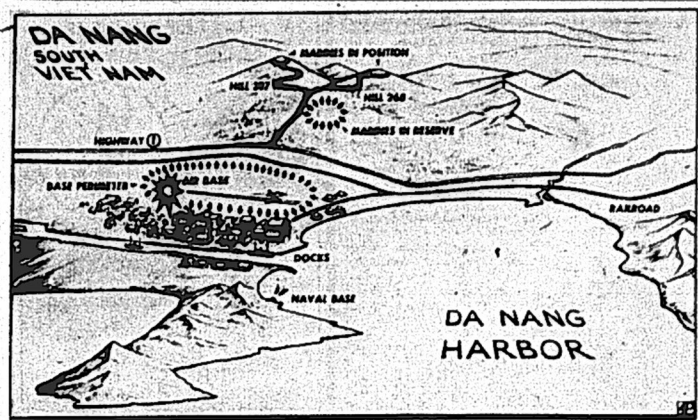


Hanoi Hints It May Receive British Peace Mission



Where Mortars Destroyed Aircraft

Bomb blast symbol indicates the place where Communist Viet Cong mortar fire destroyed three U.S. aircraft Wednesday at Da Nang air base in

South Viet Nam. The Viet Cong landed about 30 mortar rounds on the southern end of the strip within five minutes and then fled.

LONDON (AP) — Informed sources said Wednesday North Viet Nam seemed to be hoping it may receive the British Commonwealth's peace mission despite Hanoi radio and newspaper denunciations of it as a pro-American plot. Thousands of British troops are in the barracks of the House of Commons to protest British and American policy in Viet Nam.

The informed sources reported the Hanoi government had called in the British consul general there for a talk on the subject.

A leading Labor member of Parliament, William Warby, said he had private information from Hanoi that any Commonwealth peace mission would be welcome provided the government save diplomatic recognition to North Viet Nam.

This would seem to be Prime Minister Harold Wilson's position since Britain does not recognize

the division of Viet Nam into north and south which took place after the Geneva conference of 1954.

Britain's foreign secretary, Lord Avon, who was called in by the director of the North Vietnamese foreign affairs bureau, is actually accredited to the Hanoi government.

The meeting between the North Vietnamese official and the British consul general Monday. The meeting is said to have lasted half an hour, with the Communist official asking most of the questions. Pochycki sent a detailed report to London. Officials said it meant the next move is up to Wilson and his Commonwealth mission.

Informants in London were obviously interested, but they also were careful to avoid raising too many hopes. The official interpretation was that the meeting in Hanoi was to be regarded as a delaying tactic, just Hanoi be

accused of permanently closing the door on the peace mission.

Britain's prime minister leads a group of up to 10 British Commonwealth's annual summit conference last week. The other members are President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Sir Abdulaziz Talia of Bahrain, prime minister of Nigeria and Eric Williams, prime minister of Trinidad-Tobago.

Pressing may serve to provide the group, and Hanoi broadcasts and newspaper have sounded equally discouraging although the government never officially turned the group down.

Washington, U.S. Secretary General U. Thant and the Saigon government said they would welcome the peace mission. Wilson, however, said he did not think they should so to Hanoi if Hanoi was unwilling to receive them.

The present here was one of the latest mass demonstrations in Hanoi.

Viet Cong Mortars Blast Strategic Da Nang Base

DA NANG, South Viet Nam (AP) — Communist guerrillas shelled strategic Da Nang air base in a sneak attack early Wednesday morning, killing one American and causing an estimated \$1 million dollars damage.

U.S. military spokesmen said the other Americans were injured, none seriously. In the attack on this launching point for U.S. air strikes on the Viet Cong and North Viet Nam.

Three U.S. Air Force planes were destroyed, including an F102 jet interceptor, and three other aircraft were damaged. Two of the damaged planes also were F102 Delta Dagger jets, valued at between \$15 and \$2 million each. Two C130 transports were destroyed and another was damaged.

Official reports said the Viet Cong opened fire on the base runway. Two of the planes were reported injured by flying bombs. Three U.S. Marines were also reported injured, but it was not immediately known whether they were wounded in action.

It was the first mortar attack against the base, guarded by some 9,500 U.S. Marines who landed in the Da Nang area last March. U.S. Air Force and Army personnel have been at the base since early 1962.

Only 90 miles from the North Vietnamese border, the base has been considered a prime target of the Viet Cong since the United States began air strikes last year. The base is located about two miles from Da Nang city.

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Mansfield Blasts GOP Pressure On LBJ To Step Up Viet Nam War

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In a blistering speech, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield upbraided House Republican leaders Wednesday for threatening to dampen their support of President Johnson's Viet Nam policy if he doesn't adopt a tougher approach to the war.

His strong criticism won quick support from Sen. George D. Aiken, of Vermont, senior Republican in the Senate.

