



The Weather

Today—Cloudy, occasional rain this afternoon and tonight. High near 50. Saturday—Chance of showers. Probability of precipitation 60% today and tonight. Temp. range: Today, 40-50; Yesterday, 37-43. Details on B4.

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Heavy Viet Fighting Persists; General Warns of Big Thrust

Red Siege At Khesanh Is Foreseen

By Peter Braestrup Washington Post Foreign Service SAIGON, Feb. 1—The intense fighting in South Vietnam's hinterland showed no signs of abating today, and Gen. William C. Westmoreland warned that the enemy's "main effort" was yet to come.

"This whole campaign is a go-for-broke proposition," the General told a press conference here. "He has put forth a maximum effort." The strongest thrust, Westmoreland indicated, will come around the isolated Marine outpost at Khesanh just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

The trim, 54-year-old commander of the 480,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam spoke on the fourth day of nationwide attacks by the enemy. Communist forces still controlled portions of the Buddhist stronghold of Hue, the port city of Qui Nhon and the Central Highlands town of Kontum. Scattered fighting continued in and around Saigon.

Westmoreland said the enemy was capable of continuing this phase of the campaign for several more days. There is, however, evidence to suggest that he's about to run out of steam.

The General added that the enemy "does still have some reserves that are yet to be committed," but he said he was "confident that any further initiatives can be blunted."

The Communists "will be very badly hurt in the current offensive," Westmoreland declared. "It will take him many, many weeks to recover, and in some areas many months."

The climactic "main effort" he predicted, will come in the two northernmost provinces of Quangtri and Thua Thien. "It will involve the commitment of the largest number of troops ever committed by the enemy to date," he said, referring to the 30,000 or more North Vietnamese soldiers reportedly grouped near Khesanh.

Casualties Reports of the fighting remained tardy, incomplete and fragmentary. The U.S. mission tonight released these figures for all casualties in the unprecedented "anti-city" offensive: Enemy losses: 4959 killed and 1862 detained. Allied losses: 555 killed and 1698 wounded — including 232 Americans killed and 929 wounded, 300 South Vietnamese troops killed and 727 wounded, and other allied troops three dead and 22 wounded. Civilian casualties were said to be heavy.

In Washington, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the



Ebb in Saigon ...

By Lee Lescaze Washington Post Foreign Service SAIGON, Feb. 1—The battle with Vietcong infiltrators in this city appears to be largely over although fighting continued throughout the day in several outlying districts and a few scattered pockets.

Americans in sport shirts sipped cool drinks on the roof garden of the ten-story Caravelle Hotel and watched for signs of the occasional clashes. Vietnamese Air Force A-1E Skyraiders occasionally swooped low over areas where Vietcong resistance continued. But they dropped no bombs and did not strafe.

Helicopters also circled over the city and the gray and white smoke of four big fires

rose over the southern and western sections of Saigon. In Phutho district in the west, two companies of the 38th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion maneuvered to reach a small group of Vietcong holding several rooftops.

The Rangers moved carefully, apparently using great restraint to avoid harming civilians. Several hundred families hurried out through the Rangers' lines carrying their possessions bundled in blankets.

Near the Anquang Pagoda in Cholon, three companies of Vietnamese troops with armored personnel carriers

Execution ...

South Vietnamese Police Chief Brig. Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes a Vietcong officer on Saigon street. The officer, in civilian garb and carrying a pistol, had been captured by South Vietnamese marines. Explaining the summary execution, Loan said, "They killed many Americans and many of my people." Communists had staged several executions since fighting broke out in the capital, and the relatives of government officers had been among their victims. Picture was taken yesterday by AP photographer Eddie Adams at the instant Loan fired.

... But Not in Hue

SAIGON, Feb. 1—More than 1000 Vietcong in the old imperial capital of Hue turned back allied assaults for the second straight day Thursday, and when night fell the red-starred guerrilla flag still flew in parts of the city. Elsewhere in the heavy ground fighting throughout South Vietnam, U.S. cavalrymen drove attackers out of the northern city of Quangtri; allied forces seemed to be holding the mountain town of Banmethuot under a heavy siege; indecisive battles were going on at Kontum and Dalat in the country's midsection, and occasionally heavy fighting was reported in the southern Mekong Delta.

