



Head For Far East
Vice President Humphrey and his wife, Muriel, wave from ramp of their plane at Andrews Air Force Base Monday.

Vice President Humphrey Off For Far East Tour

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey flew to the Far East on Monday to talk with three presidents, an emperor and a prime minister. The talks will pivot around his going to the Philippines to represent the United States at the inauguration as president of Ferdinand E. Marcos.

On his departure from Andrews Air Force Base, the vice president said he welcomes the opportunity to meet with the leaders of Japan, Nationalist China and the Republic of Korea whom he described as "old and good friends" of the United States. He said he hopes the talks will be both "cordial and mutually beneficial."

Mr. Marcos, who will be inaugurated on Wednesday in Manila, Humphrey carried instructions from President Johnson of relations that will be firm, strong and reliable. Marcos is expected to serve as his own defense minister. The former guerrilla leader will determine what modifications if any will be made in the military bases agreement between the two countries. And there have been indications of more Philippine support of the anti-Communist effort in Viet Nam.

Humphrey was seen off by Secretary of State Dean Rusk who had a working lunch with the vice president at the State Department and talked over the problems of Northeast Asia. On arriving in Tokyo some 13 hours after his 2:15 p.m. departure from here, Humphrey will be met by J.A. Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer.

The stopover in Tokyo will be for 18 hours only. And during that time, the vice president will call with Mrs. Humphrey at the imperial palace and be received by Emperor Hirohito. Then Humphrey and Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato will have a two-hour conference and

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Pope Tells LBJ His Pleasure Over Viet Christmas Cease-Fire

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — President Johnson received Monday an indirect message from Pope Paul expressing his pleasure over the Christmas cease-fire in Viet Nam.

Acting press secretary Joseph Laitin said the letter was from the apostolic delegate to Washington, Archbishop Endre Hunkari.

Laitin did not make public the text, but said the apostolic delegate asked that the President be advised that the Pope "had received with great pleasure the news that a Christmas truce was ordered by the armed forces in Viet Nam."

Word of the message from Rome was given to newsmen at the end of a day which the President back at the executive business gridlock after Christmas festivities at the LBJ Ranch.

Laitin said Johnson gave most of his attention to foreign affairs and the budget. Some official visitors from Washington are expected later in the week.

In his papal message, Laitin added that the Pope had shown his satisfaction with the cease-fire by sending a special message to the governments of South and North Viet Nam exhorting each to do everything possible to bring about a just and peaceful solution.

Laitin said the archbishop's letter was addressed to a White House aide, whom he did not identify, and was forwarded to the President at the LBJ Ranch.

Asked whether there might be a reply, Laitin said: "My judgment would be that the letter does not require a reply."

Laitin said earlier that Johnson spent most of the day at his desk. Among his phone calls to Washington was one to McGee Rundy, presidential assistant for national security affairs, for a review of events around the world.

There were no official visitors to the ranch, but some of the presidential staff members were on hand to help with the paper work which accumulated over Christmas.

Johnson still maintained silence on any Viet Nam truce moves. Asked whether the United States had instituted a new pause in bombings in North Viet Nam, Laitin replied: "I have no information whatsoever on that."

Laitin said also the White House had no comment on a report from Vatican City that Pope Paul VI is working to encourage a possible New Year's cease-fire in Viet Nam.

While maintaining silence on Viet Nam, Johnson reportedly still has a glimmer of hope that

Latin announced also Johnson plans to appoint James B. Duesenberry, a monetary expert and professor of economics at Harvard, as a member of his Council of Economic Advisers.

Duesenberry will replace another Harvard professor, Otto Eckstein, who is returning to that institution about Feb. 1.

Another appointment was that of Charlotte Tuttle Lloyd as assistant general counsel of the Treasury. A government attorney for the past 11 years, Mrs. Lloyd joined the Treasury in 1961 in the office of the general counsel.

Duesenberry, 67, is a native of Princeton, N. J., and received his bachelor's master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan.

Johnson approved also the retirement at the end of this month of Gordon E. McCallum as assistant surgeon general of the Public Health Service.



Pastoral But Deadly Area
Cattle graze as troopers of the U.S. First Air Cavalry Division wait to move forward after landing by helicopter in area 30 miles northwest of Qui Nhon. The cattle continued to eat despite sniper fire.

There have been no raids against North Viet Nam since the truce went into effect at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve. But in the south, Allied planes hit suspected Viet Cong targets as enemy fighting resumed. But the ground actions were proving costly.

A U.S. Army truck hit a mine while carrying troops of the 1st U.S. Infantry Division 30 miles north of Saigon. Heavy casualties were reported.

A U.S. Army officer said "a lot of soldiers" were killed or wounded when the truck set off a mine at a South Vietnamese troop barracks at Sa Dec, 70 miles southwest of Saigon. The blast caught two Vietnamese planes inside the building.

A Viet Cong mine blew up a Jeep 20 miles south of Sa Dec, killing two American soldiers and a U.S. civilian.

In the action around Da Nang, U.S. planes and warships "intruded" into his territorial air and water space on Christmas Day when the cease-fire was on.

