

The Micro Scope

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SUKARNO SURRENDERS EXECUTIVE POWERS

SUHARTO ASSUMES POWER

Jakarta, Feb. 23 -- Indonesia moved quietly to a new era Thursday after the complete surrender of executive powers by President Sukarno. The President, who dominated all facets of activities in this high Southeast Asian nation for nearly 22 years, remained secluded and unapproachable after his historic decision.

Sukarno, now paunchy, balding and having eye trouble, surrendered his power to army strongman General Suharto Monday but it was kept secret until Wednesday night. Sukarno still remains President. However, Information Minister B. M. Dian, who made the announcement, refused to answer directly if Sukarno was in fact President despite his clinging to the title.

More acts in the drama of Sukarno still remained to be parlayed out.

Congress meets on March 7, still going ahead with plans to investigate Sukarno in connection with the Communist coup attempt in October 1, 1965.

Supardjo's trial is expected to shed more light on Sukarno's mysterious actions on the coup day.

Despite the suddenness of Sukarno's decision, the city of Jakarta remained quiet. On Wednesday night there were no extra troops around. There were no tanks seen in the streets. Guards around the house of General Suharto remained at their normal posts.

Sukarno's announcement came as a special cabinet presidium meeting was opening.

Army strongman General Suharto Friday scheduled talks with leaders of Congress amidst continuing calls here for Congress to dismiss President Sukarno. Congress leaders have already said they would hold session opening March 7 despite Sukarno's handover of all executive power to Suharto. The legislative body has before it a resolution demanding Sukarno be dismissed.

Suharto, in a ten-minute address to the nation Thursday night called for efforts to maintain national unity in the face of Sukarno's handover of powers. Nervousness that clashes may begin over loyalties to Sukarno was evident among officials in Jakarta. There were no reports of any major shift in feeling among the people.

Small scale clashes involving pro-Sukarno marines and anti-Sukarno students were reported from Central Java.

A significant move, however, came from the pro-Sukarno Nationalist Party (PNI) which issued a statement supporting the handover of power to Suharto.

The once powerful PNI has been breaking up around the country, further undermining Sukarno's rapidly fading foothold of power. Members of the PNI in Parliament joined others in unanimously approving the resolution calling for Sukarno's dismissal.

Sukarno's press secretary said he was considering giving a news conference but no firm date had been set yet.

As criticism continued against Sukarno, now President in name only, a law professor and member of Congress said Congress must go ahead with Sukarno's dismissal.

Professor Ismail Suny warned that as long as Sukarno was still in office, he could declare he was ready to resume his presidential duties and dismiss Congress.

Sukarno could take this action by a presidential decree. But Congress sources said Suharto could simply reinstate Congress or block the move. Congress sources said, however, they did not think Sukarno would be dismissed. There were some indications that Suharto may have pledged this would not happen if Sukarno handed over power.

While the political war continued, a former army general charged with being a key organizer of the Communist coup attempt in Indonesia, said Friday his main concern was for the safety of President Sukarno. Former Brigadier General Mustafa Sjaef Supardi told the court that it was not necessary to take Sukarno. He (Supardi) went by his own to the Communist headquarters on October 1, 1965.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"The New York Times" on the Exit of Sukarno

"... Few men in post-war history had a better chance to build a constructive regime -- and one failed so dismally as Sukarno. It was worse than a failure; it was a crime. Nature made the enormous complex of islands composing Indonesia one of the richest nations on the globe -- and it is all still there -- in oil, rubber, copper, tin, diamonds and the fruits of a wonderfully fertile soil. Look at it now. Indonesia is a chaotic, impoverished debt-ridden nation of peasants, bereft of significant industries and of all the paraphernalia

TWO SENATORS SPEAK OUT ON WAR AND PEACE

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 22 -- Former U.S. Senator Goldwater predicted Wednesday night that President Johnson soon will announce a new program for bombing North Vietnam. The 1964 Republican Presidential nominee said he is convinced President Johnson now believes there is "no chance to get situated to a peace table," and added: "I am convinced the President means business."

Goldwater, who recently returned from a tour of Vietnam, renewed his call for bombing the port of Haiphong, which he said "has docks that are stacked with supplies as high as this room, for mile after mile." He said the port could be wiped out "in about two days."

He told about 1,000 members and guests of the Ohio Savings and Loan League that U.S. pilots are hamstrung with restrictions on what they can bomb in North Vietnam. "What we need is a change of heart about the restrictions that will allow our pilots to go after the vital supply lines. Some people are telling the President that if we bomb Haiphong it might bring Red China into the war. Red China is not in a position to go anywhere," he asserted.

The former Senator said he was impressed with what he saw in Vietnam and believes "we are doing even better than we suspect."

