

The Micro Scope

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VIET CONG AGREE TO LUNAR TRUCE

Tokyo, Jan. 21-- North Vietnam indicated Saturday the Viet Cong would stick by their proposal for a seven day truce during the Lunar New Year, although South Vietnam has called only for a four day cease-fire.

North Vietnam's official newspaper Nhan Dan, however, did not mention an offer made by South Vietnam January 17 to meet with North Vietnam to discuss possibilities of extending the Lunar or TET truce.

The Viet Cong truce would last from February 8-15. The South Vietnamese truce from February 8-12.

"By taking the initiative in ordering a cease-fire on Christmas, New Years Day and the TET, by maintaining the order for suspension of military attacks for seven days during the TET despite the frantic sabotage acts of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation has proved its humanitarian policy and also its political and military strength," said Nhan Dan.

Nhan Dan commented on the Viet Cong and South Vietnamese cease-fires in a dispatch broadcast by the official Vietnam news agency (VNA) and monitored in Tokyo.

South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky threatened earlier to call off the four day TET truce because of Viet Cong violations of the Christmas cease-fire. There also were reports of Communist violations of the New Year truce.

The Communists have denied violating either the Christmas or western New Year truces. They claimed it was the United States and its Vietnam war allies that violated the cease-fires.

In ordering the week-long truce January 1, the Viet Cong High Command ordered its forces to "implement scrupulously" the truce. But, it added, the Viet Cong should also be ready to retaliate against the cease-fire.

WILSON-DEGAULLE MEET

Paris, Jan. 23-- Prime Minister Harold Wilson arrived Monday night for a meeting with President Charles de Gaulle after pledging total acceptance of European Common Market rules if Britain becomes a member.

The British leader flew in from Strasbourg where he served advance notice to the Council of Europe, Britain would not be satisfied with associate membership of the European Economic Community (EEC).

The two government leaders meet in the Elysee Palace Tuesday morning with all the signs suggesting the probability of an inconclusive outcome.

CHINA IN CIVIL WAR

Tokyo, Jan. 21 -- Defense Minister Lin Piao, surveying the continued struggle for power on the Chinese mainland, was reported Saturday to have said "the entire country is now in a state of civil war."

The correspondent of the Tokyo Yomiuri said this statement appeared in a wall newspaper posted by the "East Sea Tiger Vanguard," otherwise unidentified but presumably a Red Guard group.

The paper appeared against a background of deepening chaos. Other wall newspapers reported that the Ministry of Culture had been taken over by supporters of Chinese Communist Chairman Mao Tse-Tung and the army had seized nationwide radio facilities in his name.

Supporters of President Liu Shao-Chi -- Mao's chief opponent -- were said at the time to have touched off a mass exodus of peasants from the countryside to the cities with the double aim of paralyzing the urban centers and slashing farm production.

Lin, speaking at a recent meeting of the Party Central Committee's Military Commission, was quoted as saying "there are some who must be resolutely knocked down. But there are some others who must not be knocked down. The revolution is necessary but confusion must be avoided."

MANNED APOLLO FLIGHT SCHEDULED

Washington, D.C., Jan. 23-- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officially scheduled Monday its first manned Apollo orbital mission from a launching no earlier than February 21.

This will be a preliminary to the planned landing on the moon, projected within the next three years.

The three-man crew will be launched between 10 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. in an orbit 101 to 155 miles above the earth.

The flight is "open ended" -- that is, of an indeterminate length. If all goes satisfactorily it may equal in length the 14-day Gemini 7 mission of Astronauts Frank Borman and James A. Lovell, Jr., in December, 1965, the longest manned space flight yet achieved.

The crew for the first American three-man space journey will be commanded by Virgil I. Grisson, 41, who made a suborbital flight in a Mercury spacecraft July 21, 1961, and commanded the first Gemini mission, a three-orbit flight with Astronaut John Young March 23, 1965.

Grisson's crew will consist of Edward H. White II, 37, first American to walk in space -- he flew with James A. McDivitt in Gemini 4 in June, 1965 -- and Roger B. Chaffee, 31, a newcomer to space flight.

NASA said the purpose of the first Apollo astronaut mission is to check out the manned operation and performance of the spacecraft, ground tracking and control facilities.

Most of these checks can be completed if necessary during the first five hours of the flight, NASA said.

COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS BLASTED

Rome, Jan. 23 -- An explosion blew up part of the Italian Communist Party Headquarters in Rome Monday night on the eve of the arrival of Soviet Premier Niko-lai Podgorny.

The blast wrecked part of the back wing of the huge headquarters building on the street of the dark shops two blocks away from Piazza Venezia in the heart of downtown Rome.

A terrific roar echoed through the entire section of the city as the explosion blew out doors, shattered walls and showered glass splinters.

