

Fri. Aug. 18-67.

Excitement in Washington. President Johnson's news conference today ^{seemed to be} ~~constituting~~ an open challenge to congressional ~~studies~~ critics of U S bombing policy in Vietnam.

American air strikes that have come within ten miles of the Chinese border, ^{are} both fitting ~~and~~ and necessary - said the President. Certainly "not intended as a threat to Communist China" -- he went on; ^{Then} adding that "Peking knows - the United States does not want a wider war."

The President insisting though that "as long as we are in Vietnam -- we are going to do everything we can to protect the men we have there." And if Congress feels otherwise - said he - if it feels he has exceeded his authority - as some have charged - then it is up to Congress to revoke that authority. To do it - said the President - by revoking the Gulf of Tonkin resolution of Nineteen Sixty-Four.

~~This is the challenge. But as yet - no takes.~~

VIETNAM

Air war in Vietnam itself - again dominated today by those big B-fifty twos. Marking one of their rare strikes - above the Seventeenth Parallel.

Target for today - an enemy staging area just north of that supposedly demilitarized zone. The giant bombers blasting a force of Viet Cong - apparently massing in preparation for another major Viet Cong offensive.

To the south - Operation Shelby. With an estimated seven thousand U S and South Vietnamese troops - attempting to crush Viet Cong terrorists long active in and around Saigon.

SAIGON FOLLOW VIETNAM

Meanwhile, back in Saigon- a captured top secret enemy document was made public for the first time today. A sixty page booklet - covering nearly every phase of the Viet Cong campaign; including goals - strategy - methods - organization; and perhaps most significant of all - two paragraphs dealing with the possibility of peace talks.

The Viet Cong high command stating in part:

"We are determined not to entertain illusions concerning a negotiated settlement - we must concentrate all our strength to destroy the enemy." For "only when the American imperialists are crushed - can we negotiate settlement of the Vietnam problem."

That - from Hanoi.

RED CHINA

In Red China - an anniversary of sorts today.

One year to the day - ~~xx~~ since the first public appearance of those militant Red Guards. A year in which they have since become - the chief instrument ~~of~~ Chairman Mao's so-called "cultural revolution."

And how goes that revolution - as of today?

From all we hear - not so good. ^{Endless} Reports reaching Hong Kong tell ~~the~~ ^{far and wide} of violent clashes ^{throughout} throughout the country, ^{the} Between Red Guards and ^{revolting} ~~opposing~~ Red Guards.

~~And now~~ Travelers telling of bodies hanging from lamp posts and trees; as an all-enveloping fear - ^{right} spreads across ^{Red China} ~~the nation~~ from ~~Shantung to~~ Ningbo ^{Po} to the Tatra Ka Man, and from Kalgan to Kunming.

MOSCOW FOLLOW RED CHINA

At the same time - another nosedive today in Sino-Soviet relations, ~~caused~~ by what Moscow calls - "a pogrom" in Peking.

The way Tass tells it - more than a hundred Red Guards breaking into the Soviet Embassy and Consulate in the Chinese capital; smashing windows and furniture - burning documents - beating ^{up} a Russian diplomat. That last - if true - the first time a Soviet official has been physically injured by the Red Guards.

The Kremlin also protesting ~~of~~ the earlier burning of an embassy car. Calling this "a criminal action - planned, organized and staged by the Mao Tse Tung Group."

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's seventeen-mile border with Red China - virtually closed tonight. The British clamping ~~down~~ ^{down} on the entire frontier ~~for~~ for the first time since the Communists came to power in China in Nineteen-forty-nine. ^{This} Amid reports that troops on both sides are strengthening their fortifications - against the threat of renewed violence.

The British ^{are} taking special precautions at the village of Man Kam -- on the ^{busiest} ~~other~~ highway between Hong Kong and mainland China. There abandoning a border outpost - where Chinese troops killed ~~six~~ five policemen last month, ^{and shifting} ~~Moving~~ command headquarters ~~to~~ -- to a nearby hill overlooking the border crossing.

The hill - "in a better tactical position" - explained a British officer. One - said he - "that will allow us to react immediately" - if need be.

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East - the first of thousands of waiting Arab refugees - began streaming today across the Jordan. ~~At the~~ By agreement between Israel and Jordan - returning freely to their homeland on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Today's crossings limited to a few hundred - because of the approaching Jewish Sabbath. However, checkpoint officials at the Allenby Bridge - and at nearby El-Shurat Bridge - report^{ed}~~ing~~ no complications. Red Cross officials predict~~ing~~ that as many as two hundred — or Palestinians — thousand Arabs - may eventually take advantage of the return agreement. Barring - of course - a new outbreak of hostilities.

CAPITOL HILL

On Capitol Hill - another apparent setback of at least two years - for man's dream of interplanetary space exploration. With the House Appropriations Committee -- today eliminating all funds requested by the Federal Space Agency, ^y for the purpose of sending an unmanned Voyager spacecraft - to search for life on Mars in Nineteen Seventy-Three.

The Voyager cancellation - principal item in a committee cutback of more than half a billion in space funds for the next year; more than double ^{the} reduction - originally authorized by the full house. But almost certain to stand - in view of increased strain on the federal budget.

Because of planetary alignments - the earliest possible date for the Mars probe now ^{likely to be} ~~has become~~ Nineteen Seventy-Five.

FAIRBANKS

Slowly - ever so slowly - the floodwaters of the Chena River continued their retreat today from Fairbanks, Alaska. One foot yesterday - another today - with a drop of still another foot to go; before work crews waiting with tons of equipment - can get started cleaning up and rebuilding the flood-stricken city.

~~One thing sure~~ The sooner - the better, for Temperatures already ^{are} falling [^] with the approach of Alaska's early winter, ^{with} ~~but~~ [^] only about six weeks ~~of~~ to complete all repairs - before the city freezes over.

HOUSE

Turning to sports -- a cry of "foul" was heard today in the House. Congressman Horton of New York challenging the government's tax policy on athletic awards -- such as trophies, medals and belts. Calling them more symbolic than utilitarian - and insisting, therefore, that they should be exempt from federal income tax requirements.

Case in point - said the Congressman - that of baseball player Maury Wills, who won the famed Hickok belt back ~~on March Nineteen~~ ^{in Nine} Sixty-Two - only to be dunned later for income taxes ~~on~~ ^{the} full assessed value of ~~the belt~~ ^{this}. According to the government - ten thousand bucks.

That - said Congressman Horton - clearly "unsportsmanlike conduct" on the part of Uncle Sam.

TAIPEI

At Taipei - on the island of Formosa - a rare honor today for American Robert Ciccolella of Alexandria, Virginia; just ^{voted} ~~elected~~ "idol cadet" -- of the Nationalist Chinese Reserve officers training corps.

Young Ciccolella - a nineteen year old sophomore from Auburn University, Accepted for summer duty with the training corps - on the recommendation of his father - Major General Richard Ciccolella - chief of the American Military Advisory Group on Formosa.

Cadet honors though - something he earned all by himself. Like the rest of his Chinese buddies - Ciccolella sleeping on a wooden board covered with a straw mattress; living on a diet of steamed and sweetened bread - peanuts - dried fish - rice soup. Further showing himself a leader in training exercises - and no shirker when it comes to hard duty.

And what has it all taught him? One thing

especially - says Bob Ciccolella; that a lot of things

we Americans think of as necessities - are really luxuries

we could well do without. ^{Women} Yes all for peanuts, rice
soup and dried fish, & s-l-u-Monday,