

Fri. Apr. 9 - '71

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY: Let's open with a Good Friday news item -- good news you might call it. From the Middle East, the Holy Land, comes a report of a stream of Easter pilgrims today, more than in years. According to the Israelis by far the biggest influx of visitors since the so-called ^{6-day} war in Nineteen Sixty-Seven. Today an estimated fifty thousand of the Christian faithful were following in the footsteps of Jesus, on the way of the Cross, The Via Doloroso, a journey I have made many times, twice within the past two years.

As for the outlook for peace in that part of the world - peace for "The City of Peace" apparently as remote as ever. Israeli Premier Golda Meir was contending today that every new statement from Egypt's Anwar Sadat - "nearly destroys every hope."

Here at home from the man who served as judge at the Court Marshal of Lt. William Calley - came strong support today for the President's action in the case. Colonel Reid Kennedy saying he agreed, "first of all - with freeing Calley from the stockade during the appeal process." Adding that he himself - "would have recommended the move to the Commanding General at Fort Benning;" if for no other reason, said he, than the fact that the stockade was unequipped to handle such a prisoner.

As for the President's announcement that he plans to review the case personally - Colonel Kennedy's comment was: "I see nothing wrong with that. After all," he continued "the President is the Commander-and-Chief of the military; he is part of the review system; so review is the President's right. "

At the same time, Colonel Kennedy strongly

*criticized the conduct - of Army Captain Aubrey Daniels
the prosecutor in the Calley case, who earlier this week
- attempted to impugn the President's motives. Colonel
Kennedy saying: "the trouble with Daniels - he's a
puritan; a very intelligent young man - but he only sees
good and evil." The Colonel adding: "As you get a little
older - you realize that most people are somewhere in
between the two extremes.*

VI THANH

At Vi Thanh in the Mekong Delta there was a ceremony today proclaiming the success of South Vietnam's "Open Arms" program; with the main speaker Program Director Ho Van Chan; telling a crowd of about three thousand - that more than thirty-seven thousand Communists had defected to the Saigon government over the past twelve months. Suddenly there was an enemy mortar barrage. Some six shells coming over, interrupting the ceremony and wounding at least seven civilians.

Meanwhile, a ninth straight day of heavy fighting at South Vietnam's Fire Base Six near the Laotian border. The camp's defenders called for a napalm attack of surrounding areas. This was followed by a B-52 saturation bombing raid.

PENTAGON

Again here at home the Pentagon now tells us that America's longest war in history has now cost the lives of fifty-five thousand, two hundred and eighty-four men; thirty-eight more than died in Korea. This makes the war in Vietnam, except for World Wars One and Two, the costliest foreign conflict ever for us.

KREMLIN

At the final session of the Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow, the Kremlin's present ruling Troika was officially re-elected today. Delegates present also approving an expansion of the Soviet Politburo to include four proteges of Party Chieftain Leonid Brezhnev. When the results were announced - as if it were all a surprise - the delegates chanting over and over: "Glory! Glory! Glory!" Glory be - or however you say it in Russian.

HONG KONG

For the members of the U.S. table tennis team - a brief stop today at Hong Kong on the way to Red China. Players and officials alike - saying they were delighted to make the trip; adding that they will do all they can to improve relations between Washington and Peking; especially since this is the first American sports group - ever invited to visit Red China.

Incidentally, American star Glenn Cowan - age nineteen- of Los Angeles - says he already has profited by the experience; picking up a new backhand attack technique - from China's number one player Chuang Tse-Tung. And this - said he - "to bend forward in making the attack - instead of bending backward." Which I guess makes sense in table tennis or almost anything else.

EA S T E R E N D I N G

A neighbor and friend, Monsignor Storm recently sent me a note that seems appropriate for this Good Friday so I'll use it for a final piece. Many of you may be familiar with it. I never had read it. Father Storm says it comes from Dwight, Nebraska. Here it is:

It's title is: ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book; never held an office; never had a family or owned a house; didn't go to college; never visited a big city; in fact never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies; went through the mockery of a trial; was nailed to a cross between two thieves; and while He was dying, His executioners gambled for His clothing, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

This Sunday, day after tomorrow, around the world untold millions will celebrate Easter, the day when

His followers visited Gethsemane and found the tomb empty. Happy Easter Father Storm; Happy Easter to all of you. Like the great stone at Gethsemane, at least for this weekend may all the cares of life be rolled away for you! And Solong Until Monday.