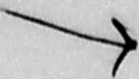


HAVANA

Wed, Feb. 21 - '68,

For more than a hundred persons aboard a Chicago to Miami jet liner - a harrowing experience today in the skies high over Florida, when a lone gunman grabbed a stewardess and held her hostage - forcing the pilot to fly the plane to Havana.

This the first such hi-jacking since Nineteen Sixty One. ~~U S officials are immediately asking the Swiss Embassy in Havana to arrange for the return of the plane and passengers.~~



*U S officials immediately contacting the Swiss Embassy
in Havana - which quickly arranged for return of the
plane and the rest of its passengers.*

MOSCOW

The Soviet News Agency Tass - quick to take a propaganda advantage tonight, from that bombing this morning - of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. Tass accusing the U S government - of failing to take "proper measures to protect the Embassy." Adding that the bombing "could have been committed - only with the connivance of American authorities." This followed, what's more, by a "strong protest" from the Kremlin - officially accusing U S officials of ignoring a recent Soviet request for added Embassy protection.

Meanwhile, back in Washington - President Johnson was ordering a full investigation; calling the bombing - quote - a "senseless act." The U S State Department - also expressing its regret over the incident. Although no one was injured, offering any assistance that might be required to set the building in order.

At the same time - a Soviet diplomatic source saying the bomb was pronably planted by fanatics.

Perhaps inflamed - said he - by that mock trial of international Communism - which concluded today in Washington.

VIETNAM

~~On the other side of the globe - a welcome~~

For a change, ^{the} war news - mostly good tonight. At Saigon - U S forces securing vital Tan Son Nhut air base from all but a few scattered rounds of enemy rocket fire. At Phan Thiet on the central coast - U S and South Vietnamese completing a rout of Viet Cong invaders. Even at Hue - U S Marines catching the enemy napping ^{and} dropping American reinforcements into that ancient walled citadel by helicopter, while the Viet Cong were taking cover - from U S bombs and Napalm.

The battle for Hue - still far from over though. Viet Cong suicide forces within the Citadel - also getting fresh supplies -- we hear, Marine General Robert Champam Junior adding grimly: "The enemy is sticking to the last man."

CAPITOL HILL

More on the war - from Capitol Hill, ~~where~~
Senator Fulbright today accused Defense Secretary
Robert McNamara ~~of~~ of withholding information,
Information - according to Fulbright - that "indicated
~~to~~ doubt" whether U S ships were really attacked in
the Gulf of Tonkin - back in Nineteen Sixty-Four.

The Senator going ^{on} to say that McNamara's
testimony yesterday -- before the Senate Foreign
Relations Committee - was, in his own words, "a classic
example of selective declassification of security material."
Said Fulbright: "Everything related to the Tonkin
incident is 'secret' -- except that which serves his" --
McNamara's "purpose."

WHITE HOUSE

Turning to the search for peace - U N

Secretary General U Thant conferred today with President Johnson at the White House. U Thant presumably relaying results, if any - from his recent round-the-world peace mission.

When it was all over an hour later - the White House issuing a brief statement. Saying the two men "had a friendly exchange of views on a number of matters - including Vietnam". Which means - apparently - nothing has changed.

Be that as it may - U Thant later travelling to the U S State Department - for a so-called "working lunch" with Secretary of State Dean Rusk - also U N Ambassador Arthur Goldberg.

BERN-STOCKHOLM

Elsewhere on the peace front - Switzerland was also getting into the act today. The Bern government - extending informal recognition to Hanoi. Appointing the Swiss Ambassador to Peking - as an official "representative" to North Vietnam. Purpose - we are told; to place Switzerland in a favorable position - to try to mediate an end to the Vietnam war.

For what it's worth - another perhaps related item from Stockholm; where Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson - conferred for a second straight day today with North Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Tho Chanh. Nothing definite - but again increased speculation that Sweden, too, is trying to serve as a peace broker.

BERLIN

By contrast - a giant ~~was~~ rally today in West Berlin's John F. Kennedy Platz. One of the largest rallies -- they say - since the days of Adolf Hitler. Drawing about a hundred and fifty thousand West Germans -- to the site of J F K's famed "Ich Bin Ein Berliner" speech.

Their dual purpose: First - to voice support for continued U S and German friendship; which they did - loud and strong. Second - to demonstrate that Sunday's anti-American, anti-war protest in the same square - was not - repeat - not representative of most West Berliners.

Mayor Klaus Schuetz summing it up bluntly when he said: "We will not allow anyone - to spit on American shoes here."

WASHINGTON

Under fire for weeks from Congressional sources--U.S. foreign aid chief William Gaud finally appeared in person today before House probers. Rejecting as pure fabrication--a report that his agency was trying to recover a quarter-of-a-million bucks from a Belgian firm; solely on the grounds--the money was paid out in kickbacks to U.S. AID officials.

"Not So"--said Gaud. Adding that the quarter-million claim was due "in its entirety--to alleged overcharging on the part of the contractors."

Gaud next ^equestioned about some missing winches--also a report that two of the AID employees in the case were feuding over a woman. Or as one Congressman put it--the subject turning ~~from~~ winches and "wenches." ~~Gaud suggesting, in return these were mere "tall tales." However, he begged off any further "public discussion" on the grounds it "might prejudice possible prosecution."~~

NEW YORK

Will she--or won't she? That's the big question tonight-- among romantics the world over. Will Jacqueline Kennedy marry Lord Harlech--the former British Ambassador to Washington--or won't she?

According to Women's Wear Daily--which has a pretty good track record in this sort of thing--the answer is "yes"-- definitely. The paper going so far today--as to say the nuptials are planned ~~for~~ for tomorrow. Final arrangements supposedly set--when the couple were house guests of the John Hay Whitneys this past weekend.

Reverse side--from Mrs. Kennedy's secretary; who said flatly--"that is absolutely not true." ~~And these are the facts~~
~~the facts are~~ ^{ah} And now this latest: -Jacqueline Kennedy ^{from London, #} and her two children - flying late today to Montreal. Will Warren - she, or won't she? - ^{we} wonder.

ABIDJAN

From ~~the city of~~ Abidjan--capital of the Ivory Coast-- comes an expert analysis today, accounting for failure of Soviet-style Communism--to achieve ^{any} lasting ~~inroads~~ among the nations of Black Africa.

This--according to Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny--because, first of all, the Russians are the wrong color. And, second--because they made the mistake of inviting top African students to come to Moscow--to complete their studies. Result--says President Houphouet-Boigny--the students ^{from Russia} "all come back militant anti-communists."

The President admitting, however, there are still a few students--who present something of a problem. These--said he-- "the ones who study in Paris--~~and~~ ^{they} come home Communists."