

Monday, February 5, 1973
W J O Y - Burlington, Vermont

AN TROC

The battered city of An Troc in South Vietnam - was pegged today as the possible starting point for "Operation Homecoming." U.S. officials saying it is here where the North Vietnamese may release their first contingent of returning American prisoners. How soon though - a question. A Pentagon spokesman saying: "Our hope is that we would have some prisoners freed by the middle of this week." But he added: "That is a hope - it is not a requirement of the agreement."

Indeed, the Canadian Delegate on the International Peace Keeping Mission was also discussing the prisoner issue today. Michael Gauvin observing that the first release may not be for "a week or so."

SINGAPORE

Vice President Agnew was a welcome guest today at Singapore. There conferring at length with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Subject: the future U.S. role - in Southeast Asia. Lee, for his part, reported urging the continued maintenance of those U.S. bases in Thailand. This to serve as a possible buffer against the threat of post Vietnam Communist expansion. The Vice President is reported as telling him he "does Not foresee a decline in American interest and presence in the region." A Singapore spokesman also quoted the Vice President as saying: "There will be new approaches - but towards the same end."

ARLINGTON

Here at home - the sounding of taps today for the last American killed in Vietnam prior to the cease fire.

Colonel William Molde of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan - taken to Arlington National Cemetery where the graveside service was led by Chaplain Roy Peters, himself a Vietnam veteran.

"Colonel Molde believed in a cause" - said Chaplain Peters; he believed in life and freedom - and he gave his life that others might find peace. The Chaplain adding that Colonel Molde " Now represents all of us who served in Vietnam."

BELFAST

At Belfast today - the death of an eighteen year old Roman Catholic has station attendant; the tenth victim of one of the worst weekend of violence - in the recent history of Northern Ireland.

This leading to Catholic demands - for the restoration of so-called "No-go" areas. While from London comes a report that Britain may impose direct rule over Northern Ireland "indefinitely."

DUBLIN

To the south - at Dublin in the Irish Republic - Premier Jack Lynch today dissolved his parliament; at the same time - calling a general election for three weeks hence.

Lynch explaining how "The months and years immediately ahead will be of crucial importance; and the decision to be taken - could irrevocably change the whole course of future history." "In these circumstances" he continued - "The Government must have a clear and unmistakable mandate to speak and act for the Irish people."

INNSBRUCK

At Lausanne in Switzerland - a meeting of the International Olympic Committee was hearing last minute presentations - from number of ski resort cities; including our own Lake Placid, New York; finally, awarding the Nineteen-Seventy-Six Winter Olympics - to Innsbruck in Austria.

But while all of this was going on, ironically - a terrible tragedy was taking in the mountains a few miles from Innsbruck. A group of ski tourist from West Germany were attempting to cross from one slope to another on the Kirschpitze, near Gerlos Pass. Suddenly - a tremendous avalanche. Killing ten - injuring Gerlos ski instructor, Roland Wanner. Said one of those who witnessed the tragedy: "There was a tremendous roar and, within seconds, they were gone."

MOUNT ACONCAGUA

Death has also claimed two American mountain climbers - on the slopes of Mt. Aconcagua, loftiest mountain in the Andes, tallest peak in either of the Americas. John Cooper, age thirty-five, and Jeanette Johnson, age thirty - both members of a Portland, Oregon Mountain climbing club. They were completing their final ascent of the twenty-two thousand, eight-hundred-and-thirty-four foot peak, while fellow club members waited below. They did make it all the way to the top, and then starting back down - suddenly disaster.

Their bodies last seen lying immobile - at the base of a glacier. With Argentine Andes mountain patrols - now attempting to reach the remains and bring them back.

ISLAND OF HEIMAEY

On the exploding island off Iceland - a brief respite was ended today. Helgafjell volcano sending fourth a fresh torrent of lava which even threatens to seal the strait at the entrance to the island harbor. It's a strait that was twelve hundred yards wide; now - less than half that; raising fears that rescue workers may be forced to leave - before they are cut off from the mainland. The volcano also spung forth - a firey cloud; burying the nearby town of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Vestmannaeyjar under still another layer of volcanic ash.

SANTO DOMINGO

Late last week - you may recall - at Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic - a French Yoga had himself nailed to a cross. Patrick Tamao - founder of a cult called "Tamaolism" - pledging to remain there for three days. Calling his act - a gesture of "sacrifice for world peace."

As it turned out though - there was a subsequent threat of infection. So Tamao ended his self imposed crucifixion - after twenty-four hours; whereupon his thirty year old wife - took his place. Mrs. Tamao completing the remaining fifty two hours - of her husbands planned ordeal. When finally removed from the cross late yesterday - a bit pale and weak she was treated at a hospital - and then released.

Today in Santo Domingo - reporters are asking Mrs. Tamao the same questions they earlier asked her husband: Why? And they got no coherent answer.

BLUE SPRINGS

Because of its giant underwater cave - Blue Springs State Park in Florida is a natural magnet for skin divers. For the inexperienced, the careless, the unwary - its also something of a deathtrap. Blue Springs claiming this past weekend - its fifteenth and sixteenth victims over the past eight years.

Chris Baarman, age twenty-one, and Richard Helder, age twenty, both of Grand Rapids, Michigan. One found at a depth of forty-five feet - the other at sixty-five feet. What went wrong - we haven't heard.

PRAGUE

From the official Chec News Agency in Prague - a story today tells of an industrial milestone. The Koh-I-Noor Pencil Factory in Southern Chechoslovakia is this year celebrating its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Checs bragging that Koh-I-Noor has now produced enough pencils - to pave a road all the way from the earth to the moon.

WHITEHOUSE

The Whitehouse - President Nixon meets today with outgoing members of his Ways and Price Commission. The entire group - later posing for photographers; among them, Donald Rumsfeld, who now becomes our Nato Ambassador - advising his colleagues to "Look happy." Whereupon the President adding, in effect: Bill - "You ought to! - You're getting out of a tough job!"

PUERTO ALEGRE

*From Puerto Alegre in Brazil - a report today
telling of the arrest of ten persons; for swimming in the nude
- at a local beach. A police inspector explaining how "It
wasn't so much the nude bathing that caused the crack-down."
It was just that "when they were not bathing in the nude" -
said he, - "generally, they were doing other thing."*

No details! And so long until tomorrow.