NEW ZEALAND WELCOMES KY

Wellington, New Zealand, Jan. 24 -- Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam received a warm welcome in New Zealand's capital city Tuesday and pledged to do all he could to end misunderstanding about the war in Vietnam.

Over the din of an artillery battery firing a 19-gun salute and a military band playing the anthems of both countries 350 anti-Ky demonstrators chanted: "Seig heil, Ky! Seig heil, Ky!"

In welcoming Ky, New Zealand Prime Minister Keith Holyoake said that "out of this terrible war in which we are both engaged has come a firm, true, and, I am confident, a lasting friendship between Vietnam and New Zealand."

When police attempted to move the pickets back to keep them from drowning out Ky's airport remarks, they sat on the pavement and refused to budge. The police decided against further action.

Some 30 Vietnamese students studying on scholarships at various New Zealand universities turned out to cheer their prime minister.

NEW CONDITIONS ON INDIAN AID

Nagpur, India, Jan. 22 -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi disclosed Sunday the United States has told India it must halt trade with North Vietnam and Cuba if it wants additional food aid from America.

"Actually we replied that we have not been trading with North Vietnam since 1962 because of fears our goods might find their way to China," she told an election rally attended by 15,000 persons in this central Indian city 600 miles east of Bombay.

"As far as Cuba is concerned, we explained we are just selling them jute and they said 'all right, just so long as you don't sell them any arms.' We are not doing this anyway so this was not a problem."

Mrs. Gandhi told a reporter after the rally that trade restrictions were not directed against India but were a part of a new U.S. legislation affecting U.S. foreign aid to all nations.

Asked if additional food aid was expected soon from the United States, she replied "that's up to the President."

During this rally, Mrs. Gandhi said her government decided to accept U.S. conditions "since they do not compromise our international position because we are not trading with North Vietnam anyway and trade with Cuba is minimal. But if our position should be compromised someday then I will reply we would rather starve than sell out our national honor."

The crowd remained impassive throughout the 30-minute speech but applauded as Mrs. Gandhi said India did not like to accept aid perpetually any more than other countries liked to give it.

She expressed hope India could achieve agricultural self-sufficiency within five years through scientific advancements and better use of fertilizers and improved seeds.

YOUTHS ASK FOR SUKARNO TRIAL

Jakarta, Jan. 23 -- Indonesian youths armed through Jakarta streets in small groups Monday shouting President Sukarno be brought to trial.

They are slated to stage a march before Parliament where the 1967 session was opening, with Sukarno a prime target.

Last Saturday nearly two thousand youths massed outside Army Headquarters chanting "Death for Sukarno."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

"The New York Times" on Communist China

"... In the past few weeks Mao has suffered the worst setback he has yet encountered in the 'cultural revolution.' It is now admitted that there were massive strikes and interruptions of transport late last month and early this month in major Chinese cities. It is not clear how the strikes were finally broken, but one factor was apparently the use of 'Red Guard' students as strike-breakers. The chatter about 'economism' apparently means that the workers who went on strike did so to demand higher wages and better conditions. There are hints that they were also expressing their resentment at the way the Red Guards have been coddled, fed and housed without doing any work these past few months. One result has been what Peking's official news agency calls 'serious losses to the state economy.' Another has been to provide a valuable reminder to the rest of the world that explosive tensions are hidden under current peaceful events in mainland China, and that those tensions may yet add a nuclear-like element to the present turmoil."

"The Washington Post" on Premier Ky

"Premier Ky's statement in Canberra that he is looking forward to handing over power to an elected government may not necessarily insure a transfer of power to a civilian-controlled regime in Saigon. It would be permissible under the proposed constitution for other leaders of the present military government such as President Thieu to deft their uniforms and organize a political party of their own. It is entirely possible that such a party might emerge from the coming months of realignment with continuing control over key levers of power. Nevertheless, Marshall Ky's declaration of intent is an admirable one, and it should help to relax the present tensions in relations between the Saigon regime and the Constituent Assembly..."

"The Chicago Tribune" on U.S., Soviet Consular Treaty

"In his zeal to push a Soviet-American Consular Treaty through the Senate, thereby opening up all American cities to Soviet intelligence operation, Secretary of State Rusk has released some correspondence with (PH) director J. Edgar Hoover. ... Now, in the circumstances, any Senator in his right mind can want to approve the treaty and open the gates to a flood of secret agents masquerading as consular officials is a question that defies understanding."

CULTURAL CENTER REOPENED IN MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 23-- The Lincoln Cultural Center operated by the U.S. Information Service here, has been reopened after being closed since last Nov. 7.

The buildings front has been renovated with large shatterproof glass display windows.

