

TUES. MARCH 18, 1969
(Dallas Townsend)

VIETNAM

One of the biggest Allied drives of the War is reported underway tonight in the jungles north of Saigon. Thousands of Allied troops, spearheaded by an armored column five miles long, moving against an estimated twenty-thousand Communist troops and guerrillas in a rubber plantation area less than fifty miles from Saigon. Correspondents on the scene report heavy fighting broke out ^{Soon} after the big drive began. The intention is to head off a major communist drive against Saigon.

DA NANG

Communist gunners fired a rocket barrage tonight into Da Nang - the big allied base on the coast north of Saigon. At least fifteen Vietnamese civilians were believed killed - around two dozen persons wounded - among them three U.S. military personnel.

MIDEAST

A new battle erupted across the Suez Canal today, as Egyptian and Israeli forces broke a four-day lull in that area with heavy artillery, tank guns and rifles. And in Cairo, King Hussein of Jordan announced that his military forces along with those of Iraq and Syria, are now under a unified Arab command to oppose Israel on its eastern borders.

In Washington, a U.S. Air Force spokesman said that one-hundred-twenty Israeli pilots are now currently undergoing training in the United States. The Israeli fliers arrived here in January after the United States agreed to sell Israel forty-eight Phantom Jets to bolster its air defense.

WHITE HOUSE

At White House - a sudden change of plans. President Nixon - deciding against making any immediate public statement on the subject of campus disorders. The President giving that assignment instead to Robert Finch, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Mr. Nixon told his news conference last week that he would issue such a statement early this week - on Monday or Tuesday. This morning, Republican congressional leaders met with the President and said afterward that the statement would be delayed until LATE This week. Then, later in the day - after a conference with Secretary Finch and Attorney General Mitchell.- the White House said that statement, when it comes, will be made by Finch - and any statement by the President will be made considerably later on. The White House does say that Mr. Nixon believes the best way to handle campus disorders is to cut off federal aid money for the students responsible.

DISARMAMENT

The President and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin have proposed a new international treaty to prohibit the installation of nuclear weapons on the ocean floor - an area which President Nixon has termed "man's latest frontier." American and Soviet proposals were submitted today as the seventeen-nation Geneva disarmament conference began its first session in about seven months. The pact, if adopted, would be similar to existing treaties which ban nuclear weapons in ~~outer~~^{outer} space and on the Antarctic Continent.

TRIP

Mr. Nixon - already establishing a reputation as a presidential traveler - will fly to California this weekend with a stop-off at Independence, Missouri, to visit former President Harry Truman. A White House spokesman said Mr. Nixon will remain in Southern California until Sunday but did not state the exact location and other details of the trip. However, the newspaper - San Diego Union - says he will visit that city, San Diego, now observing its two hundredth ~~ANNIVERSARY~~ anniversary. The White House doesn't confirm ~~that~~ report and says further information will be available tomorrow.

TRIP

From Detroit - word of another big recall of new autos for correction of possible defects in the braking system. General Motors is calling in One Million-One Hundred Thousand cars, trucks and school buses for that reason. This is the second such move for General Motors in less than a month. On February twenty-fifth it called in almost Five Million vehicles - because of possible exhaust system or carburetor problems.

PAY

The House today passed and sent to the Senate a bill, providing hefty pay raises for the vice-president, the Speaker, and leaders of both the House and Senate. House members passed it by a voice vote after Republican Representative H.R. Gross of Iowa sought in vain to force a roll call vote. In opposing the bill, Gross warned that Congress someday may face a taxpayer's revolt if such measures continue.

SIRHAN

A psychologist for Sirhan Sirhan's defense went through an embarrassing session in court at Los Angeles today. After intensive grilling, the prosecution forced Doctor Martin Schorr to admit that his summary of Sirhan's psychological condition was taken almost verbatim from a book about New York City's "Mad Bomber". The Mad Bomber was a man who terrorized the city a generation ago by leaving explosives in bus terminals, railway stations and other public places. The book - "Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist" by a New York doctor - was published last fall at the same time Schorr was making tests of Sirhan in his jail cell. Schorr later said that Sirhan's paranoid personality removed the element of deliberation in the fatal shooting of Senator Robert Kennedy.

VASSAR

Vassar College - for more than a century a college for women only - will definitely become coeducational. The New York State Board of Regents has granted Vassar official permission to amend its charter to admit men. Eventually, the student body at the Poughkeepsie, institution is expected to total twenty-four-hundred - equally divided between men and women.

Warren - Daisy Chain?

SWALLOWS

The swallows are due back at Capistrano tomorrow, right on schedule. The graceful, migratory birds - known the world over - are expected to return to Californias historic San Juan Capistrano mission, just as they've done every year on March Nineteenth for nearly two centuries. After a warm summer ~~will~~ within the sheltered walls of the mission, about fifty miles south of Los Angeles, the swallows take flight to the South. One legend has it that they spend the winter in tropical Central America. - and who knows perhaps they carry their calenders with them.

Good Night.