

U.S. Orders Christmas Cease-Fire



Astronaut James A. Lovell is greeted by his wife, Marilyn, as they arrive at Ellington Air Force Base, Houston, Texas, Wednesday.



Astronaut Frank Borman, command pilot of Gemini 7 on his epic 14-day flight, and his wife, Sue, embrace on his arrival at the Houston airbase. A son, Edwin, 12, waits to welcome his famous dad.

Home Are The Spacemen

Gemini 7 Astronauts Return Home For Christmas With Their Families

MANNED SPACE CENTER, Houston, Tex. (AP) — Beaming happily, Gemini 7 space champions Frank Borman and James A. Lovell Jr. stepped from a plane Wednesday into the open arms of their wives and children.

At the United Nations in New York, the Vatican's observer, the Rt. Rev. Magr. Eusebio Giolozetti, told newsmen the Pope's motive in appealing for a Christmas truce is "to stop the flow of blood for at least that day." He noted, however, that the Pope had expressed hope a lull in the fighting would lead to "reflections and negotiation."

U.S., Canada To Begin St. John Project Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Canada have agreed to open negotiations on the cooperative development of "the cooperative development of the St. John River" which flows through Maine and New Brunswick and for which Congress has authorized projects amounting to \$227 million.

The State Department announced Wednesday that the agreement had been reached last Saturday in an exchange of notes between Canadian Foreign Secretary Paul Martin and U.S. Ambassador W. Walton Butterworth.

Butterworth said the United States is interested in construction of a water storage and power production project at Dickey and a power development at Lincoln School in Maine. The United States thought both would be beneficial to Canada as well as the United States.

Congress passed legislation in October authorizing construction at a cost of \$227 million.

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie said in Washington Wednesday he was gratified to hear of the United States-Canada agreement on negotiations.

"The exchange of notes between our two nations is the first step toward the treaty which will permit construction of the Dickey-Lincoln School power project on the St. John River," he said.

"I was pleased by the cordial language of the notes," Muskie added. "It shows a spirit of cooperation and good will which promises that the benefits from Dickey-Lincoln School will be shared by residents of New England and their Canadian neighbors, to the advantage of both."

Self-Defense Excepted In 30-Hour Viet Truce

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The U.S. military command in Viet Nam on Thursday ordered a 30-hour Christmas cease-fire except in self-defense.

The Viet Cong two weeks ago offered to put in effect a cease-fire from 7 p.m. Christmas Eve to 7 a.m. Christmas morning in order to allow Americans and other troops in Viet Nam to observe Christmas.

The broadcast was qualified, however, by a statement that U.S. troops should not carry weapons, launch attacks or engage in spying.

No statement was issued at the Texas White House where President Johnson is spending the holidays. Other U.S. officials in Washington also maintained official silence on the cease-fire announcement.

The Texas White House had announced earlier that U.S. officials in Saigon — not President Johnson — would make the decision on the battle lull.

The announcement from the American command was for a longer period—from 6 p.m. on Dec. 24 to midnight on Dec. 25.

A U.S. military spokesman said that similar instructions had been issued by Vietnamese government military leaders.

The order for American forces was issued by Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Viet Nam.

The announcement by the U.S. military spokesman said: "In keeping with the spirit of Christmas and consistent with like instructions that have been issued by the chief of staff, Vietnamese armed forces. Gen. Cao Van Vien, Westmoreland directed that U.S. forces in Viet Nam will not fire at or against the Viet Cong during the hours of 1800 Z to 2400 Z Dec. 24-25."

Some military and other officials in Viet Nam earlier had taken the position that the Viet Cong announcement of a cease-fire was a mere propaganda gesture.

The Communists have declared similar truce periods in the past, especially during the Vietnamese celebration of Tet, the lunar new year, and these truces at times have been violated.

The announcement of the Vietnamese armed forces on a cease-fire said: "In response to the call of the Pope for a truce during the Christmas holidays, the armed forces of the Republic of Viet Nam have decided to stop all military operations from 1800 Dec. 24 to 2400 Dec. 25 except in cases of self-defense if they are attacked by the enemy."

It added that air assaults and other force would be used if (Continued on Page 17; 2nd Col.)

Pope Spurs Moves Toward Viet Peace

VATICAN CITY (AP) — On the eve of his annual Christmas message to the world, Pope Paul VI is reported directing a program of active Vatican diplomacy to encourage negotiations toward ending the war in Viet Nam.

Vatican sources said Wednesday night the Pope would undoubtedly bring up the situation in Viet Nam when he makes his Christmas speech Thursday night — 2 p.m. EST.

The sources said the Pope was growing increasingly concerned over the human misery of the war and fearful that the conflict would spread.

They said the pontiff was not interested in favoring any particular side in the war but in encouraging moves for negotiation and making Vatican diplomatic channels available as the avenue for contacts.

Vatican diplomats in various world capitals have been given the task of making direct contacts and soundings in Viet Nam itself, the sources said.

A sign of the Pope's growing concern was seen in Wednesday's announcement by the Caritas Internationalis, a worldwide Catholic charity organization, that Paul had given a \$100,000 Christmas donation for Vietnamese war victims of both North and South. The Pope gave \$50,000 to Caritas several weeks ago for the same purpose.

2 Augusta Airports Shown In FAA Maine Proposals

Augusta — Confusion over the federal aviation agency's plans for Central Maine airport facilities were cleared up Wednesday in the wake of a story which apparently showed both a new Augusta airport and improvements to the present Augusta state airport of the same FAA master plan.

Frank A. Carbone, eastern region chief of the FAA's airports division at Jamaica, N.Y., said the new airport listing covers an area airport — to serve the Augusta-Waterbury area.

