

Thursday, February 1, 1973

PARIS PENTAGON

For seven families six in the U.S. - and one in Canada - the best possible news today; the news that their sons, husbands and fathers - all missing in southeast Asia are still alive and apparently well. The names of the missing seven - appearing on a list supplied by North Vietnamese diplomats in Paris; a list of supposed POW's in Laos - although three are actually civilians. The list also bearing the names of three men - already thought to be POW's.

For each of the families rejoicing though - there were many more still left in doubt. The Pentagon saying - it had hoped up to sixty men might have been listed. A spokesman adding that "the U.S. government will continue its efforts - to account for all U.S. military personnel."

PRAYER

Today in Washington - the twenty-first national prayer breakfast; an event sponsored annually by House and Senate groups with President Nixon again heading the celebrants.

"For the first time in ten years at these breakfasts" - said he - "a President is able to say that we are at peace in Vietnam." The President adding that peace in Vietnam - will be followed by peace "eventually, we trust, throughout Indo China." And that peace will endure - said he - so long as "both sides and the leaders of both sides have the will to keep the agreement."

The President warned, however, that the U.S. must now resist the temptation - "to turn itself inward," to withdraw from world affairs. "We must recognize" - said he - "that peace is not just the absence of war; it is the opportunity to do great things - both at home and abroad."

In the same vein - the President also calling for an

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*end to domestic strife. And he closed with the words of a
hymn - saying: "Let there be peace - let it begin with me."*

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW PRAYER

The President later returned to the White House - there to welcome to Washington Britain's Prime Minister Heath - the President noting that to day was probably the coldest day of the year - nevertheless extending the warmest of greetings. Adding that the U.S. and Britain are united in "promoting the cause of peace and progress" throughout the world. And, "the cornerstone" - of that policy, - said he "is the great alliance of which we are a part."

In response Heath observing that he had arrived "at an auspicious moment;" meaning "so soon -after the signature of a Vietnam agreement." He also told the President: "We in Britain have admired the steadfastness with which you have pursued this objective, and the courage with which you have faced many difficult decisions."

After that came the start of official talks said to have dealt mainly with trade policy - in the wake of Britain's entry into the Common Market.

SAIGON FOLLOW PARIS PENTAGON

Saigon - the arrival of a Viet Cong delegate - today completed the makeup of a four party joint military commission. It now includes representatives - of all the combatants. This expected to clear the way - for the speedy return of the first batch of American POW's.

At the same time, an international peace keeping operation - was finally getting under way. A spokesman reporting that twenty-four field supervisors - will be heading out to inspect regional outposts as of tomorrow.

The fighting also slackened today - while the U.S. command was issuing what it called its "last regular casualty report."

VIENNA

Vienna - the second day of East West talks on the possibility of joint troop cut backs in Central Europe; brought with it - the offer of a compromise.

As you know - the parley threatening to flounder right at the outset. The West - demanding balanced troop reductions. The East - insisting on "mutual" troop reductions. A seeming impasse. So the West today was proposing - "mutual and balanced" troop reductions. They say this may be enough - to get the ball rolling again.

OSLO

From Oslo by way of New York - news today that President Nixon is as of now an official candidate - for the Nineteen-Seventy-Three Nobel peace prize. The formal notification - coming from Director August Schou of the Norwegian Nobel Institute. This - in a letter to Finance Magazine in New York; which along with a hundred others is "said to have proposed the President's name. This a new record we hear.

WASHINGTON

At Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington -
Senator Stennis of Mississippi was said to have shown,
"definite improvement" today. The doctors adding: "He is
able to speak." But they also said that his condition - at
age seventy-one - is still very serious; and the prognosis -
still guarded."

Senator Stennis, the victim of the senseless shooting
during a robbery Monday night. The FBI and local police -
going all-out to track down his assailants; reporting as yet
no new leads.

HEIMAEY

Off the coast of Iceland the main crater at Helgafjell Volcano was still spewing molten lava today. Also, more black clouds - of volcanic ash. But a dozen minor craters - have now fallen silent and the experts saying an end to Helgafjell's fury - may be near.

Meanwhile, the start of a massive recovery effort. More than six hundred volunteers were returning to the town of Vestmannaeyjar, at the foot of the volcano. They are attempting to put out old fires and prevent the start of new ones. The government of Sweden is pledging to send in some two hundred pre-fabricated homes - to replace those destroyed

BELFAST

Morning in Belfast - a bus weaves its way through traffic - in a Protestant section of town - its passengers all Roman Catholics on their way to work when suddenly a man with a cane - limps across the street. The bus slows - and a hand grenade comes hurdling through a window.

It all happened today - the resulting blast - killing a forty year old father of five. Victim number six in the latest flare up of violence covering only three days. Later on, an outlawed Protestant extremist group was claiming "credit" for the deed. A spokesman calling it "a successful operation" - carried out "by an active" service unit.

SANTO DOMINGO

A weird story is reported today from Santo Domingo, Capitol of Dominican Republic - a French yoga by the name of Patrick Tamao - founder of a philosophy called "Tamaism," arranging to have himself nailed to a cross. Tamao's helpers completing the job - driving six inch ~~in~~ nails through his hands and feet.

All this - in the patio of a plush Santo Domingo hotel; with Tamao's wife and seven year old son - both looking on; also, a crowd of about a thousand - including several women who promptly fainted.

Tamao vowing to remain on his cross - for three days without food. Further describing his "sacrifice" as "a gesture which humanity must appreciate." "My contribution" said he - "to salvation and peace among mankind."

CHARLESTON

Boysenberries - we've all heard of before - but did you ever hear of boozenberries? No? Well, neither had the folks at a new medical center - at Charleston, West Virginia; neither had they that is - until dozens of small birds began crashing into an outside glass wall. A quick check - disclosing they were literally "soused"; the result of eating intoxicating berries - from a nearby clump of pyracantha bushes.

The situation was finally saved - by taping big "x's" on the window glass. If anything ought to be "ex-rated" - it's those "boozenberries" Bill!

CUZCO

The city of Cuzco in Southern Peru originally founded more than a thousand years ago; by the legendary Manco Capac - "first of the Incas;" and many of its ancient tribal customs still intact - as witness this week:

At Cuzco this week - in the midst of a summer heat wave - the rites of January. More than two hundred young warriors from neighboring tribes taking part in what amounts to a medieval jousting contest. Some on horseback armed with slings; others afoot - armed with long bull whips. Each tribal ~~unit~~ unit competing as a team. This year's battle - leaving two dead and more than fifty injured.

The tribe that fought the longest and thus won - the so-called Langui-Layos. To the victor - goes the spoils.

The Langui - Layos now returning home - with four beautiful maidens and the body of one of their fallen foes.

At Cuzco, Peru, - a prize list equalling that of the World Series, the Super Bowl and the Stanley Cup all rolled into ~~one.~~ one.