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HM Returns To Kabul After 4 Days In South Weather Forces Cancellation Of Visit To Herat Province

KABUL, Jan. 17, (Bakhtar)—His Majesty the King arrived in Kabul today from Kandahar by air at 11.20 a.m. after a four day unofficial visit to Kandahar, Helmand and Chakhansoor provinces.

His Majesty had planned to fly to Herat yesterday but owing to bad weather which continued through this morning he decided to return to Kabul.

Present at Kabul International Airport to receive him were Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Temadi, Court Minister Ali Mohammad, Interior Minister Dr. Mohammad Omar Wardak, Kabul Governor Dr. Mohammad Kram, and generals of the Royal Army.

Last night His Majesty attended a dinner reception at the Kandahar Municipal Corporation Club given in his honour by the citizens of Kandahar.

A large number of residents of Kandahar were present at the reception.

Addressing the gathering His Majesty said, "I am greatly pleased that my brief visit to the eastern parts of our country which gave me the opportunity to acquaint myself with the problems of the area, especially the threat of fertile lands in parts of Kandahar caused by the rise in the water table and the difficulties facing the residents of Chakhansoor.

"It is our hope that the State will be able to take measures for solving these problems", he said, speaking of other measures envisaged under the country's social and economic development plans. His Majesty said that the most valuable social change being achieved in the country was the attempt to build a democracy based on the values and principles of the Constitution which has drawn up to create a healthy and prosperous nation.

"Now the main duty of all of us is to consolidate and strengthen democracy.

Discharging this duty and rearing the values and principles embodied in the Constitution will require the cooperation of the people with the government and understanding among the three branches of the State.

"I am convinced," continued His Majesty, "that with the political consciousness, stability and stamina which the Afghan people enjoys, our people can successfully pass through this period of transition.

The progress so far achieved in the country, including those in his part," said His Majesty, "are the fruits of the Afghan nation's

Shah Of Iran Visits Malaysia

TEHRAN, Jan. 17 (AFP)—The Shah of Iran and Empress Farah left here by air last night for Kuala Lumpur on the first stage of an official visit to Malaysia and Thailand.

The plane was to make a brief stopover in Dacca, East Pakistan, and is due to arrive in Kuala Lumpur at 1100 hours local time today.

The Shah will have talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and other top leaders and will receive an honorary doctor's degree at the University of Malaya.

He will speak before parliament Friday and on the same day will attend the Friday prayers at the agara Mosque.

USSR, Iran Up Econ., Technical Cooperation

TEHRAN, Jan. 17 (Tass)—Iran and the Soviet Union are steadily increasing their economic and technical cooperation on a mutually advantageous basis.

The influential Tehran newspaper Ettelaat writes that a group of Soviet geologists who arrived in Tehran will prospect on a large-scale for lead and zinc in the central regions of Iran.

The economic newspaper "Boulevard" reported yesterday on the signing of a Soviet-Iranian agreement under which the Soviet Union will supply machines, hoisting, unloading and other port equipment worth 29,000.

endeavours.

"Afghanistan's prolonged struggle against colonialism, for the preservation of its sovereignty and freedom, for the continuation of our policy of nonalignment and our policy of neutrality in the international area forced us to tolerate a slow rate of advancement.

"But," said His Majesty, "we hope to achieve our goals with the assistance of friendly nations and international organisations and the hard work of the nation."

His Majesty was seen off at Kandahar International Airport by Governor Abdul Rahim and a large number of citizens.

Yesterday afternoon His Majesty visited the mausoleum of Mirwais Baba, the founder of the Hotaki dynasty.

Before flying to Kandahar from Bost yesterday, His Majesty visited the Lashkargah hospital and historical monuments in Bost.

As His Majesty's helicopter left Lashkargah Airport for Kandahar at 9:30 a.m. yesterday Helmand governor M.H. Safi a large number of people and officials, including high-ranking officials and dignitaries from Chakhansoor and Farah and Herat bade him farewell.

Long-Term Target For UNDP

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 17:—For the first time, long-term target figures have been established for United Nations technical assistance to individual developing countries.