Old windows in the center were shattered by missiles fired by an anti-American crowd early last October. The center has been the site of several such demonstrations by anti-American, leftwing mobs.

JECTIONS IN KENNEDY BOOK PRISONERS RELEASED

LATE GENERAL BACKED IKE

New York, Jan. 32 -- A spokesman for the Kennedy family said today that publishers Harper & Row found William Manchester's book, "The Death of a President" so objectionable in its original form that they refused to handle it unless he made changes requested by Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

Richard Goodwin, an aide to the late President and Mrs. Kennedy's top adviser on the book, told reporters that the publishers wrote her after receiving the manuscript that "the book is, in part, tasteless and gratuitously insulting to President Johnson and, for that matter, to the memory of the late President Kennedy."

The publishers' letter, Goodwin said, added that Manchester had turned "the tragedy into a magic fairy tale." They further said that they would not publish unless changes were made.

Manchester gave his version of the controversy surrounding the book in an interview published by Newsweek Magazine. In it he said he was pitted against "people who are betting their futures on another Kennedy administration, who are willing to do anything."

He told the editors of Newsweek that he had no problems with the Kennedys until they learned Look Magazine was paying him \$465,000 for the serialization rights. Mrs. Kennedy, he said, "was concerned over the sum of money and what she felt was commercialization."

Senator Robert F. Kennedy said, "It all finally comes down to the fact that Mr. Manchester gave his word and then broke it. No statement, or interview, or description of events, however dramatic, can alter that plain fact."

Goodwin said Manchester's account, as printed in Newsweek bears no relationship to the actual course of discussion and controversy. Reading it, one is struck by the enormous difficulty of answering statements made in complete disregard of the truth.

Manchester said only one per cent of the book -- 3,600 words -- was cut.

Goodwin said "in an effort to make the book both accurate and fair, to remove the sometimes horrifying and unjust implications about several individuals, the publishers and representatives of the Kennedy family recommended many changes. As a result almost one third of the book was modified."

"Even after Mr. Manchester refused to make changes in the interest of accuracy, he continually promised to make the changes requested by Mrs. Kennedy. . . . It was the failure to make these changes and for that reason only that legal action was finally brought."

"Almost every incident as described by Mr. Manchester in Newsweek is as fictional as some of the most objectionable passages in his original manuscript."

Goodwin did not mention the financial aspects that Manchester stressed in his interview.

PORTUGAL ASKS THAT ACT IN GOA

United Nations, Jan. 23-- Portugal said Monday it needs necessary for Secretary-General U Thant to intervene in Goa, Daman and Diu, former Portuguese territories on the Indian subcontinent, to insure the rights of the inhabitants.

Antonio Patrio, Portugal's Charge d'Affaires here, said that in a recent plebiscite held by the Indian government the people of the territories "expressed in a clear manner their desire to preserve and maintain their own individuality and affirmed unequivocally that they reject any annexation or integration within the Indian union."

The three territories, on India's west coast, once formed Portuguese India. India invaded them in December 1961 and seized control.

Patrio said in a letter to Thant, that in the plebiscite, the voters were given a choice between two alternative "and neither of these choices was acceptable to the generality of the population."

India, he said, "has the duty of permitting the people of Goa, Daman and Diu a choice between direct submission to the government of New Delhi" and an alternative that "could correspond to their legitimate aspirations."

"For this purpose," he continued, "it appears necessary that there should be an intervention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations."

CID ATOLL



Saigon, Jan. 25 -- Three Viet Cong "combat captives" were released Monday morning in Tay Ninh Province about 80 miles northwest of Saigon, the U.S. mission announced.

It said the release of the three Viet Cong on January 4 of American citizens Thomas R. Scales and Robert W. Monahan, and of Mrs. Stella Gasa, a Philippine national.

There was no immediate elaboration concerning the exchange.

Scales and Monahan, civilian employees of a communications firm, were returned to the United States following their release by the Viet Cong in what, at the time, was said to be a gesture in observance of the new year.

Mrs. Gasa was picked up by the Viet Cong while traveling with her husband, a Filipino employee of a civilian airline in Vietnam. Her husband died in captivity.

The mission said the three Viet Cong released Monday were Nguyen Van Dong, Nguyen Van Tu and Tran Van Ho. It added: "They were captured by American forces in combat operations in Tay Ninh Province on May 15, 1966, and in Long An Province on July 21, 1965, and later transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces for custody. They were members of the Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam."

The mission also said the release of the three men was "brought about at the suggestion of the United States, with the full agreement and cooperation of the Vietnamese government." It said the release was made by the governments of Vietnam and the United States.

There was no immediate explanation of whether some prior arrangements had been made in connection with the release of the two Americans and the Filipino, or whether Monday's action was simply a reciprocal move.