The battle at Hue, in the northern 1 Corps sector, began early Wednesday when the Vietcong laid down a mortar attack and seized the city. Only a U.S. military advisers' compound and a government subsector headquarters in the southern part of the city were not overrun. That same day about 300 U.S. Marines were sent in from 3d Marine Division headquarters at Phubal, 8 miles to the south. Through heavy sniper fire, they fought their way to the advisory compound, where a small U.S. Army unit was holding out. Later Wednesday the Marines tried to cross the bridge across the Perfume River and



President sits with head bowed at prayer breakfast.

Hanoi Told Attacks Imperil Bomb Halt

By Carroll Kilpatrick Washington Post Staff Writer President Johnson warned North Vietnam yesterday that Communist offensives in the South could endanger any prospect of a bombing halt as a prelude to negotiations.

The President said that the bombing of the North will continue until the enemy gives "some better sign than what these last few days have provided . . . that he will not step up his terrorism."

"Unless we have some sign that he will not accelerate his aggression if we halt the bombing, then we shall continue to give our American men the protection America ought to give them."

Strongly defending the use of air power in awarding the Medal of Honor to Air Force Maj. Merlyn H. Dethlefsen of Derby Kan., the President said:

"Let those who would stop the bombing answer this question: 'What would the North Vietnamese be doing if we stopped the bombing and let them alone?'"

"The enemy force in the South would be larger. It would be better equipped. The war would be harder. The losses would be greater. The difficulties would be greater. And the one thing you can be sure of: It would cost many more American lives."

At the State Department, See PRESIDENT, A8, Col. 5

U.S. Ready To Talk at Panmunjom

By Warren Unna Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States announced yesterday it is "prepared" to sit down with North Korea at Panmunjom to discuss the release of the U.S. Navy intelligence ship Pueblo and her 83-man crew.

The Administration seized upon a North Korean broadcast hint Wednesday that the way to "solve" the crisis was for new talks of the military Armistice Commission at the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

The broadcast repeated earlier demands that to win the release of the Pueblo's crew the United States would have to "apologize for the crime" of trespassing within North Korea's territorial waters.

Since the Johnson Administration has repeatedly declared the Pueblo was in international waters when North Korea seized it Jan. 23, U.S. officials indicated no apology is in order.

However when North Korea released two U.S. helicopter pilots in May, 1964, after forcing them down a year earlier, the United States said the pilots "inadvertently and unintentionally strayed" over the DMZ into North Korean territory.

From the United Nations, Robert Estabrook of the Washington Post reported yesterday that Hungarian diplomats, serving as intermediaries, had advised the United States that

See PUEBLO, A16, Col. 3

Travel Tax Is Planned

The Johnson Administration is expected to unveil next Monday a proposed tax on overseas travel outlays in excess of \$10 a day, to be collected before the traveler leaves the country.

Under the tax plan, anyone traveling outside the Western Hemisphere would make an advance declaration of his estimated daily expenses, and pay an estimated tax on them before going abroad.

Details on Page A3.

Nixon Enters Race for GOP Nomination

By David S. Broder Washington Post Staff Writer

Richard M. Nixon yesterday made his expected leap into the Republican presidential race, offering in a statement from his New York headquarters to give America "the new leadership" it needs for the "critical years" ahead.

The 55-year-old former Vice President confirmed his long-expected candidacy in an open letter to the voters of New Hampshire, whose primary on March 12 will be the first step on his planned comeback trail from the hair-breadth 1960 presidential election defeat at the hands of John F. Kennedy.

Nixon, who also lost a 1962 bid for the governorship of California, opens his active campaigning today in Manchester, N.H.

Within the next eight days, he will stump New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Indiana.

Nixon's entry was formally welcomed by Gov. George Romney of Michigan, the only previously declared candidate for the nomination. Romney, trailing Nixon in early polls in both New Hampshire and Wisconsin, said he would welcome "discussion" See NIXON, A2, Col. 5

Montgomery Teachers Call Strike Today; Schools Open

By Lawrence Feinberg Washington Post Staff Writer

A strike was called last night by the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), which represents about 70 per cent of the County's 5700 teachers and school administrators. The strike is effective this morning.

