell - says one U.S. official. Adding: "just because they are in Laos doesn't mean they are out of the war - they are still in our backyard."*

WASHINGTON

*Health Education and Welfare Secretary*

*Robert Finch - latest to speak up on student unrest.*

*In Washington - asserting today that University officials - "have brought much of it on themselves." This - said he - "in attempting to serve many masters - government and industry among them;" and thus - tending "to serve none of them well."*

*Be that as it may - the American Council on Education earlier blamed campus unrest - on a tiny "cult of irrationality and incivility." This "cult" said to be headed by "a minute group of destroyers - who have abandoned hope in todays society." However, the council stresses that most American campuses - have remained peaceful; that most students and faculties have continued to carry on their work - while seeking orderly change and reform.*

SUEZ

*Elsewhere in the world - still another Egyptian and Israeli artillery duel today across the Suez Canal; eleventh such exchange - in the past eleven days. Egyptian gunners - also claiming to have shot down an Israeli reconnaissance plane.*

*Meanwhile at Tel Aviv - Israeli Premier Golda Meir was rejecting in advance - an expected Big Four peace conference. Asserting that Israel will never relinquish captured Arab territory solely on the basis of Big Four "guarantees" - as it did in 1957. To take that kind of "medicine" - said Madame Meir - "would not cure the illness but aggravate it."*

*Over the past fifty years or so - I've been flying hither and yon - everywhere, it seems. Crossing and criss crossing lines of latitude and longitude all over the globe in almost every type of aircraft - so "I'm naturally interested in this next."*


*A fascinating new book - "Your Future As A Pilot" - by Pan Am Captain Kim Scribner. In effect - a "how-to-do-it" book; telling the would-be pilot - how to get started, how to succeed as a jet-age pilot, -*

5 1/2 *assuming you really want to be a jet-age pilot.*

LONDON

*From London comes news today that Indian-born Reita Farria has just qualified as a licensed doctor at Britain's King's College Hospital.*

*Name sound familiar? Well, maybe it should.*

*The lovely Reita Farria - Miss World-of-1966. Who is said to bring to her new profession - "something extra" in the way of professional style and skill - especially in dealing with male patients; although not recommended - we hear - Warren - for anyone like you who already  has high blood pressure.*



*Here's one - a giant "put-on" in San Francisco. Where more than five thousand Bay Area residents turned out today - for a mammoth "earthquake party" sponsored by Mayor Joseph Alioto.*

*Occasion: the Sixty-Third Anniversary - of that famed San Francisco earthquake of 1906; in honor of which the present-day San Franciscans laughed and sang - and watched a recreation of the quake from the old movie "San Francisco." All intended to twit local soothsayers - who are predicting that California will split in two any day now.*

*As Mayor Alioto put it: "we live in earthquake country - but there's no need to get hysterical." Indeed, the party goes agreeing - they wouldn't live anywhere else. Earthquakes or no earthquakes - San Francisco is where they want to be - even if part of California does slide into the sea.*