Target figures for 123 countries were approved by the governing council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) last Friday. Three more countries—South Vietnam, Yemen and Southern Yemen—were added to the list Tuesday after their earlier omission had given rise to some misunderstanding.

The targets apply to the four-year period starting with 1966 and include a total expenditure of more than \$ 72 million. They present a new attempt to project allocations into the future in the interest of better planning.

They had been placed in a special category pending a review of their situations at the June session of the governing council, because of the uncertainty concerning the prospects of conducting effective technical assistance activities in countries disturbed by war and insecurity.

Technical aid programmes are in progress in all three countries, however, and will be continued at the current levels. For South Vietnam and Yemen the current level for 1968 is \$ 362,500 annually; for Southern Yemen the level is \$ 75,000.

UNDP co-administrator David Owen, in recommending addition of the three countries to the target listing, said this would not prejudice the intention to make a later review of their "abundantly obvious need" and of the possibility of arriving at a realistic recommendation for 1969 and later years.

Hanoi Delegate In Paris

"SUITABLE TIME MUST PRECEDE TALKS"

PARIS, Jan. 17, (Reuter)—Peace talks between Hanoi and Washington would start after a "suitable time" had elapsed since American bombing of the north and other acts of aggression ended, the head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, Mai Van Bo, said last night.

He said during a press interview that the United States has to end its bombing of the north "without placing any conditions on it."

Asked about U.S. demands for

NEW QUAKES ROCK SICILY

PALERMO, Jan. 17 (AFP)—New earthquakes rocked western Sicily yesterday for the third consecutive day, toppling the remains of buildings already ruined in the series of tremors that began on Sunday afternoon and which may have killed more than 600 people.

One light tremor struck Palermo yesterday morning and another hit Trapani on the west coast Tuesday afternoon while President Giuseppe Saragat was there on tour of the disaster area.

The new shocks caused no known deaths but they added considerably to the dangers facing rescue workers trying to dig survivors and the dead out of the ruins of many of the towns and villages.

The Roman newspaper Il Giornale d'Italia reported yesterday that 301 bodies have already been recovered from the rubble, but it was likely that the final toll would be much higher than this. Unofficial estimates set it at 600 or more.

Il Giornale said nearly 1,500 people were still missing and that more than that number were known to have been injured. The earthquakes left tens of thousands of Sicilians either homeless or unwilling to go home for fear of new tremors.

The worst shocks occurred late on Sunday, one of them registering nine on the seismological scale.

By mid-afternoon yesterday there had been 20 separate tremors, 10 of which came since 11 a.m. on Monday.

More than 20 bridges, 50 foot-bridges and many remaining walls collapsed in the quakes, which swallowed up 12 miles of main road between Alcamo and Gibellina.

Montevago and Gibellina, which had some 3,000 and 6,000 inhabitants, respectively, were among worst hit towns. Each of them is estimated to have been 90 per cent destroyed.

Police still do not know how many victims still are under the debris that was in Montevago. "The first shock was a strong one, but the disaster was the one that came 30 minutes later," one officer said.

"It was like a house of cards. All the buildings fell down, piling up on people who hadn't had time to escape into the fields."

U.S. High Court Knocks Down Southern Segregation Laws

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, (DPA)—The U.S. Supreme Court Monday struck down as unconstitutional a law in the southern state of Louisiana, of racial segregation in the public schools.

The 1962 law authorised payment of two dollars a day for 180 days to parents who send their children to private, nonsectarian schools.

U.S. officials argued this was an attempt to promote private racial discrimination.

A lower U.S. court in New Orleans, Louisiana, told last August the purpose of the law was to continue segregation of Negroes and whites. It violated the individuals right of "equal protection" under the U.S. constitution, the New Orleans court contended.

The Supreme Court upheld the ruling in its action Monday.

Also Monday the court accepted for review two more cases challenging slow progress in de-

segregating school segregation in a country in the state of Virginia.

