

LONDON

Tues, Dec. 20 - '66


From London -- a diplomatic report today that Red China is moving substantial troop reinforcements -- into border areas fronting the Soviet Union. Especially ~~those~~ in Siberia and along the Amur River -- where Peking is claiming historic title to vast Soviet lands.

The new troops -- reportedly laying barbed wire and building anti-tank defenses; to counter a comparable Russian build-up -- on the opposite side of the border, where Russian troop strength -- is now set at a full Twenty divisions.

A related item from Peking -- lending credence to the London report. Red China's Army Newspaper -- Liberation Daily -- warning the military to be on guard against "suprise attacks;" either from the United States -- or from the Soviet Union.

VIET NAM

News from Viet Nam tells today -- of the sighting of a number of ~~wrong-way~~ Communist ground-to-air missiles. Which may explain in part -- the controversy over those alleged U.S. air raids on Hanoi last week.

U.S. Navy pilots returning from an attack on North Viet Nam-- reporting first sight of the wayward missiles over the big Red port of Vinh. Two of the missiles finally dropping to the earth below -- where they exploded. ~~with a bang~~. A third missile  reportedly ~~was~~⁹ landing in the middle of a North Vietnamese fishing fleet; where it also exploded -- causing heavy damage.

This latest report -- tending to corroborate earlier American claims; that it was spent missiles -- rather than U.S. bombs -- that fell on Hanoi last week; causing severe damage -- to a residential area of that city.

ADD VIET NAM

Speaking of Viet Nam -- ~~more help on the way.~~ Australia and New Zealand today announcing joint plans -- to step up their military commitment to the battle zone -- soon after the first of the year.

The New Zealand contingent -- to remain strictly a token force. However, Australia promising to send -- an additional Fifteen Hundred men; raising to Six Thousand -- the total number of crack Australian jungle fighters -- currently assigned to Viet Nam.

The Aussie unit respected by friend and foe alike -- as one of the g best anti-guerilla outfits in the war.

TAKHLI FOLLOW VIET NAM

Meanwhile, ^{special} ~~tightest~~ security measures ^{went} in effect today -- to protect comedian Bob Hope and his U.S. O. troupe, who began their annual Christmas tour yesterday at Pleiku -- in the rugged Central Highlands of South Viet Nam.

The show's debut so secret -- that newsmen were unaware of the performance until it was over; with the Hope company ~~went~~ on its way to a second performance -- at the big Takhli Air Base in Thailand -- two countries away.

Secret or not -- Eight Thousand cheering G.I.'s were on hand at Pleiku; another Five Thousand today at Takhli -- where temperatures ranged into the Nineties.

"Great Christmas weather" -- quipped Hope. Adding: "Why, just yesterday -- I saw a Christmas tree -- decorated with salt tablets."

PAHUTE MESA

One of the biggest underground nuclear explosions in world history -- was triggered today by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission ~~at Pahute Mesa~~ -- in southern Nevada.

The test blast -- equal to about a million tons of TNT; raising the floor of the desert -- ~~about a foot at ground zero~~; rattling windows and ^{rocking} ~~swaying~~ buildings in Las Vegas -- a hundred miles away; and registering Six-point-Three on the Richter scale -- at the California Institute of Technology -- some Three Hundred miles away.

Government scientists calling the ^{Test} ~~nuclear~~ device -- Fifty times more powerful than the original Hiroshima bomb. Rivaling in size -- a similar Russian test of last October.

AUSTIN

President Johnson will meet with the heads of Twenty Latin American countries -- at a Pan-American summit meeting in April. Plans announced today -- at the Texas White House. With the main order of business: An attempt to get a "friendly agreement" among the attending nations -- to stifle the possibility of a hemispheric arms race.

Final choice of a site for the meeting -- to be ~~settled~~^{settled} by mutual agreement next month. At present -- four cities still under consideration. Vina Del Mar -- in Chile; Lima -- Peru; Punta Del Este -- Uruguay; and San Jose -- Costa Rica.

ZAGREB

The U.S. Consulate at Zagreb in Yugoslavia -- under fierce attack today by a mob of some Seven Thousand persons; encouraged by the Yugoslav government -- to protest U.S. policies in Viet Nam.

The mob summoned to the consulate -- by front page headlines in the official Zagreb newspaper; telling them ^{Yugoslavs to} ~~to~~ -- "come and demonstrate against the Americans." Once there -- the demonstrat^{rs} ~~at~~ hurling rocks and missiles at the consulate; breaking every window -- in the three-story building. In the process -- injuring several Yugoslav employees inside.

Police and firemen -- standing by ^{then,} ~~for the most part,~~ finally intervening ~~only~~ only when several youths tried to break into the building itself.

ANKARA

Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygon -- a visitor today to pro-Western Turkey. Arriving at Ankara -- for the start of a seven-day good will tour, aimed at boosting Soviet stock -- in a country that has gone to war with Russia thirteen times in the last three hundred years.

Perhaps he should have stayed home. Thousands of Turks -- jeering the Kosygin motorcade as it passed through the city. At the same time -- showering the Soviet premier with reminders of the Hungarian revolution; miniature replicas of Hungary's red green and white freedom flags -- hurled in Kosygin's path[?] where[^]ever he went. Only prompt police action preventing a more violent demonstration -- by seven refugees from East Turkestan that is now a part of the Soviet Union.

Subsequent talks between Kosygin and Turkish Premier Suleiman Demirel were said to concern economic and cultural relations between the two countries; as well as a general

view -- of world affairs. The Turks, emphasizing, however, that they will avoid any discussion -- of Turkish membership in NATO and SEATO; said membership -- remaining inviolable they say.