Aiken declared that he was "somewhat disturbed over certain statements by the Republican leadership which might be interpreted as urging the President to broaden and intensify the war in Asia."

He mentioned names but his Senate speech was obviously in reply to House GOP Leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan and Rep. Melvin R. Laird, R-Wis., chairman of the House Republican Conference.

Ford and Laird suggested within the last few days that Republicans support might be withdrawn from Johnson if the buildup in U.S. forces in Viet Nam is intended merely to obtain a negotiated settlement.

Democratic handlers of the bill apparently uneasy of a sale margin after two days of debate and intensive work among party members, gave ground by writing their income tax provisions on eligibility for the "supplemental."

They also cut the funds provided for the "supplemental." These concessions did not win much Republican support, but held enough Democrats to avert a filibuster against the rent supplement bill.

The House defeated such a move, 208 to 202.

The bill as passed contains a number of innovations to addition to the rent supplement act, which, as modified, would be an alternative to public housing for some families.

Local Antipoverty Program May Tie In 13 Communities

Portland's community action program under the federal antipoverty law, if approved by the federal government, could be expanded to embrace 13 surrounding communities.

Those cities and towns, along with Portland, have a population of about 160,000.

They are the other nine communities, besides Portland, which are served by United Community Services — Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gorham, Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, Windham and Yarmouth.

Portland and those communities comprise the so-called Greater Portland Economic Region, defined by the Regional Planning Committee with the assistance of the Bureau of the Census.

The Citizens Advisory Committee for Economic Opportunity is setting up the newly formed Portland Regional Opportunity Program (PROP), the local antipoverty agency, specified that PROP's activities will be undertaken in the Economic Region.

Portland's revised application for a community action program is under review in Washington. When its disposition will be announced is not clear.

The application now refers Continued on Page 2; 4th Col.

\$369,000 Bid Received For Bayside Units

The Portland Housing Authority has received a low bid of \$369,000 to build 24 public housing apartments at the foot of Bayside Mall, adjacent to Kennedy Park.

F. W. Cunningham & Sons of Portland, was the apparent low bidder. If the bid can get federal approval in time, construction should be under way by the end of this month.

FHA vice chairman Edward C. Miller said five bids were received. Others were Casabury Co. Inc., T. R. Boothby & Sons, Fred I. Merrill Inc. and Wiley Construction Co. Inc.

If construction gets under way soon, the 24 units would be ready for occupancy next spring. Their completion will bring the total of public housing in Bayside to 70. The 46-unit Kennedy Park was completed this winter.

Rodway Wins \$13,950 In Academy Lawsuit

By KENNETH W. BERRY
Court Reporter
Frank C. Rodway of Falmouth, deposed superintendent of the Maine Maritime Academy, was awarded \$13,950 Wednesday after a short jury trial of his \$20,000 breach of contract action against the academy.

Senate Committee Suggests Bobby Baker Be Indicted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Rules Committee is suggesting that Bobby Baker be indicted for perjury in the sale of life insurance on President Johnson's life.

News, Features On The Inside

STRAW HAT THEATER
"MISS SADIE THOMPSON"
BETA RAYWORTH
JOHN F. RAYWORTH
ALDO RAY
9:30 P.M.
Channel 13

The Weather
Mostly sunny today and Friday
Full report on Page 2.

U.S. PREPARES document report on Communist activity and involvement of Castro in the Dominican Republic rebellion. Page 8.

MAINE'S DRAFT REJECTION RATE, once well below national average, has been climbing steadily the past few years. Page 7.

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Solitary Traveler

Five-year-old Simon G. Feeney arrives at Portland Municipal Airport Wednesday after flying without escort from his home in New York to visit his grandfather, Albert W. Mosley, in Alna. Simon declined to be "tagged"

on his first flight, saying he wanted to travel like the other passengers. Seeing him off the plane is hostess Beverly Merriam of Cincinnati, Ohio. (By Staff Photographer Olson)

Prayer For Today

O God who art great and good, and who dost spread out before us each day and every night the work of thy hands for us to realize, keep alive in our hearts a sense of reverence and awe. Speak to us in the beauty and strength of thy creation, and help us to feel at home in the world. Come even closer in the dwelling of the Holy Spirit, we pray, so that thou art in us, and we may glorify in thee, and in the grace of obedience and of trust in thy guidance, so that on this day our lives may show forth the praise; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Today's Chuckle
Most people play a fair game of golf if you watch them closely.

Homeowners
CONSOLIDATE BILLS
1st-2nd & 3rd MORTGAGE MONEY available. Even if you were refused elsewhere, we can help you by offering LONGER terms, LOWER monthly payments ... Borrow \$2,500 to \$5,000 at mortgage rates. For information call ...
Portland 778-8291
Buxton 234-3778
Buxton 234-3778
Lewiston 763-2942
Augusta 225-8291
REGIONAL Mortgage Company