The two new appeals are from Tennessee and Arkansas. The Tennessee case alleges, junior high school zones were drawn unfairly or unconstitutionally in Jackson City, Tennessee, so as to perpetuate segregation as far as possible.

The Virginia and Arkansas cases have common issues. They attack the so-called "freedom of choice" plan of desegregation as a slow way to bring about school integration.

The court has set no date for a ruling on these cases.

In another action Monday the Supreme Court approved the merger of the Pennsylvania and the New York Central railroads.

The two combined will have 32,000 kilometres of track, the largest private rail system in the world. "The combine will also be the biggest merger in the history of U.S. business.

gression without having to attach any condition whatever."

Referring to the December 29 statement by North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh, Bo noted that "all political observers emphasised the passage from the conditional to the future."

In that speech, Trinh said negotiations "will" open if the bombing and acts of war stop. During a speech on January 28, 1967, he used the conditional.

(Continued on page 4)

BRITAIN SLASHES MILITARY, WELFARE SPENDING TO RESTORE ECONOMY

LONDON, Jan. 17 (Reuter)—Britain slashed its world military power and trimmed back the welfare state yesterday in an effort to restore the nation's economy.

First indications were that foreign exchange dealers thought the cuts too mild.

The pound sterling started slipping as soon as Prime Minister Harold Wilson finished his speech to parliament.

Wilson told the Commons that military forces will be pulled back from the Far East, excluding Hong Kong, and the Persian Gulf by the end of 1971 and an order for 50 F-111 planes from America would be cancelled.

The swing-wing F-111 had been earmarked as Britain's main strategic nuclear strike plane after the mid-1970's.

But the biggest bombshell on the home scene was the imposition of a two shillings and six pence charge—with a few exceptions—on medical prescriptions which now are filled free.

In addition, extra charges were posed for dental treatment. Free milk in secondary schools was abolished.

This, and a wide range of other curbs would save 300 million sterling in the next financial year and another 416 million sterling in 1969-70.

The government announced a 400 million sterling switch in resources when sterling was devalued by 14.3 per cent last November 18.

Wilson warned that further cuts in private spending would be announced in the annual budget expected on April 2.

Wilson said the government's plan was aimed at cutting home demand and switching resources into export-winning and import-saving and investment in industry.

The prime minister announced these main decisions:

1. Plans for withdrawal of military forces from the Far East by the mid-1970's would be speeded up so the withdrawal is completed by the end of 1971. Remaining garrisons in the Persian Gulf would also be pulled out by then.

He said: "The broad effect is that, apart from our remaining dependencies and certain exceptions, we shall by that date not be maintaining military bases outside Europe and the Mediterranean."

2. This meant Britain would pull out of both Malaysia and Singapore, but would keep forces in the United Kingdom and Europe. These could be sent to the Far East if needed.

At the same time, Britain would help set up a joint defence system for Malaysia and Singapore if this was wanted.

3. Early cuts would be made in the number of planes based in Cyprus.

4. Cuts in manpower of the armed forces totalling 75,000 originally planned for the mid-1970's would be achieved earlier, and a forecast cut-back in 80,000 civilian workers would be speeded up.

5. Britain's remaining three aircraft carriers will be phased out as soon as the Far East and Middle East withdrawal is completed and plans to build more nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines will be reduced.

6. Britain had asked West Germany to start talks next month at ministerial level about a new agreement to offset the foreign exchange costs of keeping British forces there.

7. The brigade of Gurkhas will be cut to 6,000 men by 1971, though the effectiveness of the British garrison in Hong Kong would not be reduced.

Wilson also announced that overseas economic aid to developing countries would be pegged at its existing levels for the next two years.

Wilson's other domestic curbs involved cuts in the house building and road building programmes and a decision to delay raising the school leaving age from 15 to 16.

Zambia Goes Decimal With Kwach, Ngwee

LUSAKA, Jan. 17, (AFP)—It was queues and confusion in Lusaka yesterday as Zambia went decimal with the introduction of the "Kwach"—worth 10 shillings-made up of 100 Ngwee at the rate of 10 Ngwees to a shilling.

