

WED, JULY 24, 1968  
(Dallas Townsend)

RIOT

Police in four major American cities - Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Chicago - out alert tonight. Against the threat of a possible Black Power plot - stretching clear across the heartland of the nation.

Mayor Carl Stokes of Cleveland - sounding the first public warning; after a night of violence in that city - that left ten dead, some forty wounded. "I believe" - said he - "this is a conspiracy by black militant groups - to spread destruction, disrupt the government, show their strength; to prove they are a power to be reckoned with - that they can do anything they want at any time."

Even so - Mayor Stokes tonight ordering withdrawal of National Guardsmen and police - from riot-scarred Negro neighborhoods of Cleveland. A bold move designed - said he - "to calm the area" - to relieve tensions.

## PRAGUE-MOSCOW

Behind the Iron Curtain, a tense silence along the Soviet-Czech frontier. And silence also, regarding that projected meeting between the communist party presidiums of the two countries. Some reports say the meeting is already under way - others - that it will begin tomorrow. Also - indications that the Czechs may be stalling for time - demanding preliminary talks on the make-up of opposing delegations. In Prague - a Czech government spokesman further saying - the projected meeting might bring a compromise "But there is no room for changing our political line" - said he.

Soviet troops continued their "maneuvers" today - just across the border from Czechoslovakia. With additional Red Army units - still not withdrawn from that country. Serving as a key element - in the Kremlin's continuing "war of nerves" against the Czech reform movement.

PRAGUE-MOSCOW - 2

Back in Moscow - U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson - underscoring the urgency of the situation. Cancelling a long-planned vacation abroad - presumably on orders from Washington.

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If this is indeed a shift - said Harrison - if Hanoi is, indeed, ready to deal with Saigon - then "the way lies open to making progress toward a peaceful settlement."

True or not though - North Vietnam's Luna Tuy refused a direct answer. According to a later news briefing - Tuy limiting himself to a broad statement of general policy. Asserting that the North Vietnamese and "many peoples of the world" - fully support the N.L.F.; which itself "takes a just political line" - said he - fully satisfying "the aspirations of the Vietnamese people."

## PARIS

Fourteenth session of the talks today in Paris - shortest yet - but not without a significant development. Chief U.S. peace negotiator Averell Harriman - noting a subtle change in a recent North Vietnamese policy statement. An apparent shift from Hanoi's previous position - that the National Liberation Front - political arm of the Viet Cong - was the sole voice of the people of South Vietnam.

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## VIETNAM FOLLOW PARIS

And the fighting goes on. Including a series of Viet Cong attacks today - along South Vietnam's Northern Coast. With one village of about two hundred dwellings - burned to the ground. Leaving homeless - about a thousand Vietnamese. While U.S. Marines stationed nearby were pinned down by a Viet Cong mortar barrage - unable to stop the holocaust.

Another resurgence of fighting - on the outskirts of Saigon. With U.S. troops killing some thirty Viet Cong in one battle - the biggest clash in the capital area in more than a week. Bob Kennedy

CHICAGO

Chicago's Mayor Daley- one of the nation's most powerful Democrats; also, a man who has yet to declare himself - in the choice of Democratic nominee for President. For the second spot though - no question about it. Mayor Daley saying today - he hopes the Democratic Convention will draft Edward Kennedy for the Vice Presidential nomination.

The Mayor later admitting - he has not talked to Senator Kennedy about the matter. It's "only a personal opinion" - he added - "but I think the convention will draft him." No comment from Kennedy.

## GUN CONTROL

The House today passed a bill in the field of gun controls. Basically it would prohibit inter-state shipment of all guns - including rifles and shotguns - except between licensed dealers. Also it would forbid store sales to persons under eighteen, felons, drug addicts and mental incompetents. A similar measure was cleared to the Senate floor by the Ju-diciary committee - despite the opposition of Chairman Eastland.

## CAPITOL HILL FOLLOW FORTAS

Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz was the chief witness today - before a Senate subcommittee on aging. Suggesting, among other things, "another two years of required public education - for everybody - at age sixty." "Education" - said he - "to prepare people to live meaningful lives" - in their later years.

This necessary - said Wirtz - because the average sixty-year-old has a higher "ignorance quotient" - than he had when he was eighteen. Reason - we are told - because so much more knowledge - becomes available every year.

Wirtz himself - by the way is fifty-six.



FORT LAUDERDALE

At Fort Lauderdale Florida, Detective Jack Lovell had no difficulty spotting two teen aged shoplifters - because, he said, they were wearing shirts marked "Property Fort Lauderdale City Jail."

The shirts were a joke, but the charges were not. And before being eventually turned over to juvenile authorities, the teenagers had to swap their joke shirts for the real thing.

Warren -

## GRAND RAPIDS

This next - a study of AMerican girths; as reported from the AMerican Seating Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan - world's largest manufacturer of public seating facilities.

Principal finding - that AMericans are getting taller, heavier and wider every year. With today's youngsters about an inch taller and ten pounds heavier - than their fathers and mothers were at the same age. Where will it all end? The American Seating Comapny predicting that the average twenty-first century woman - will stand about five-feet-eight; the average man - about six feet-six. With weight and width to match - we are told - unless, of course, we all go on a diet.

Dallas Townsend saying good night.