This listing, he said, duplicates prior listings in the FAA's annual five-year plan.

But new this year are at (Continued on Page 17; 4th Col.)

Today's Chuckle

Always put off until tomorrow what you shouldn't do at all.

News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Fair, Warmer Today and Friday.
Full Report Page 24.

AMERICANS WILL be hit by a \$1-billion tax boost on Jan. 1, Page 2.

JESUS AT 18 became increasingly independent and sometimes baffling to Joseph and Mary, Page 8.

FORMER CHANCELLOR Adenauer says he's against a cold war agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, and he also opposes a war between the two countries. Either event would endanger Europe, he says. Back Page.

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U.S. Forces Are Girding For New Viet Offensive

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — U.S. combat troops are girding for a sharply stepped-up offensive in an attempt to crush Communist battalions ringing Saigon and to prevent a Red takeover in the central highlands.

The emphasis will be on what one high military source calls "a true hunter posture." Reconnaissance patrols will intensify probes of jungle hideouts where the Viet Cong in the past have eluded showdowns except on their own terms. Once the contact is established, large reserve forces will be committed.

Planning for expanded American ground operations went ahead as the weekly casualty summary issued Wednesday by the U.S. Military Assistance Command reflected diminished operations in the week ended last Saturday midnight.

The report listed 10 American and 229 government troops killed in action, and 126 American and 425 South Vietnamese wounded. It recorded 820 Viet Cong killed and 89 captured.

U.S. forces struck again in North Viet Nam's heartland and, in the south, blasted an old Viet Cong stronghold less than a half mile from neutralist Cambodia's frontier.

Twenty U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers and a dozen or more carrier-based Navy jets seized on good weather, starting Tuesday night, for an around-the-clock assault that dropped 11 tons of bombs on North Vietnamese supply routes and storage areas.

Pilots from the carrier Kitty Hawk, using radar delivery systems, said they smashed a key railroad bridge 18 miles west of Haiphong, in a Red Viet Cong area that has been prepared almost daily for the past week.

A Hanoi dispatch broadcast by the New China News Agency declared four U.S. planes were shot down during the day. Independent confirmation was lacking. There was no announcement in Saigon of any losses.

Propeller-driven Skyriders and strafed Viet Cong holdings in the nearby Plain of Reeds 35 miles northwest of Saigon that a U.S. spokesman said were both a guerrilla hideout and a marketing point for supplies funneled in from Cambodia.

Explosives ripped into some buildings only 800 yards from the frontier.

Associated Press photographer Richard Merrow, who flew with the mission, said: "You could see the border as very well defined by some old Vietnamese fortifications which still are there. At least 30 or 40 huts and other buildings were hit."

(Continued on Page 17; 1st Col.)

Sen. Reed Charges Panel Screening Bills For Jan. 17 Special Session 'Little Gods'

By JACK HUBBARD

AUGUSTA, Maine (UPI) — Sen. President Carlton D. Reed Jr., D-Woolwich, charged Wednesday that the six-member committee designated to screen bills for the Jan. 17 special session will fit into the Legislature was invested with too much power.

Legislative leaders comprising very other year. Special sessions may be called at will by the governor.

House Speaker Dana W. Childs, D-Portland, said that while there was a need for a special session, "nobody is more qualified to screen bills than legislative leaders from both parties."

"Somebody has got to screen the bills; otherwise it would be a wide-open session," Childs said.

Both Reed and Childs estimated that about 100 bills would be considered by the upcoming special session, including 20 special bills submitted by Gov. John H. Reed, a Republican.

The screening committee has no control over bills submitted by the governor.

The one-day screening process is scheduled for Jan. 4 after all proposed bills have been viewed by the Legislative Research Committee.

After the screening, the bills are drafted in final form and sent to the printer.

Jalbert Appeals 2 Terms For Conspiracy, Cheating

AUBURN (AP) — Louis C. Jalbert, one of Maine's most widely known lawmakers, appealed Wednesday two prison terms for conspiracy and cheating.

The charges against the 47-year-old Lewiston representative had nothing to do with his legislating. They involved an alleged attempt to bribe a judge.

Superior Court Justice James L. Reid sentenced Jalbert to serve one to two years on each charge, suspended the sentences and put him on probation for two years.

The veteran of nine House terms — he was known as "Mr. Democrat in his party's lean years a decade ago — protested.

"I am innocent of all these charges."

In Augusta, Atty. Gen. Richard J. Dubord said he knows of no constitutional bar to Jalbert's continued service in the legislature.

It appears, Dubord said, that only the House could force Jalbert's resignation, as the constitution gives it the sole power of impeachment and says it (Continued on Page 17; 3rd Col.)



Louis C. Jalbert

Prayer For Today

Heavenly Father, who by the birth of Thy Son didst give Thyself to mankind, grant that His spirit may be born anew in our hearts. We joyfully welcome Him to reign without rival over our lives and our ever social institutions. Open our hearts, we pray, that we may hear again the glad good news proclaimed by Thy angelic messenger and may join with the heavenly hosts in praising God, our redeemer, Amen.

—Ludov. R. Pfler, Tallahassee, Fla., revised Methodist editor.

Holiday Special!

LES PETIT CHANTEURS DE LEWISTON

Christmas In Song

8:00 P.M.
Channel 13



Two-year-old Lisa Jo Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darryl D. Thomas of Cannon Road, South Portland, tucks a doll into a homemade cradle. The doll and cradle are being packed in Press Herald Clearing House Christmas Caravan boxes for needy youngsters.

2 SHOPPING BATS LEFT

CHRISTMAS SEALS (17) AND MANY RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Bedtime