Lusaka's main post office was jammed from opening time by long queues of people wanting to buy new postage stamps which appeared yesterday in the new decimal denominations.

Newspaper vendors were surrounded by readers wanting the right change for the four penny, or the three Ngwee priced Daily Times of Zambia or the bi-weekly government Zambia Mail.

Banks, which had been closed since Saturday, were bulging at the seams with long queues of people wanting to change old currency notes and coins for new—including the 50 Ngwee note, a paper money value previously not used in Zambia.

Blaiberg Sees Wife, Daughter

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 17, (Reuter)—Heart transplant man Dr. Philip Blaiberg spent most of yesterday morning sitting up in his specially sterilised chair and was visited by his wife and daughter.

A Grootte Schuur Hospital bulletin stated that the patient continued to make good progress. A fortnight ago Dr. Blaiberg received the heart of 24-year-old coloured (mixed race) man Clive Haupt.

Mrs. Eileen Blaiberg and her daughter Jill stood at a glass panel in the wall which separated Dr. Blaiberg's ward from an inner passage in his sterile suite and they spoke to the patient through the glass.

In Cape Town Johan Van Wyk, who received a kidney transplant just over six weeks ago was said yesterday to be doing very well.

Greek Troops Quit Cyprus

NICOSIA, Jan. 17 (AFP)—The final batch of Greek troops to be repatriated from Cyprus under the Greek-Turkish deal ending last November's Cypriot crisis was to leave Famagusta yesterday aboard three Greek troop transports.

The ships, escorted by two destroyers, sailed into the port Monday and was to sail back to Greece last night with some 2,000 men and officers as well as equipment including tanks and armoured cars, reports reaching here said.

The repatriation, which began last month, has cut the strength of Greek troops in the island by some 8,000 and the Greek military establishment in Cyprus will thus be down to 950 officers and men, the figure authorised by the London and Zurich agreements of 1960.

The Greek build-up took place after the Cyprus crisis in 1963-64. Turkey, under the same agreements, will keep a 650-man force in the island.

Gen. Dimitrios Papatoucas, commander of the Greek forces in Cyprus, is to leave here today to take up an important post with the general staff in Athens, informed sources said.

Pathet Lao Take Strategic Base

VIENTIANE, Jan. 17, (Reuter)—Plans by the government of neutralist premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma to extend its hold in pro-communist areas in northern Laos have ended, following the loss of Nam Bac, the strategic military enclave, only 100 km. from the royal capital of Luang Prabang, reliable sources said yesterday.

Prince Souvanna yesterday flew to Luang Prabang—which itself was shelled by the Pathet Lao on Sunday—for urgent talks with the king and his family commanders.

Military sources said about the third of the garrison force of 3,200 men who retreated from Nam Bac last Saturday had regrouped to form defensive positions in nearby mountains.

At least 117 government troops were killed or wounded during the fighting.

They also said that an American helicopter crewman shot down a North Vietnamese aircraft east of Nam Bac on Saturday, while it was strafing government troops. A second aircraft was brought down by Laotian forces at the same time.



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Food For Thought

Always mistrust a subordinate

who never finds fault with his superior.

—Churton Collins

BRITISH PULL-BACK

The British government's announcement that it will put forward the date of withdrawal of its troops and dismantle its bases East of Suez would be praiseworthy had the step manifested the principle that it was wrong to maintain military bases abroad. As it is, the decision can only be taken on its face value that it is an extreme measure to cure an ailing economy.

The Labour government's efforts to strengthen the nation's economy does not stop at the withdrawal of forces from Southeast Asia and the Middle East; an order of 50 swing-wing strategic F-111 planes from the United States costing nearly \$ one billion has also been cancelled. This is likely to cause considerable dispute between the plane builders in the United States and the British government and Mr. Wilson will have to shoulder a sizeable amount of cancellation charges.

The cuts have also affected private spending and welfare services. Among other things, a two shilling and six pence charge has been levied on each medical prescription which formerly was free. The British chancellor of the exchequer has warned that this may not be the end of the story. He has said that every wage increase in Britain would be coupled with a corresponding income tax increase in order to keep down the purchasing power of the British and to make a greater volume of goods available for export.

