



The Dance Is Over

Associated Press Wirephotos

The National Guard Armory at Keokuk, Iowa, is a mass of tangled wreckage after an explosion rocked the building, killing seven persons and injuring 47 others at a pre-Thanksgiving square dance.

## 7 Killed, 47 Injured In Gas Blast In Armory Crowded With Dancers

KEOKUK, Iowa (UPI)—A Thanksgiving eve blast which destroyed a National Guard Armory crowded with square dancers, killing seven and injuring 47, "was definitely a gas explosion," a state fire marshal said Thursday.

Authorities discounted reports of a furnace explosion in the 10-year-old brick and concrete block structure. They said the floor above the furnace was intact.

Dead in the blast included Maj. William Bennett, 37, his son, Tony, 6, Mrs. Leonard Bryant, Mrs. Alice Sumner, Mrs. Louis Bear, Mrs. Leo May, all of Keokuk, and Mrs. Carol Goodrich, Carthage, Ill.

Police said 43 of the injured remained hospitalized 28 of them in critical condition at hospitals in Keokuk, Carthage, Ill., and Iowa City.

The fire marshal Wilbur Johnson said the cause of the explosion but he doesn't know where it came from or where the leak was.

## Allies Team Up To Keep Cong From Rice Harvest

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP)—U.S. and Australian and Vietnamese battalions camped together in the Vo Dai Vay Thursday to keep the Viet Cong from 2,400-ton rice harvest that could sustain several Communist divisions for a year.

Food equates militarily with munitions and the Allied drive, centered 45 miles northeast of Saigon, was called Operation Rice Bowl.

U.S. B52 bombers struck a suspected Viet Cong target Friday 75 miles northeast of Saigon in Binh Tay Province.

North of Saigon, Viet Nam (AP)—U.S. B52 bombers struck a suspected Viet Cong target Friday 75 miles northeast of Saigon in Binh Tay Province.

up for the central Highlands. Reinforcement and sorties are bolstering Communist contingents—Viet Cong and North Vietnamese—estimated at 22,000 regularly roaming that area.

## Wilson Seeks U.S., Russia Push For Viet Peace Talks

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Harold Wilson announced Thursday night a dual British drive in Washington and Moscow to get Viet Nam peace talks started.

Wilson told the House of Commons that his foreign secretary, Michael Stewart, is flying to Moscow on Monday in an effort to persuade the Russians to join Britain in reviving the 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina as a forum for peace talks.

Officials also disclosed that the prime minister feels it might be worthwhile exploring Red China's charges that the Soviet Union is willing to help the United States in Viet Nam by trying to persuade Hanoi to agree to terms for a peace conference acceptable to Washington.

## Congo's Mobutu Ousts Kasavubu Regime

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo (UPI)—Army Chief Gen. Joseph Mobutu overthrew the government of President Joseph Kasavubu Thursday and assumed near-dictatorial powers over the turbulent Congo.

Mobutu seized power in a bloodless coup that brought many Congolese into the streets dancing with joy.

## Holiday Traffic Death Count Mounts To 150

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS The number of Thanksgiving holiday traffic deaths rose slowly Thursday night.

## First Family Together For Holiday Celebration

JOHNSON CITY, Tex. (AP)—The nation's First Family gathered like millions of others Thursday to give thanks and feast on turkey.

The Johnson-Erhard conference will be held in Texas, it was announced. Johnson and Erhard conferred at the ranch located near Johnson's ancestral presidency two years ago.

## Commies To Open Wall For Christmas; 800,000 West Berliners To Get Passes

BERLIN (UPI)—Communist East Germany Thursday agreed to open the wall during the Christmas holidays for West Berliners to visit relatives in East Berlin.

Under an agreement signed with the West Berlin city government, about 800,000 West Berliners will get passes during the Christmas holiday season, Dec. 18-Jan. 2.

Western residents from going West without running the risk of death.

## Today's Chuckle

Is there ever anyone so accusing and aloof as a repairman who discovers you have been trying to fix it yourself?

## 3 Killed, 2 Missing As Fire Sweeps N.J. Dormitory

LAKEWOOD, N.J. (UPI)—A flash fire—possibly the work of an arsonist—wrecked a three-story dormitory filled with sleeping hotel employees in a winter seashore resort early Thursday.

About three minutes before the alarm at the brick and stucco dormitory was sounded, police in a patrol car passed the building and saw nothing unusual.

## News, Features On The Inside

**The Weather**  
Light rain today, clearing in the afternoon. Rain or snow developing by Saturday night. Full report on Page 2.

**A DEATH STRUGGLE** seems to be shaping up in South Viet Nam where reinforcements are pouring in for 12 million Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. Page 2.

**NINE AFRICANS** and one white member in Rhodesia's Parliament find themselves on the sidewalk outside after challenging the legality of the white government. Back Page.

**WAR ABROAD AND TRAGEDY** at home mix grief with the gladness of Thanksgiving. Page 33.

**FORMER PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER**, on the mend, eats turkey with his family at Walter Reed Hospital. Back Page.

**A MISS SERGANT** has to scrounge for more turkeys when 71 unexpected guests show up for dinner—Vietnamese school children who had thanked the brigade for driving out the Viet Cong. Page 37.

**TEXTBOOKS USED IN JEWISH** religious education take a positive view of other faiths. Page 33.

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**25 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT**

**CHRISTMAS SEALS FIGHT AND OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES**



**Turkey Day -- In Viet Nam And Texas**

Americans on both sides of the world enjoyed holiday turkeys Thursday, although under far different conditions.

Left, 8 Sgt. Arthur McMillon of West Hamlin, W. Va., offers a druzhstik to Nguyen Kim Loan, 12, at a Thanksgiving party at a U.S. First Infantry Division post north of Saigon.

Johnson, seated far right and left, host family and friends at the LBJ Ranch in Texas. In foreground are Luci Johnson and boyfriend Pat Nugent. Across table, from left, are T. V. Taylor III, nephew of Mrs. Johnson; Earl Deathey; Mrs. Jessie Hunter; Press Secretary Bill Moyers and Lynda Johnson.

**Movie of the Week!**

**"INTERLUDE"**

Starring **JUNE ALLYSON** and **ROSSANO BRAZZI**

9:00 P.M. Channel 13