Glens Falls, New York, Feb. 23 -- U.S. Senator Jacob Javits, Republican-New York, outlined Wednesday a three-point program for ending the Vietnam War that includes cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam and permanent division of North and South Vietnam.

Javits, in an interview, also called for recognition of the National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong, and guarantees of political amnesty for its members. "This is the moment for a concerted move for peace in Vietnam along the Korea-type peace," the Senator asserted.

He also terms the three-point proposal a Republican "package" and said a cease-fire could be achieved through "strong, unified Republican urging to President Johnson to make him (Johnson) less reluctant to enter peace talks."

Javits contended that Russia could play "a major influence in bringing about this peace" and that it is anxious to do so for its own prestige. He also asserted that Asian countries would undoubtedly cooperate in helping guarantee a peace and in launching needed economic reforms in Vietnam.

of modern society... Providence has given Sukarno that indefinable gift which is now called Charisma. He was worshipped for what millions thought him to be -- a unique, gifted, supreme leader... What they could not see was that in reality, he was a weak, foolish, frivolous and utterly corrupt man, surrounded by a clique as corrupt and incompetent as he was. It took the abortive Communist uprising of October 1, 1965, in which he almost certainly played a nefarious role, to open the eyes of the more selfless Indonesians whom he overhauled... the world will hope that Indonesia can now attain its full destiny -- in freedom."

"SEVERAL PLOTS" TO KILL KENNEDY

CONSPIRACY SUSPECTED

New Orleans, Louisiana, Feb. 24 -- District Attorney Jim Garrison said Friday his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination indicates "there were several plots" to kill the President. He would give no further details except to say "the names of the individuals and the groups are known."

"There were several plots and a change of direction (in them) did occur," the Orleans District Attorney said. Garrison maintains Kennedy was killed as a result of a conspiracy hatched in New Orleans.

The disclosures came following a luncheon at which he revealed promise of a private fund that could amount to \$50,000 or more per month to finance his controversial investigation.

The fund has a base of an estimated \$5,000 a month pledged at the luncheon, to which 50 New Orleans businessmen had been invited. The meeting was called to create a formal organization for receiving and dispersing funds.

The organization was given the name "Truth and Consequences."

After the luncheon, Garrison was surrounded by newsmen, checking out a report that he had just announced the Kennedy assassination was solved. Garrison explained that he merely used a different word to state what he had said previously. Arrests will be made and convictions obtained.

"What I've been trying to emphasize is that arrests are now imminent," he said. "For them (newsmen) to say arrests will take place any day is ridiculous. They asked me if it might be in the next few days, and I said it might be months--that it might be 30 years."

As to the emphasis on his reported statement that the case was now "solved," he made clear this represented no revelation. "I wouldn't have said days ago that there would be arrests if we hadn't had the case solved. I thought I made that explicit. But that doesn't mean arrests are imminent."

He again stressed that arrests in the case may be months away and that he "was building a case that I can take into court." He expressed confidence that these would produce convictions.

"We are going to be able to arrest every human involved, that is every human involved who is still alive." This apparently referred to the death of David W. Ferris, a man Garrison had labeled as important to his investigation. Ferris was found dead in his apartment Wednesday. Garrison again called it "suicide--without any question."

But the coroner, Nicholas Chetta, said Friday that chemical tests produced no evidence of barbiturates, alcohol, or other drugs or chemicals which could have produced death. The coroner said death resulted from natural causes--a massive brain hemorrhage. Dr. Chetta said there was no evidence what-so-ever of violence.

NO U.S. COMMENT ON INDIAN ELECTIONS

Washington, Feb. 24 -- U.S. officials were noncommittal Friday on the results of India's election and the setback suffered by the ruling party.

Officials said it was not clear if an all-Congress Party would form the new government or whether there would be a coalition with other parties.

It was obvious here that many new faces would fill the vacancies left by the defeat of experienced leaders. Some 50 out of 15 high officials were dismissed at the polls.

It is quite possible this may have significant influence on U.S.-Indian relations, but for the time being Washington was silent on the impact.

The basic Indian needs for food and economic assistance were expected to remain as urgent as they have been in the past. The need for assistance from the United States and other nations has not been changed by the election, but the new administration may feel that voters are demanding a swifter pace in economic progress.

LBJ SCORED FOR SEEKING TRADE WITH RUSSIANS

Washington, Feb. 25 -- The Johnson Administration was brought under Republican Party attack Thursday for efforts to increase trade with the Soviet Union so long as Moscow and the Eastern European countries provide 80 per cent of the strategic war materials to North Vietnam.