It claimed the planes conducted "freedom-of-flight" provocative activities. Hanoi radio broadcast the Communist claim made in a protest message to the three-nation control commission on Viet Nam.

The only post-truce air strikes reported by U.S. spokesmen were against suspected Viet Cong concentrations in South Viet Nam.

They gave no reason for the suspension of the strikes against the Communist North, but said that Washington was giving the orders.

Speculation grew that the United States was holding back its air might in hope of persuading the North Vietnamese regime to agree to peace negotiations. The United States stopped raiding North Viet Nam for five days last May, but the gesture failed to lead to the peace table.

Undeterred by the shattered Christmas truce, Vatican diplomats were reported trying to get both sides to agree to a New Year's cease-fire.

Informants in Vatican City said Pope Paul was encouraging the Communist North, but said the truce had achieved some results, even though short-lived.

Vatican Envoys Seek New Year Cease-Fire

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Vatican diplomats were reported Monday to be negotiating under orders from Pope Paul VI to bring about a New Year's cease-fire in Viet Nam.

Some reports said contact already had been made between papal envoys and representatives of North Viet Nam in Cambodia. The Vatican has an apostolic delegate to the Roman Catholic hierarchy there.

Another possible channel was through Hungary. Informants said Vatican diplomats had been instructed in the wake of the Christmas cease-fire experiment to step up their secret contacts with both sides in the war.

Pope Paul was disappointed that the Christmas cease-fire had appealed for so short-lived. But both the pontiff and his top diplomatic advisers were said to feel that, even so, the Pope's appeal had achieved some results and that new efforts were called for.

It was not indicated whether the Pope planned another public appeal for a specific cease-fire for New Year's as he had done Dec. 18 for the Christmas truce.

Sources said it was possible that this time the proposals would be kept strictly within secret diplomatic channels.

The Vatican has no direct diplomatic relations with North Viet Nam. But informants re-

Marines Kill 63 Viet Cong In Battle Near Da Nang

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — Back in action after a short-lived Christmas truce, U.S. Marines killed 63 Viet Cong in scattered fighting Monday near Da Nang air base. But U.S. planes held off attacks against North Viet Nam for the third straight day.

The Leathernecks reported taking only light casualties but the skirmishes that flared around the Big American base 380 miles northeast of Saigon.

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Four Die, Six Missing, 22 Rescued As Oil Drill Rig Plunges Into North Sea

GRIMSBY, England (AP) — A 3,600-ton oil rig with a crew of 32 men collapsed and sank in the cold North Sea on Monday, killing four and leaving six missing. Ships and aircraft rescued 22 survivors and recovered one body.

Survivors and witnesses said the rig's 10 legs gave away. It crumpled like a long-legged spider and slid beneath the waves in 85 feet of water, a tangle of twisted metal. The rig had already been in the water an hour or more when it gave way.

A helicopter pilot taking part in the rescue described the scene, about 60 miles off this east coast port, as "frozen chaos."

Luckily, the British freighter Balfour was less than a mile away when the rig buckled and it picked up 20 men, one of them dead. A Dutch freighter rescued another and Royal Air Force helicopters rescued two survivors and recovered one body.

Sgt. John Reason, a helicopter winchman, who lowered himself twice into the waves to snatch survivors, said: "One man clinging to a life raft clutched me with a grip of iron when I reached him. He was desperate. They had already been in the water an hour or more when we got there."

All survivors required hospital treatment for exposure. Four were seriously injured. The rig, called the Sea Gem, was the first to strike naturally in commercial quantities in the international rush for North Sea oil. The British government has a majority holding in it.

Prayer For Today

With grateful heart, O Father, I thank Thee for the blessings of life. How marvelous Thy work; how manifold Thy goodness! I praise Thee for the thoughtfulness of friends and the attention of loved ones. As I have been fully revived, may I this day and always generously share my life with others as an expression of my gratitude to Thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

W. F. Rish, Ward, Jr., Syracuse, N.Y. Major, The Methodist Church.

News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Light snow, clearing after noon today; fair, cold Wednesday. Full report on Page 17.

CHRISTMAS IS A DEADLY HOLIDAY

on the nation's highways as the three-day toll climbs above the 700 record set in 1964. Page 2.

TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS

who were quoted as saying after their release by the Viet Cong that they wanted to campaign against the Viet Nam war face the possibility of the death penalty. Page 3.

FOUR CREWMEN

of a Cuban freighter defect in Japan, saying they do not want to help the Communists by carrying arms to North Viet Nam. Back Page.

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Christmas Presents

Mrs. Freeman Kennard of 19 Spruce St. gets a reaction from her twin girls as they are held by nurses Lois Redey, right, and Jennie DeGruchy. The first twins born on Christmas Day in the Maine Medical Center, the infants entered the world 15 minutes after Patrolman Robert B. Cousins got their mother to the hospital. "I didn't think we were going to make it," she said. The Kennards have girls, aged 5 and 2, and a 10-month-old son.

Today's Chuckle

The only two who can live as cheaply as one and the flea and the dog.

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