SOUTH EAST ASIA

Two more helicopters were fired on today while flying peace missions over South Vietnam. One was reported destroyed, although a Saigon military spokesman reports no casualties. In Washington, a White House spokesman says the U.S. is taking "an extremely serious" view of these attacks, but gave no hint as what measures might be taken to prevent them. A Canadian Control Commission member says the copter that crashed Saturday - killing nine on board - was struck by a communist missile even though it had prior communist assurances for a safe flight. In Cambodia, three more supply ships steamed the Mekong River through a barrage of communist fire from the shore - and safely reached the beseiged capitol of Phnom Penh. American war planes helped clear their passage. Ten other ships turned back in this - the second attempt to break the communist blockade of the river

THIEU FOLLOW SOUTH EAST ASIA

South Vietnamese President Thieu - a visitor at the Vatican today - heard an appeal from Pope Paul urging Thieu to grant clemency to political prisoners in South Vietnam. But Thieu assured the Pope there were no political prisoners in South Vietnam. He said "there are two kinds - the common criminal and the communist criminal - the latter being the kind who throw bombs in theatres, schools and temples. There are about five thousand of these communist criminals - not two hundred thousand as some would say." Afterward, Thieu told newsmen he and the Pope had discussed all problems concerning the fragile peace in Vietnam.

An Israeli Kirliner came under machine gun attack by guerrillas at the Nicosia airport on the aisle of Cyprus today but the assault backfired. The guerrillas struck in two places - against the airliner, and also against the Israeli Ambassador's home which was bombed and heavily damag . i - the Ambassador and his wife escaping injury. One policeman was killed at the embassy, but other police moved in to round up the guerrillas at both the airport and embassy - reportedly killing two - wounding three - and carting five others off to jail. Two of the gunmen airliner had just arrived and the passengers had already left the plane when the attack began. Police said documents found on the gunmen identified them as members of the Arab National Youth Organization, but there was no immediate indication of their nationalisities.

President Nixon today asked congress for additional budget funds for the current fiscal year - including sixteen million to pay war prisoner claims and more than a million to establish an American mission in Peking, due to open about May First. He estimates Federal spending the current fiscal year would total about two hundred fifty billion - about twenty five billion more than anticipated income.

The Democratic National Committee today sought a

Federal court order - that would grant access to government documents on the Watergate case - including papers on the secrets White House investigation. The Committee's attorney claims the documents are crucial evidence in the six-Million-Dollar civil damage suits the Democrats have filed in connection with the case. A hearing on the motion is set for Thursday.

Beginning tomorrow, the embattled Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim - which has an American Queen also have the services of an experienced Indian Diplomat from New Delhi - who takes over the country's administration at the request of the Sikkimese King - the Chogyal. The Indian Diplomat - B.S. Das has the official title of Chief Administrator of Sikkim. His mission is to help the kingdom toward "political stability and economic prosperity;" -, an ambitious goal for any country nowadays. Sikkim ran into trouble last week when Nepal ese imigrants who comprise three quarters of the population - rebelled against the government - claiming inadequate representation in the National Council.

Tributes to Pablo Picasso's genius came from around the world today to his home - the vine covered stone villa on the French Riviera where his body lies. Death came to the ninety-one year old Spanish born painter early yesterday - heart failure brought on by congestion of the lungs. His wife, Jacqueline whom he married in Nineteen-Sixty-One, kept an unbroken vigil byher husband's body, refusing to leave. Among the tributes, Nobel Prize poet Pablo Neruda of Chile compared Picasso's death to the destruction of a c ontinent - saying "the loss to contemporary culture is as if a continent has disappeared from this planet, taking with it cities, rivers, houses and people. He was one of the great giants of modern history in all senses," said the Chilean.

In Newark, New Jersey - doctors at Beth Israel

Medical Center inplanted the world's first nuclear powered

pace makers in the chests of a sixty-eight year old man and

a twelve year old girl. The device is designed to help

regulate the heart beat of persons who had irregular pulses.

The nuclear powered pacemakers have ten year life span
compared to about two years for the more conventional

battery-powered devices.

Some college courses are more interesting than - as students at American International University others in Springfield, Massachusetts, will tell you. There they have a new course - one with gusto. It's called Wine good for three credits towards a diploma, Appreciation, along with a chance to sip some of the world's finest wines - making you, finally, what might be called, a collegiate conniessuer. But it's the final exams that sound most interesting. All you have to do to pass is, blindfold yourself - then identify by taste all those wines you've popped the cork on all semester flong.

Price lists - showing ceiling prices on meats appeared in major stores across the nation today - but the
actual prices remained pretty much the same - high. Said
one meat merchant in Chicago - "There's been No change in
the wholesale market, so there's NO change at the retail
level." Some stores here and there plan lower prices but in
NO great volume. Meantime in Louisville, Kentucky,
housewife Mrs. Rose Isetti says, wistfully - "I've only a
vague memory of beef - veal I've totally forgotten - it was
all so long ago."

They've forgotten also in Westbrook, Connecticut, where one butcher shop tomorrow will start selling horse meat to its customers. Store owner Ken Carlson says all he needs is final permission from local officials, and he expects that.

In Oklahoma City, four meat-hungary shop-lifters tried to beat the boycott by stealing a supply of chuck roasts

from a market. But they failed when the police went after
them in a high-speed auto chase - with the fugitives
chucking the roasts out the car windows at one-hundred-miles
an hour in a frantic effort to get rid of the evidence. All
were apprehended, and the precious chuck roasts recovered.