Representative Melvin R. Laird of Wisconsin, Chairman of the House Republican Conference, released a letter to President Johnson challenging the Administration policy on Vietnam and calling on the President for a "full and detailed report."

"No greater responsibility faces the President of the United States than that of uniting the American people behind a foreign policy they can understand and support," Laird said.

The campaign apparently was timed to coincide with a Republican effort, to hold the Soviet Union responsible for continuing to supply North Vietnam with war-stewards, while professing a desire for peace.

The Laird letter, dated February 9, was reported to be under top-level consideration in the White House.

The House Republican Conference consists of all the Republican members of the House. They meet periodically to decide the policies that will be followed by the House Republicans.

Laird said that questions are being raised about U.S. trade policies with regard to the war in Vietnam. "I have been asked many times," he wrote the President, "why our country refuses to use trade as a weapon or tool of war. Many Americans cannot understand our country's stated intention to increase trade with the Soviet Union and its East European satellites. They cannot reconcile this intention with the known fact that 80 per cent of the strategic war materials now being provided the Communists in Vietnam come from these countries."

Laird said he was "perplexed by our past reluctance to escalate with the more humane weapon of trade before escalating by means of bombing."

"We have certainly indicated our awareness that trade is an effective weapon by our cooperation with Britain's economic boycott of Rhodesia," he said. "Millions of Americans are wondering why the most powerful nation in the world cannot convince its allies--much less the Communist world--to stop trading with North Vietnam."

Laird drew attention to the Soviet Union's acceptance of the so-called guerrilla "war of national liberation" and made only passing reference to Communist China's support for North Vietnam. He asked Johnson to provide a clear statement of his administration policies to prevent other Vietnams from erupting in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He asked what policies were being evolved to cope with liberation wars. He said that the American people would like to know from the President what different responses are being developed.

"They look at Vietnam and see a record of thousands of Americans killed, of tens of thousands wounded, and of an annual cost of 25 billion dollars," Laird said.

"They look at Thailand and dread the prospects of a repeat performance. They need a clear and ringing declaration from the Commander-in-Chief of the United States that our country is in fact aware of these grim prospects and that we are developing different policies and different responses that will be less costly in lives or treasure and more effective in attaining our country's goals."

CLAY MAY FIGHT IN JAPAN

Tokyo, Feb. 23 -- Cassius Clay's manager and a Japanese boxing promoter Thursday scheduled a news conference for Friday, raising speculation they may have reached agreement for a fight in Japan featuring the heavyweight champ.

Ari-Life Association, a Japanese sports promotion organization, declined to shed any light on the purpose of the conference.

Herbert Mannheim, Clay's manager, who arrived in Tokyo Wednesday night, could not be reached for comment. Ari-Life announced earlier it hoped to stage a title fight in Japan. Joe Frazier of the U.S., has been mentioned as a probable challenger.

The Japan Boxing Commission, meanwhile, reiterated it would not approve a title fight involving two non-Japanese. Commission rules prohibit a title match between two foreigners to prevent an outflow of foreign exchange, officials explained.

CID ATOLL



BY TOM SHEEHAN

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SOUGHT BY INDONESIA

Amsterdam, Feb. 24 -- Indonesia Thursday asked Western nations for 212 million dollars to cover this year's imports and to stabilize their mismanaged economy.

Delegates to the two-day Aid-Indonesia Conference, which opened here Thursday, said the Indonesian delegation made a strong and effective plea for the aid. Their claim was based on import needs and stabilization measures.

The claim got strong backing from the International Monetary Fund, delegates later disclosed, adding that the IMF Assistant Chief, K. Simer, who had just returned from an Indonesian inspection tour told the Conference that the Indonesian balance of payments deficit for 1967 totaled 172 million dollars.

The Suharto government is seeking to re-establish order in Indonesian economics and to regain the lost confidence of Western governments.

As delegates from the United States, Australia, Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain, and Holland waited into the hotel where the meeting is being held, clerics were busy craning from walls and sidewalks. Communist slogans like "Suharto is a murderer" and "Freedom for Indonesia, no dollars," both in Dutch and Indonesian.

Theo H. E. Holland's Minister for Development Aid, called on Indonesia and her creditors to accept long-term mutual obligations to help Indonesia attain economic stability.

The present meeting stems from two previous conferences of Indonesia's creditors. Last December, in Paris, it was agreed to delay demands for repayments of Indonesia's debts.

Delegates from the United States and Japan, Indonesia's major creditors, said some points of the debt settlement were still under discussion, but they did not say which points.

Indonesian delegates Thursday underwent some sharp questioning, in particular from the American delegation, participants in the conference said.

The present meeting will not result in any firm commitments by the creditors, but it is expected that fresh credits will be arranged in bilateral talks later. These talks will be followed by a third conference when Western nations are hoped to come forward with assistance offers.