The British decision has caused deep anxiety among its allies, especially Malaysia and

Singapore, Australia and New Zealand too, are worried, lest the burden of filling the military vacancy fall on their shoulders. The United States has already made its intentions known that American troops would not replace the withdrawn British forces in Southeast Asia.

Although we have received no news at the moment regarding the reaction of the Conservative or the comments of the press the opposition Conservative Party will probably take a dim view of the government's decision and accuse Wilson of forcing Britain to abdicate as a world power and the papers may well accuse Wilson of opening an era of retreat and humiliation.

On the international scene, it is likely that a reconsideration of strategy will have to take place. Let us hope that the desperate measure adopted by Britain will serve as an eye-opener to the rest of the world about the futility of foreign bases. The nonaligned nations on several occasions have called for the abolishment of foreign bases and complete disarmament.

Now that Britain has taken this step out of sheer force of circumstances, other countries with foreign bases should not wait for similar circumstances to force them to dismantle their bases outside their own territories. They should act, while there is still a chance to gain world respect. Humiliation will only follow necessity.

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Today's *Israh* carries an editorial welcoming success of the newly functioning Afghan Films which produced a documentary film of the visit of Yugoslav President Josip Tito. This would not have been possible without real hard work and excellent organisation, the editorial said.

Afghan Films, it said will be functioning as a subsidised organisation. Afghan films will have an initial capital of Af. 70 million including the modern building and the equipment installed in it.

The operation of such a concern requires the unreserved assistance of the government for quite sometime. The editorial then referred to the fact that the government itself was short of funds and could not respond favourably to the new agency's requests.

Even then the editorial suggested the need of combined efforts by the Ministries of Information and Culture and Finance to find ways to making Afghan Films operative.

By producing the documentary on Marshal Tito's visit, the editorial continued, Afghan Films should convince business firms and traders that it can produce advertising films.

This understanding should tempt potential advertisers to make use of the medium of the cinema which unlike newspapers is an audio-visual means and consequently very effective.

The editorial also listed a number of organisations which should pioneer in screen advertising. Some of the firms mentioned included, Ariana Afghan Airlines, Pashtany Lejraty Bank, Afghan Textile Company and the Karakul Institute.

The editorial also called on international organisations such as UNESCO to contribute towards making this new organisation viable, since its basic function is cultural.

The same issue carried a letter to the editor signed Noor Ahmad Malal, who commented on how possible administrative reform can hurt innocent and hard working employees.

Speaking from personal experience Malal writes that he was visiting an executive officer when a man entered the office seeking a job. The president promised that he would do his best and asked him to call again the next day.

There were two other officials sitting in the president's office and as soon the unemployed turned his back they started putting him down in the eyes of the president.

The letter asked how they could pass judgment on the character and

personality of a man whom they may not even know.

Now that the government is thinking of introducing administrative reforms there is every chance that interested persons may become active in installing corrupt people and sacking honest and hard working ones, the letter warned.

The only criterion which should guide policy makers in this connection is the service record of officials and their true characters.

World Press

Claims and counter-claims marked the outcome of talks designed to keep the Vietnamese war from seeping into Cambodia, the *International Herald Tribune* of Paris reported in an article datelined Washington.

Cambodian chief of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk declared that he had "won an enormous success over U.S. Hawks" who demanded the "hot pursuit" of North Vietnamese forces into his country. U.S. officials chose to avoid any direct comment on the claim that the United States had agreed "to relinquish the right of hot pursuit" in the U.S.-Cambodian talks that ended last Friday.

American officials have conceded that the terms "hot pursuit" and "self-defence" are virtually interchangeable, the *Tribune* article continued.

They said they had no disposition to quarrel over the semantics. What the U.S. was interested in was the end of the illegal use of sanctuaries, which would remove any need for either "hot pursuit" or of "self-defence."

