

"OPERATION FISHHOOK"

May 1, 1970  
Salt Lake City

*On the Vietnam war front - "Operation Fishhook" carried an estimated twenty miles into Cambodia today. As ordered last night by President Nixon - some ten thousand U.S. and South Vietnamese troops - attempting to clear once and for all the enemy's chief sanctuary. And so far - the mission is said to be "a complete success."*

*U.S. Major General Elvy Roberts - who is heading the two-pronged attack - asserting that Allied forces have already established a massive pincers movement, aimed at trapping thousands of Viet Cong - who are believed hiding out in the area. The General saying: "We've put a stopper in - and now we have to look and see what's in the bag."*

PENTAGON FOLLOW "OPERATION FISHHOOK"

*Here at home - President Nixon today was at the Pentagon - the better to keep in touch with war developments. The President conferring with Defense Secretary Melvin Laird - also, the Joint Chiefs of Staff; who were quoted as saying - much the same as General Roberts that - "the operation appears to be going exceedingly well."*

*Later, as he left to return to the White House - the President pausing briefly to acknowledge the applause of Pentagon employees. In the process, observing that "those boys out there" in Vietnam - they're "standing tall and they're proud;" especially as compared with "those bums" - as he put it - who are going around "blowing up the campuses" here on our own shores.*

*As for his own fateful decision - sending U.S. troops into Cambodia - the President asserting: "I did what I believed to be right" - and now the only thing that "really matters is whether it comes out right."*

## REACTION FOLLOW PENTAGON

Meanwhile, reaction to the President's action - about what you might expect. On the debit side - cries of anguish from those who have long opposed U.S. policy in Vietnam. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee - going so far as to write a letter to the White House, asking the President for an early meeting - to discuss the ramifications of his latest move. This marking the first such request - since the end of World War One. Committee Chairman Fulbright telling reporters - in behalf of his entire panel: "We believe we have a Constitutional responsibility - to participate in these very grave decisions."

## REVERSE FOLLOW REACTION

*Reverse side - an outpouring of public support for the President - from those who have traditionally endorsed U.S. policy in Vietnam. Also - a flood of telephone calls to the White House; the most - we are told - in twenty-five years; with the great majority of callers - stoutly supporting the President's action.*

*Republican National Chairman Rogers Morton - perhaps best summing it up for the pro-Nixon camp.*

*Observing that "some may play politics - with the lives of our men and the freedom of those we are pledged to defend." But "the President has done a simple and magnificent thing - he has kept a promise" - said Morton. Adding: "Those who think that such an act will lose an election - just do not know the American people."*

OVERSEAS FOLLOW REVERSE

Reaction overseas - also mixed. The Kremlin asserting that the U.S. move - "grossly flouts the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia." Paris expressing fears that this could unleash - an uncontrollable sequence of events. London - likewise concerned; to the point that British Foreign Secretary <sup>Michael Stewart</sup> held separate meetings today - with U.S. and Russian representatives; attempting to set up - a new Geneva Conference.

However, Thailand's Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman - in Bangkok - <sup>Luab</sup> calling the President's decision the right one; an action that had to be taken - said he - if we are ever to end the Vietnam war "as we want." South Vietnam's President Thieu further calling the Allied drive - "indispensable and essential" <sup>for</sup> the saving of lives, both American and Vietnamese. A Cambodian official at Phnom Penh adding: "I am glad to see we are not being left completely on our own" in the face of Communist attacks.

## LONDON-PARIS

Putting it all together - diplomatic observers in London and Hong Kong are saying the President's action - is not likely to bring into the war either Russia or Red China. They're much too busy - with problems of their own - or so the reasoning goes.

In line with this - Viet Cong and North Vietnamese officials in Paris - today were condemning what they called a U.S. "Escalation and expansion of the war." They also charged publicly - that President Nixon was trying to sabotage peace talks. Adding privately though - they will not walk out - the peace conference will go on.

WASHINGTON

*Turning to the domestic front - Attorney General John Mitchell calls for an end to, quote - "irresponsible and malicious criticism" of the U.S. Supreme Court. This in a Law Day address today - to the District of Columbia Bar Association. Mitchell asserting that such criticism not only undermines the Court - but also erodes public confidence and "respect for all our system of laws."*

*If history teaches anything - he added - it's simply this: "That extremist critics of the court" down through the years - "have vastly overreacted; and that most of the basic principles enunciated by the court - have proved to be the best course for the nation to follow."*

## SUEZ

*In the Middle East - Israeli jets thundered across the Suez Canal today; attacking Egyptian targets in the Canal's northern sector - in a series of raids that lasted more than six hours. Israeli ground forces - also taking the offensive; crossing into Lebanon - and there blowing up a house that allegedly served as an Arab guerilla headquarters. While Egypt's Colonel Nasser - was making a major speech in Cairo; denouncing Israel first - the U.S. second. Adding that the Arabs will never negotiate a peace agreement - as long as Israel occupies Arab lands.*



## MONTREAL

*Today's date - the First of May - an occasion for celebration right around the globe. In Moscow and elsewhere in the Communist world - marking the birth date of the Soviet Union. In the rest of Europe and here in the States - the beginning of outdoor pleasures; dancing around the May Pole and all that.*

*Up North though - in Montreal - something else again. Upwards of seventy thousand Montreal families - staging their annual migration today from old homes into new ones. This by virtue of Quebec law - which automatically terminates all leases as of April Thirty, unless otherwise specified. May Day in Montreal - Warren, "Moving Day" for more than quarter-of-a-million people.*

## SALVATION

*Paris again - the story today of a mutiny - in the French Salvation Army, of all places. At the center of the dispute - Commissaire Gilbert Abadie, the Army's French commander; who recently launched an all-out campaign - against a sudden splurge of nudity in the French theater; whereupon he was met with a storm of protest - from some of his junior officers. At one point - the two factions actually staging simultaneous demonstrations in the Paris theater district; one against nudity - the other for it; which was most confusing to spectators - we are told - since both groups were in full Salvation Army uniform.*

*At any rate - Commissaire Abadie has finally hit upon a solution; ordering six of the dissident leaders - transferred immediately to posts abroad. The Commissaire asserting: "They can talk - they can discuss - but there is a moment when someone decides." And "here" - he added - "it's me."*

Another way of saying - as Harry Truman did -  
and as Richard Nixon said again last night - "the buck  
stops here." And so long until Monday.