Observers at the conference included Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, and Austria.

AMERICAN MOON PROGRAM ASSESSED BY EXPERTS

Cape Kennedy, Florida, Feb. 23 -- Experts steering America's man-to-the-moon program Thursday assessed what impact the Apollo 1 tragedy will have on future flight schedules, then left for Washington to discuss their conclusions this weekend with Space Agency Headquarters and Congressmen.

Top National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials from all centers involved in the Apollo program completed two days of closed door sessions discussing probable causes of the fire, methods of making Apollo moonships safer and future plans. A public report may be made this weekend or early next week, sources said.

As project officials conferred here, technicians working in a building nearby prepared to hoist into position the last major piece of hardware needed to assemble the first Saturn 5 moon rocket -- raising hopes the monster booster can make its maiden test flight in June or July. The complete 360-foot tall (110 M) rocket is now scheduled to go to its launch pad about March 31, but technical problems checking out the super booster may delay the rollout date until nearer mid-April.

The Space Agency said the moon rocket's 82-foot tall (25 M) second stage was to be stacked atop its powerful 7.5-million pound thrust, 134-foot long (42 M) first stage by early Friday. The second stage, which has been delayed by development problems, was the last major piece of Saturn 5 hardware to arrive at Cape Kennedy.

George E. Mueller, Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight, discussed schedules Thursday with Dr. Robert C. Seamans. The Senate Committee on Aeronautics and Space Sciences said that NASA will proceed with plans to launch three unmanned Apollo flights this year -- an unmanned test of the lunar landing vehicle to be launched aboard a Saturn 1 booster, and two unmanned flights of the Saturn 5 Moon rocket.

RUSSIA WANTS CHINA NOT TO FOLLOW MAO

Moscow, Feb. 24 -- The Soviet Communist Party Thursday strongly encouraged the opponents of Mao Tse-tung and warned that a Maoist victory would plunge China into a "terrorist and military dictatorship."

Advance excerpts of a key article to be published Friday in Kommunist, the leading Soviet theoretical journal, were released by the official Soviet news agency Tass.

"We have no doubt," the article said, "that the Chinese people and the CPC (Communist Party of China) will in time overcome the present political course."

"Our party is confident that same forces in the CPC will ultimately take the upper hand. They have the sympathy of all Communists, all friends of the people's China."

Tass paraphrased one part of the article as saying: "If (Chinese Communist Party Chairman) Mao Tse-tung manages to fulfill his designs to form a single organization from storm units acting in contact with the army, it will mean the establishment of a terrorist military dictatorship with all of its consequences."

The article, by G. Shastanov, repeated official policy lines on China laid down earlier in Pravda, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper, but expanded on them and added greater emphasis.

Kommunist compared Mao with Leon Trotsky, who was an early Soviet leader with Lenin, but lost out in a power struggle with Joseph Stalin. To Soviet Communists, "Trotskyism" is a dirty word meaning obsession with world revolution instead of building socialism in one state.

MAO TSE-TUNG CHECKS ESCALATION OF PURGES

Tokyo, Feb. 25 -- Chairman Mao Tse-tung's leadership appeared Saturday to have moved to check further escalation of the sweeping purge against its opponents which has thrown the China mainland into violent turmoil.

Japanese reports from Peking indicated Mao's bid to overthrow President Liu Shao-chi and his supporters in authority has brought confusion to the functioning of party and government organs in the capital and is jeopardizing the critical spring planting and industrial production.

A new directive, posted in Peking and quoted by Japanese newsmen, banned Maoist seizures of power in key party and government apparatus in the capital and ordered peasants, workers, students, and others on experience exchange leave to immediately return to their posts.

The decree, issued by the Communist Party Central Committee, was the latest of a series of directives, officially or unofficially reported from the Chinese capital, apparently aimed at easing confusion caused by Mao's Cultural Revolution (purge).

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"The New York Times" on Jamaica's Election

"The important thing about the election in Jamaica is to get it over with. The campaign has been one more outlet for the violence that has stained Jamaica's record since it was granted independence five years ago. The incumbent Jamaica Labor Party has won a safe majority of thirteen in the House of Representatives, though its popular margin was less than one per cent. There is reason to wonder whether it was a strictly fair election, but the outcome presumably will gain general acceptance. Jamaica's weaknesses have been a lack of law, order, and efficient administration... The island is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and because of the Commonwealth Immigration Act, it can no longer export excess population to Great Britain. The challenge must be, and will be, taken up by a new generation of leaders... This general election, the first under independence, has set the stage for a new chapter in Jamaica's history. The island has proved its faith in democracy; now it must prove it can make democracy work."