A secret visit paid by the leaders of the Soviet Union to Poland from January 12 to 14 was revealed by the official Soviet newspaper *Izvestia*. According to the paper Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny, Prime

Minister Alexi Kosygin and party general secretary Leonid Brezhnev discussed the communist world conference scheduled to be held in February in Budapest with Polish party chief Wladislaw Gomulka, President Edward Ochab and Prime Minister Jozef Cyrankiewicz.

The announcement did not say where the Soviet and Polish leaders met but it is believed the meeting took place near the Polish-Soviet border.

Pravda, the Soviet communist party daily, said that British plans for speedy withdrawal from the Far and Middle East run counter to the "military strategy" of the United States "and U.S. satellites in Southeast Asia."

In a dispatch from London, *Pravda* correspondent Oleg Orestov said "for a long time the United States and Australia have been expressing discontent over Britain's lack of activity in supporting military actions in Vietnam."

"While not insisting particularly on Britain's direct participation in the Vietnam war, they still expected it to play the role of policeman in the rest of the Indian Ocean and thus demonstrate solidarity with the aggression against the Vietnamese people," he said.

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Delegates Expect Better Year Ahead For UN

With all but routine activities suspended, the hope at the United Nations as the old year ended and a new year began was that maybe next year will be a better year than the one just ended.

No one boasted of UN achievements in the 12 months just past, although there were some small steps ahead. UN talking, both in open debate and in private meetings, helped some in calming hostilities between Arabs and Jews and keeping the peace in Cyprus. The UN achieved no dramatic solution on underlying issues, but the talking helped.

There was a last-minute agreement on rescue arrangements for lost astronauts as the Assembly recessed for a three-month period—instead of winding up a treaty to ban further spread of nuclear weapons.

The hope for a nuclear treaty was one of the bright spots for 1968. It doesn't mean that the massive funds now going to the arms race will be diverted to building a better world, but it could help a little. Another cause for hope in 1968 was the UN Conference on Trade and Development scheduled early in the year in New Delhi. Here again, no one anticipates a magic and development scheduled early breakthrough on the economic front which will suddenly transform low-income countries into prosperous, industrialised states. But it is a move forward instead of backward.

Looking back at 1967, the developing countries were unhappy at the little progress made in the economic field. They didn't get as much assistance as they wanted from the industrialised world; and one new UN institution, the Capital Development Fund, collapsed for lack of financial support. There were also some regional disappointments. African members, for example, were frustrated at the failure to diminish the authority of ap-

artheid and racist regimes in southern Africa, including those remaining under Portuguese colonial influence.

The only areas where there was widespread agreement that positive gains had been made during the past year were in the social and humanitarian fields.

Diplomats listed as positive gains, UN declarations on the elimination of discrimination against women, on territorial asylum and on family planning. The latter was especially significant because it marked a shift of UN policy on birth control. Also cited were renewed concern about the plight of refugees in Africa and the Middle East and the development of low cost, tasteless additives to make local foods more nutritional.

Some said that the most promising new item introduced on the Assembly agenda in many years was Malta's proposal that the vast resources of the ocean floors and sea beds be exploited for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind. A special 35-nation UN committee was named to conduct a further study of the proposition.

African diplomats saw very little movement along the three fronts by which they measure their progress—the end of colonialism, political stability and economic development.

Only one new nation, Yemen, emerged in 1967 as the boom period of independence of the early sixties slowed down. Two others, Nauru in January and Swaziland in September, are expected to reach nationhood in 1968.

The greatest embarrassment to African representatives at the UN, results from the coups which erupt in African countries with a regularity that has now ceased to evoke surprise. They are embarrassing because they seem to confirm

the claims of some in the former colonial governments that Africans are incapable of governing themselves.

Africans realize that political instability is far from being an asset when they are seeking foreign investments and economic assistance. The civil war in Nigeria has eliminated one argument which has been used to offset generalisations growing out of the disastrous history of the former Belgian Congo since it won independence in 1960.

However, serious students of Africa concede that some of the blame for political unrest in Africa can be traced to the careless and arbitrary manner in which the continent was carved into colonial precincts by politicians thousands of miles away, and unfortunate economic situations which provide fuel for malcontents looking for a cause.

