

WHITE HOUSE

Wed. June 28-72

The White House - President Nixon continues to bring the boys home. ~~The President~~ Today announcing plans to withdraw from Vietnam - an additional ten thousand ground troops over the next two months; thereby setting as his goal - a U S troop level of thirty-nine thousand men as of September one.

This - the lowest figure since early Nineteen Sixty Five. ~~Indeed~~ Indeed roughly the same size as our present residual force in South Korea.

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The White House stressing, however, ^{that} "our ultimate intention - is to withdraw ~~all~~ forces once a negotiated settlement is reached;" to which end -- we are told - the President ^{will} ~~is~~ make another withdrawal announcement prior to September.

The President further ^{saying} ~~announcing~~ that effective immediately - draftees will not be sent to Vietnam - except as volunteers. A short time later - also, scheduling his first broadcast ^{news} ~~press~~ conference

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in more than a year; tomorrow night, at nine. Eastern time.

QUANG TRI FOLLOW WHITE HOUSE

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Meanwhile, the fighting goes on. With more than ten thousand South Vietnamese troops - advancing today into occupied Quang Tri province. A pulverizing U S air and naval bombardment helping ~~to~~ pave the way for them.

In the air war - American jets ^{now} blasting Hanoi's military air field - for a second straight day; also hitting this time - a nearby vehicle repair facility.

It was also announced today that General Frederick Weyand - will now succeed the departing General Abrams. General Weyand - a world war two intelligence officer in Southeast Asia. Later, a battalion commander in Korea - and then the Army's chief liaison officer with congress for the past two years - General Abrams second in command.

SENATE

Here at home again - a slight hitch today in the appointment of General Abrams - as the new army chief of staff. Chairman Stennis of the Senate Arms Services Committee announcing plans to investigate those unauthorized bombings of North Vietnam ordered by General John Lavelle. Stennis observing that "very serious questions of command and control - including the supremacy of Civilian authority are raised by this case." Adding that

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hearings on the Abrams nomination - will just have to wait till it's all cleared up.

SCIENCE

Elsewhere in Washington a delegation representing scientists from five nations - the U S, Britain, Portugal, Spain and [^]Mauritania; today announcing ^{ed} plans for a joint research project - of vast proportions. For ten weeks this summer - the scientists planning to probe the fabled mid-Atlantic ridge; part of an undersea mountain range -- that extends right around the globe. If all goes well, they hope to find down there - large quantities of valuable ~~minerals~~ minerals; ^{also} ~~and~~ a clue perhaps to the origin of earthquakes -- many of which are said to originate from said ridge. Along the way, they also hope to find - the original western edge of the African continent; a long-ago ~~shoreline~~ shore line -- since hidden ^{for} more than two hundred million years. Hence the reason for Mauritania being involved in this.

CANBERRA

At Canberra, Australia - a final communique
from that seventeenth annual Seato conference. The
Seato nations citing "externally promoted
insurgency, sub-version, infiltration and terrorism"
in much of Southeast Asia but especiallyⁱⁿ Thailand
and the Philippines. Therefore asserting that
Communist aggression remains a threat - throughout
the treaty area. Nevertheless, concluding "on balance
~~that~~^{that} the chances of building a ~~last~~ lasting peace
now seem better than they have been for a long
time." So says Seato.

SIMLA

In the foothills of the Himalayas - near the Roof of the World an attempt today to determine the destinies of nearly a third of the world's population. India's Indira Gandhi meeting with Pakistan's Zulfikar Ali Bhutto - in the Indian ~~resort town~~ ^{hill city} of Simla; both setting as their main goal - a lasting peace for all of Hindustan, with later talks said to have been so cordial in fact that a break in the long hostility between India and Pakistan may be in the offing.

LONDON

London - a meeting of the International Federation of Automobile engineering societies ~~was~~ hearing today from Britain's Prince Philip who said there are two things about modern driving he ~~positively~~ positively abhors.

The first - said Philips - "the noise which most vehicles make - particularly very large ones." And the second - said he - "the smell of the smoke which designers have decided should belch into my window - just as I am overtaking a heavy lorry."

The new world's filibuster champ :

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Five foot, four inch ~~■~~ Mike McKool - the so-called
"little Hercules" of the Texas State Senate; who
today completed a marathon talk-a-thon -- lasting
forty-two hours and thirty-three minutes. Thus,
bettering by more than six hours - the previous
world mark. As for the purpose of McKool's
performance he was attempting to win an additional
seventeen million for Texas mental health services.

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But less than five minutes after he quit talking -
the full senate turning him down. ^{Warren} ^{Marathon} ~~All that nagging -~~
~~going~~ for naught.

FARMS

This next - from the U S Census bureau in cooperation with the department of Agriculture - a study of farming trends - showing a sizeable increase in total farm acreage from some nine hundred million acres in Nineteen twenty nine - to a present one point one billion acres. But total farm population, less than a third of what it used to be; (as of the last census) - just under ten million. Said one farmer: "If old McDonald had a farm today - he'd probably sell it and move to town."