

Thurs, Jan 13-68,

From Paris - from Moscow - from the United Nations - a growing peace offensive today. Target - Washington.

In the French capital - Hanoi quoted as saying peace talks could begin - within a few days of a U S bombing halt over North Vietnam. The Kremlin further asserting that Hanoi's latest supposed peace feeler - is "worthy of most thorough consideration." Moscow also voicing confidence - that North Vietnam "will" enter ^{talks} talks once the ~~comm~~ bombing has stopped.

More of the same - from U N Secretary General U Thant, ^{who is} again urging a bombing halt in the belief - said he - that "meaningful talks" will result "within three or four weeks." (U Thant warning, however, that the United States cannot expect - a reciprocal scaling down of the war - talks or no. Because - said he - that "would be an open admission - of North Vietnam's predominant involvement in the South" which it has always denied -- til no

~~until now.~~

Reaction from Washington: If Hanoi is really serious about peace - let's hear from Hanoi.

VIETNAM FOLLOW UNITED NATIONS

Meanwhile in Vietnam - the war goes on - the cost goes up with every passing day. Latest casualty report from Saigon - setting American ~~losses~~ losses for the past week at two-hundred-and-seventy-eight men. Highest weekly total in six months -- fourth highest total of the entire war. Our South Vietnamese Allies - also losing some two-hundred-fifty-seven men.

On the other side of the ledger - the enemy toll set at more than twenty-two-hundred men. Add to that another hundred-and-seventeen - killed in latest fighting ~~report~~ reported today; along a stretch of coastline - in northern Quang Ngai Province.

GENEVA

After two years of trying - success at last at Geneva. Russian and American negotiators finally agreeing today - on a treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. A draft of the agreement - presented to that seventeen-nation Geneva disarmament conference - for final approval.

As presently written - the treaty pledging nuclear powers - never to give nuclear weapons to other countries. Also pledging non-nuclear nations - ~~never~~ never to seek or manufacture nuclear weapons on their own.

This - according to president Johnson - "a testament of man's faith in the future;" a means of avoiding "nuclear disaster - while ensuring that all will benefit from the peaceful uses of atomic energy."

REACTION

Reaction today to President Johnson's state of the Union message - hardly a vote of confidence. As a matter of fact - Republicans attacking the President's "guns and butter" program at almost every turn. Michigan's Governor Romney accusing the President of making- quote - "piddling proposals" ignoring "the real causes" of our problems -- leading "us to disaster". Senator Javits of New York; -- ~~asserting~~ the President ~~was~~ ~~not~~ playing politics with the nation's problems. ^{Says} Governor ^{Ray} ~~Shafer~~ Shafer of Pennsylvania; ~~saying~~ "It looked as if the torch that had been passed to a new generation - had gone out."

On the Democratic side - not much better.

The President's usual critics - still at it. Even his staunchest supporters - suddenly chilled by the prospect of higher taxes - and war seemingly without end in Vietnam.

LONDON - H.M. Wilson

*London - a ringing vote of approval today -
for Britain's ~~newest~~ newest economy program. Prime
Minister Harold Wilson easily winning a test of confidence -
by a vote of three-hundred-and-thirty-four to two-hundred-
and-twenty-nine. Rebellious Laborites finally closing
ranks behind Wilson - even drawing a few minority votes.
Followed by speedy approval of the key elements in
Britain's domestic cut-back -- also a military withdrawal
East of Suez.*

ROME

This next -- ~~well, it sounds like as a scene~~
~~from~~ a Fellini movie - ~~was~~ one of his more bizarre
efforts. The story from Rome - telling of a so-called
"march of suffering" on the office of Italian Premier
Aldo Moro.

The demonstrators - if such they can be called -
some two thousand crippled, lame and infirm from
throughout Italy. Some blind - many of them on crutches -
many more in wheelchairs - some on stretchers. Joining
together in a ~~plea~~ for greater public assistance - a ~~plea~~
that soon turned ~~it~~ into a battle-royal.

The trouble starting - when police attempted
to bar the invalids from approaching the Premier's office.
The invalids, in turn, quickly attacking officers with
canes and crutches - anything they could lay their hands
on; some of them - even barreling their wheelchairs ~~into~~
into police barricades. Though ~~unable to~~ ^{they did not} retaliate - ^{the} police
~~still holding~~ ^{held} firm; ^{until} ~~when~~ the invalids began to drop like

flies - from sheer exhaustion.

~~Result~~ *Police finally standing aside. The
"March of suffering" allowed to run its course - with
no further interference.*

HARRISBURG

That story about six Pennsylvania college students -- supposedly blind from staring at the sun while under the effects of L S D -- a hoax, it turns out now. Governor Shafer disclosing today at Harrisburg - that the story was a complete fabrication; the work of Dr. Norman Yoder -- Pennsylvania State Commissioner for the blind; who has since been suspended from his State post -- and is now under hospital care.

Yoder's apparent motivation - said to have been his growing concern over campus-use of L S D. He is himself - blind.

LONDON

Here's a new one ~~on me~~: "Instant muscle".

The story from London. Doctors warning of a fad. Just getting started among weight-lifters and body builders.

The technique ~~is~~ calling for massive amounts of male hormones - to be taken in conjunction with a high protein diet. The combination said to provide a short-cut to bulging biceps and mighty chests - once attainable only the hard way - by exercise alone.

This fad - fraught with danger, of course.

Doctors adding though that, fortunately it doesn't seem

to be catching on - among British males in general. Why?

~~Main reason - we are told,~~ ^{Oh,} British females, ^{say they} ~~who~~ prefer

the "lean and hungry" type. ~~these days.~~

Indeed, Britain's top model agency today

reporting that the ~~average~~ average male model - now measures

only about thirty-five inches around the chest. Hardly

^{like you Warren - -}
a Charles Atlas [^] - more like a "male twiggy."

LAUNCESTON

At Launceston, Australia - a final entry today
in the log of a crackerjack lumberjack. His name - Ron
Sheriff, ~~Practically~~ ^{and} a legend - ^{in Down Under} ~~the~~ wood-cutting circles.

At thirty-seven - holder of nine state championships and
four world titles; including a victory last Saturday - in
the world-fifteen-inch tree-felling event. Out clearing
bushland this week - for a giant hydroelectric project;
when suddenly -- disaster.

Ron Sheriff cutting through a big Eucalyptus
tree - when it split in two. Half of the tree - crashing
down on top of him - no escape. He was dead - within
the hour.

Ron Sheriff - as he lived - so he died -
felling trees.