

Cong Offer Another Cease-Fire; Hanoi Eyed For Peace Bid Sign



Good Hunting
First Cavalry Division soldiers bind hands of captured Viet Cong suspects and force them to lie on the ground while they wait for evacuation to an interrogation center from the La Tinh Valley, about 240 miles north-east of Saigon.

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — The Viet Cong came out with another cease-fire plan Tuesday night while the world watched Hanoi for any sign that the Communist North Viet Nam might lead to negotiation.

Maintaining a familiar custom, the Communist National Liberation Front's radio announced the Viet Cong will stop attacking "the puppet armed forces and government" of South Viet Nam during the celebration next month of Tet, the lunar New Year.

The celebration runs four days, Jan. 30-31.

A full normally develops on both sides during the observance of the lunar New Year and Saigon authorities have been inclined to demand that Viet Cong offers of a Tet truce as propaganda intended to take advantage of that fact.

The break early this year, for instance, lasted seven days.

In Moscow, it was announced that Alexander Shelepin, considered to be the No. 2 man in the

Soviet Communist party, will head a Soviet delegation visiting Hanoi shortly. The announcement by the Soviet news agency Tass gave no details of the planned trip to the North Vietnamese capital. Shelepin's visit is regarded by some Western

observers as a move to counter Red Chinese efforts to block the Russians from South Asia.

Red China, meanwhile, accused the United States of repeating war threats against Cambodia and pledged its "all-out support" of Cambodia. Peking has been increasing its propaganda backing of Cambodia since it was reported Washington may authorize "hot pursuit" of Viet Cong guerrillas fleeing into Cambodia from South Viet Nam.

Peking's bellicose statement

followed Hanoi's bid for a four-day suspension of the Viet Nam war.

The Red bid came as U.S. jets spared North Viet Nam from attack for the fourth consecutive day. A U.S. spokesman said even reconnaissance planes stayed out of North Vietnamese airspace.

Ho Chi Minh's Red regime said nothing about the bombing halt, but broadcast a charge that American planes had scouted its territory Christmas Day, Sunday and Monday for "spying and provocative activities." It protested to the International Control Commission.

There was no indication how long the bombing break may last. A five-day moratorium last May was the longest in the series as a deception after the attacks were resumed.

It was learned that, in another

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Fanfan's Resignation Rejected

ROME (AP) — Amintore Fanfani, criticized for his role in the fall of the Italian government, offered his resignation as foreign minister Tuesday in the midst of a new political storm. Premier Aldo Moro rejected it.

Fanfani acted to dissociate himself from anti-American remarks made by his friend Giampaolo Pansa, a recent party member, after Pansa had been rejected by the foreign minister's wife.

He Pansa had visited Hanoi, the North Vietnamese capital, and reported President Ho Chi Minh told him he would go anywhere to meet anyone to bring an end to the war. After Pansa passed this on to President Johnson, Hanoi denied any peace overtures were made. But Le Pira, who was in Hanoi, said the Pansa visit was a version of the truth.

At the party, Le Pira, an ally of Fanfani, was said to have assailed Moro and Secretary of State Dean Rusk and said that the Italian government was dead in Red China.

In a telegram from his Alpine vacation retreat, Moro cleared Pansa of involvement with the party and added: "I tell you, therefore, not to insist upon your dismissal, which I do not think I am able to accept."

Pansa was resident of the U.S. General Assembly. The latter post ended when the assembly adjourned last Wednesday.

In his letter of resignation, Fanfani said he was resigning.

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Batory Steams Into Boston 748 Immigrants, Tourists Reach Hub On Polish Ship

BOSTON (UPI) — The Polish liner Batory, a ship that once sailed the shadowy seas of international intrigue, arrived here Tuesday with the largest group of Iron Curtain immigrants from Poland. The red of the passenger list was comprised of tourists, students and visitors with temporary visas.

A spokesman for the ship agent, the Boston Shipping Corp., said all the passengers including the immigrants were cleared by the U.S. consular office in Warsaw and came here with U.S. State Department approval.

The Batory, on which Communist agent Gertrude Elser fled the U.S. in 1949, has made frequent calls to Canada with U.S.-bound Polish immigrants. But the ship's destination was switched to Boston this time because of the danger of ice in Canada's St. Lawrence River.

U.S. immigration officials in Boston said the Batory was the first large immigrant ship to sail directly to Boston in 30 years and the first to U.S. in that span with such a large number of immigrants from behind the Iron Curtain.

Most of the immigrants were sponsored by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and have

and other cities across the nation.

The Batory sailed from Gdynia, Poland, and stopped at Copenhagen, Denmark. All but a handful of the passengers boarded the ship at Gdynia.

Elser, a convicted perjuror, stowed away on the Batory to jump \$23,500 bail and escape a one-year jail and deportation for giving false information on exit permit application. Elser, a German, had been accused by

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Humphrey, in Tokyo, Tells Japs, 'We Need Your Help'

TOKYO (AP) — Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey flew into Tokyo Tuesday night on the first stop in his Asian tour and told the Japanese the United States needs their help in a search for peace.

"We value your friendship and respect your counsel," Humphrey said to Prime Minister Eisaku Sato and Foreign Minister Etsusaburo Shibusawa in a brief airport welcoming ceremony.

A big anti-American demonstration appeared to have faded. Police cleared some leftist demonstrators from the airport shortly before the vice president's jet landed. A small number of rightists, surrounded by police, displayed a big placard saying "Welcome, Mr. Vice President."