NICARAGUA UPRISING ENDS

Managua, Nicaragua, Jan. 23-- A bloody uprising against the Somozas machine ended Monday night after anti-government forces agreed to release about fifty North Americans who were held as hostages in a hotel converted into a small fortress by the rebels.

National Guardsmen with tanks had surrounded the Grand Hotel where the rebels retreated in the final phase of the 24-hour rebellion.

The freed Americans were being taken to the U.S. Embassy.

Two American nuns and a veteran U.S. newsmen, Bill Gaudet, publisher of a New Orleans monthly, L'Espresso magazine, made a futile stab at peace in mid-morning. They dashed out of the tank-ringed hotel waving a bad sheet and after talking to National Guard officers were rushed to the U.S. Embassy as fighting resumed sporadically.

The nuns were of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

At least 21 persons were killed, including three National Guardsmen, in the 20-hour battle touched off at the end of a political opposition rally Sunday afternoon. More than 100 persons were unofficially reported wounded.

The fighting put a cloud over the Presidential elections scheduled next month. The candidacy of General Anastasio Somoza Jr., son of the late dictator whose family has ruled the country for more than 30 years, generated intense opposition. The campaign has been marked by frequent clashes between supporters of Somoza, who heads the Liberal party ticket, and followers of Fernando Aguero of the Conservative party.

SCOPE WANTS NEWS

The Micro Scope encourages all people living in the Trust Territory to send any district or territory news, stories, letters, etc. to:

The Micro Scope
c/o Publications Office
Trust Territory Government
Saipan, Marianas Islands 96950

This is meant to be a territory-wide paper and we hope that with the aid of the Peace Corps Volunteers in each district we can count on the participation of every district.

New York, Jan. 23 -- The late General of the Army George C. Marshall backed the decision made in 1945 by General Dwight D. Eisenhower to allow the Russians to occupy Berlin by themselves.

In a tape recording made before his death in 1959 and made public Monday, Marshall said that Eisenhower, as commander in chief of Allied Forces in Europe, constantly had to make delicate decisions.

"Almost invariably he had to handle them in a way that displeased one party or the other," Marshall said. "And I thought he did extraordinarily well in the matter of who would take Berlin."

It already had been decided by the Big Three powers what areas of Germany would be occupied by whom, and Berlin was 120 miles inside the proposed Russian territory.

Eisenhower knew that if the American forces took Berlin, they would have to pull back the 120 miles, and so he told Josef Stalin directly that he had no intention of taking Berlin.

That Eisenhower had not informed Winston Churchill of his decision angered the British leader and apparently was one of the delicate situations "that displeased one party or the other" to which Marshall referred in the tape recording.

Marshall further referred to Eisenhower's decision to halt the U.S. advance at the Elbe River as political rather than military, saying:

"It must be remembered that all this time we were trying to do business with Russians. . . . They were exceedingly sensitive. . . . Looking all the time for something that would indicate that the British and Americans were preparing to go off alone and settle the thing in a way to their British and American satisfaction and to the disadvantage of the Russians. . . . We were trying very hard to find that basis of negotiations to go along. . . . Marshall was not specific in what negotiations he referred to."

Admitting that his recollections were very much hindsight, Marshall said the allies did in April 1945, what would be "unthinkable today in the knowledge of later events. . . . But, he added, "nobody but the Lord could foresee all that has happened since."

CHINESE SCHOLAR PREDICTS WORST YET TO COME

Manila, Jan. 21-- Dr. Lin Yutang, noted Chinese author and scholar, predicts that the current upheaval in Communist China will leave Mao Tse-Tung's regime "a wreck."

Dr. Lin who arrived Friday night for a five-day good-will visit, told an airport news conference "the worst is yet to come" on the Chinese mainland.

"By the time the purging of Communist leaders is completed, Mao's machinery will be a wreck and shatter to the bottom," he said.

Dr. Lin flew from Taipei as a guest of the Philippine China Friendship Association. He will be the main speaker at the organization's first anniversary celebrations Tuesday.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Saipan, Jan. 24-- The Battle of the Bands will take place on Saturday, January 28, 7:30 P.M. at Mt. Carmel Auditorium.

Under the supervision of Peace Corps Volunteers, the contest will determine the top band in Saipan.

The charge for the event is only 25¢ for students and 50¢ for adults, the proceeds going towards the construction of the proposed Saipan Youth Village, to be constructed adjacent to the District Legislature Building.

Plans call for many activities to be held at the Youth Village including, drama, ping pong, shuffleboard, weight lifting, boxing and dances. There will also be an area set aside for tennis, volleyball, basketball and a picnic area.

It is hoped that this community center will benefit the youth of Saipan and, at the same time, serve as a model for similar facilities throughout the Trust Territory.

BY-- TOM SHEEHAN