School Superintendent Homer O. Elserod urged parents to send their children to school as usual. He said the system would try to staff teacherless classes for which Education Association members do not show up by using administrators and substitute teachers. There are about 116,000 children in the school system.

One immediate question was how many Association members would support the strike call. MCEA leaders predicted "more than 50 per cent" of the school system's professional staff would stay home.

The Education Association's rival organization, the Montgomery County Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO), said its 400 teacher members would honor the picket lines.

Salary talks between the Association and the schools broke down at noon yesterday with the two sides \$2.4 million apart in the cost of their salary proposals. No further talks were scheduled.

The Washington area's first teacher strike follows more

than a year of competition between the striking MCEA, an affiliate of the National Education Association, and the rival American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO).

Members of the Washington Teachers Union (AFL-CIO) came close to a strike in December. Baltimore City's teachers' union members did strike last spring.

The salary dispute comes at a time when the County Council has warned that it is caught in a budget squeeze that may require higher taxes. Members of the County Board of Education stressed yesterday that they will not increase next year's \$109.4 million operating See TEACHERS, A17, Col. 2

3 Bishops Hit Abortion Bill In Maryland

By William K. MacKaye Washington Post Staff Writer

Three Roman Catholic bishops yesterday announced their "unequivocal disapproval" of a bill pending before the Maryland General Assembly that would repeal the anti-abortion provisions of the State's criminal code.

The three prelates — Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore, Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington and the Right Rev. Msgr. Paul J. Taggart, administrator of the Diocese of Wilmington, Del. — described the Specter bill as "a drastic departure from these sound and time-honored See ABORTION, A17, Col. 5

McNamara on War, ICBMs

Viet Setbacks Noted In Somber Report

By Murray Marder Washington Post Staff Writer

Departing Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara gave the Nation yesterday a somber assessment of the war in Vietnam.

In the last of his annual reports to the Senate Armed Services Committee before he turns his post over to Clark M. Clifford, McNamara acknowledged the reversal of several "previously favorable trends" in the struggle.

A turnabout in Communist strategy, back to broad use of large-size units operating close to the borders of South Vietnam, presents a new and formidable problem, he reported. While enemy forces were heavily battered in 1967 and "did decline," he said that North Vietnamese army strength in South Vietnam See ASSESS, A12, Col. 1



SECRETARY McNAMARA . . . final report

Soviet Missiles Doubled in Year

By George C. Wilson Washington Post Staff Writer

The Soviet Union has doubled its ICBM force in the last year but has limited its missile defense to Moscow, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said yesterday in holding out hope for an arms control agreement.

The estimates of Soviet strength were made in McNamara's valedictory — a 220-page military posture statement he started presenting to Congress yesterday. A strong plea for reason in weapons building ran through his final white paper on defense.

"To put it bluntly," McNamara said, "neither the Soviet Union nor the United States can now attack the other, even by complete surprise, without suffering massive damage in retaliation." He said both nations have See McNAMARA, A12, Col. 1

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President Vows Fight On Inflation

By Frank C. Porter Washington Post Staff Writer

President Johnson announced creation of a Cabinet Committee on Price Stability yesterday in an annual Economic Message that counseled restraint and sacrifice at home and retrenchment overseas.

Johnson signed the report, whose dominant theme is the war against inflation, in a White House ceremony. And his message abounded in warnings against "an intensified wage-price spiral . . . a feverish boom . . . a possible financial crisis . . . recession . . . irreversible urban deterioration and social explosion . . . economic isolationism . . . a spiraling slowdown in world economic expansion."

He called on labor unions to accept wage gains that "begin to move back toward parity with our gains in productivity" and on business to absorb cost "whenever possible."

He urged both to help avoid strikes or the threat of strikes in key industries. He renewed his plea for a 10 per cent income tax surcharge, for a two-year moratorium on nonessential travel outside the hemisphere and for



President's Council of Economic Advisers, from left, James Duesenberry, Gardner Ackley, and Arthur Okun, who will become chairman.

the surplus countries of Western Europe to help end the balance of payments imbalance. While admonishing the Nation against "retreating into shortsighted protectionism," he nonetheless repeated his veiled threat to erect new Ameri- See ECONOMIC, A11, Col. 1