In downtown Tokyo some 2,000 leftists shouting "War make Humphrey go home," marched for 40 minutes shortly before Humphrey's arrival.

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Democrat Boycott Blocks Check Of Waterville Ballots

By JACK HUBBARD
WATERVILLE, Maine (UPI) — A boycott by Democratic members of this city's Election Committee Tuesday nullified the opening of 34 absentee ballots that were somehow misplaced during a Dec. 8 municipal election.

The ballots were returned to a safe in City Hall to await possible court action which would lead to their opening.

City Clerk Henry G. Bonnell charged that the 19 Democratic members of the 48-member Election Committee failed to show up at City Hall early Tuesday morning to check the "deliberately planned political move."

At stake in the apparent victory of Democratic Mayor-elect Malcolm Fortier who defeated Republican incumbent Mayor Cyril M. Joly by 18 votes — 2,923 to 2,907. If the impounded absentee ballots are declared today, Joly would need 26 votes to win the election.

Fortier already has been declared elected and there is no indication from Joly that he will seek to contest the election in the courts.

Attorney Albert L. Bernier, representing Fortier, said that the opening of the misplaced ballots "would have involved several criminal acts."

Opening of the absentee ballots was ordered last week by City Solicitor Morton Brody. The missing votes apparently were locked in the City Clerk's vault with some blank ballots and then found some two weeks later.

Since that time there has been confusion and indecision over the issue.

Bernier charged that a check of the absentee voting list would have determined that some ballots were missing on election day.

The City Clerk is required to take all absentee ballots to each ward to have them certified by a warden against a check list. Bonnell's office said that the ballots were on no such list and there was no way of knowing they existed.

"Democratic election workers stayed away from City Hall Tuesday because they refused to participate in what they knew was a criminal act," Bernier said.

Bernier said that city law explicitly states that the only time ballots can be opened after an election is during an inspection three days after an election, or by a specific court complaint.

"The Election Committee would have been acting out of their scope of authority" if the missing absentee ballots were opened at this time, Bernier said.

Today's Chuckle

Hospital patient receiving bill for surgery: "No wonder they were making in the operating room."

Waldoboro Private Happy To Be Home But Would Return To Viet If Needed

By NATHALIE SNOW
District Correspondent
WALDOBORO — "It's great to be home, but I'd volunteer to go back to finish the job if it were necessary," Pvt. Douglas L. Knowlton said Tuesday after returning from a year in Viet Nam.

Knowlton, 20, son of Mrs. Clara Knowlton of North Waldo, had been stationed in Viet Nam as a clerk with the 130th Aviation Company, a helicopter outfit.

Knowlton was the "only private in Viet Nam who had his own secretary."

KNOWLTON SAID he was put in charge of recording awards and decorations for his outfit, but "my typing wasn't too good." A Vietnamese secretary was assigned to him to type out citations.

This led indirectly to Knowlton winning the Air Medal, the Vietnam Civilian Medal, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Viet Nam Service Medal.

Knowlton, who had three near misses. A small piece of shrapnel, ricocheting through his shoulder, causing a minor wound; a 30 caliber machine gun slug stopped between him and the machine gun he was manning; and another bullet smashed into the helicopter, just over his head.

Reed Still 'Missing Mark' In Traffic Problem: Barnard

Arlin E. Barnard, executive secretary of the Maine Automobile Association, said Tuesday that Gov. John H. Reed is "still missing the mark" in the war on the state's traffic accidents.

"Until such time as there is an adequate check on drivers who have had licenses suspended or revoked, and drastic action taken against those people who drive after suspension or revocation, we will have failed to make real war on traffic accidents," Barnard declared.

"Gov. Reed is still missing the mark by not concentrating on the driver license as the single tool for improving driver behavior," he added.

Barnard charged that Maine courts have failed to give jail sentences to violators "although our present law gives them the authority to do so."

He said the legislature could make such sentences mandatory.

Barnard, a former chairman of the Maine Highway Safety Committee, said the legislature refused to pass such legislation several years ago when it was requested.

"The governor showed no more interest in the proposition than he does now," he said. "It is high time we focus our effort on positive propositions with the most promise of results, such as this one, even at the risk of diminishing our popularity."

Prayer For Today

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for sending Jesus into the world to show us the way to God. We thank Thee that He was and in the light of the world, illuminating for all the way of abundant and eternal life. We walk in that light, humbly and obediently, lest we walk alone and in darkness. Amen.

— F. Dale Oldham, Andover, Pa., executive director, Christian Brotherhood House.

News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Increased cloudiness today, occasional snow Thursday.
Fall report on Page 12.

A **WEATHER EXPERT** who scored 100 per cent in predicting when to seed clouds tells a scientists' convention that control of rainfall depends only on money and incentive. Page 2.

ONE-SIDED VIET CONG CEASE-FIRE declarations for the lunar New Year are virtually annual affairs and show no connection to genuine peaceful intentions. Page 3.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON and Secretary of Defense McNamara review in detail the nation's military needs, with heavy emphasis on Viet Nam. Page 3.

SPONSORS OF A BOOTLEG TRUCK MISSION to Hanoi by three Americans say a report: A State Department crackdown could bring prison sentences or heavy fines for the trio. Back Page.

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The Late Show!
"GIRL IN THE KREMLIN"
starring
LEX BARKER
ZSA ZSA GABOR
- 11:15 P.M.
Channel 13