One of the best impressions made here by those who have closely observed the efforts of the new military regime to rescue Ghana from the financial morass into which Kwame Nkrumah had plunged it was the summary cancellation of plans made by the government's mission here to throw a lavish cocktail party in honor of Lt. Gen. Joseph Ankrah, head of the National Liberation Council, during his visit here in 1967.

Perhaps one of the most promising economic developments on the continent to emerge last year was the abandonment of the concept of individualistic economic development designed to promote national prestige. As it became competitive it also became irrationally extravagant and wasteful.

The theory of regional development which the UN has been promoting through the Economic Commission for Africa has been gradually catching on with the encouragement of multi-lateral aid. (CONTINENTAL PRESS)

Japan Intends To Expand Trade With East

There is every indication that both Japanese government and economic circles concerned are intent, more strongly than ever before, on expansion of trade and other economic interchanges with the Soviet Union and other East European countries for 1968.

Especially, voices are gaining momentum at the private level to "pick a dark horse" in the Eastern block as a means to break through the rigid world trade climate enveloping this country.

It is reported that the Soviet embassy and other Eastern diplomatic agencies in Tokyo are seen frequently visited by the president-class figures of leading Japanese companies apparently to seek more business transactions with their countries.

Some of these economists, whose firms used "dummies" for dealings with the East bloc nations only

few years ago, now do not even hesitate to declare that they may likely prove a "savior" for Japanese exports abroad this year.

In their opinion, the recent U.S. announcement to impose special duties on imports and tax rebates on exports have dampened Japanese desires for more exports to that country as well as to Southeast Asia.

The U.S. steps, they point out, were especially shocking to the Japanese concerned because the exports directed to their thus-far important customer have already been nearing its ceiling.

Japan's overall exports during the January-September period 1967 went to the U.S. representing an increase of mere 0.3 per cent than the figure for the corresponding period of the previous year.

For the same period, the exports to the East bloc nations accounting for 5 per cent of the total, repre-

sented a decrease of 14.8 per cent.

But, the Japanese obviously received encouragement, rather than disappointment, at the news that the exports by ten major West European countries to the East increased by an average of 31.3 per cent, as those of West Germany by 5.1 per cent during the first seven months last year.

They argue that without stepping up exports to the East, Japan will be unable to attain an increase of 13-14 per cent in its overall exports as envisaged by the government over the previous figure that surpassed a ten-billion-dollar mark.

In parallel with the efforts at the private level, the Japanese government is making arrangements to invite the Polish, Czech and Hungarian foreign ministers to visit here later this year primarily to discuss their countries. (DPA)

Vietnam: No Place For Social Prejudice

In Vietnam American Negroes are fighting their first war on a truly integrated basis. The 44,551 Negroes there constitute about 10.6% of the total United States military commitment.

The pressure of fighting the Viet Cong has all but removed prejudice in the United States army. One American GI went as far as to say, emotionally: "When you're out in these hills, no one has time for race. Everybody that has United States on his sleeve is a buddy. I've seen white guys hugging and kissing their Negro platoon sergeant after he's brought them through a fire fight."

This is a far cry from the days of World War II when the great majority of Negroes in the army were clumped in the all-black 92nd and 93rd Divisions or were segregated in noncombatant labour battalions. Today's Negro GI has earned equality—an ironic equality because it carries with it the possibility of that ultimate in equality—death. Since 1961, 16% of the total United States service personnel killed in action and 22.3% of all enlisted men killed have been Negro.

One reason for the high percentage of Negro GI's in Vietnam is the increasingly high percentage of Negroes who are choosing the armed forces as a career. The army offers decent food, shelter, clothing and advancement based on merit on an integrated basis. It's better for many than civilian life. As one Negro GI said, "You know, I'm the only guy in this outfit who would rather be here than back in my home town."

More black men are drafted, proportionally, than white. Civil rights leaders note that about 50% of all Negroes found qualified for selective service induction are drafted, but only 25% of qualified whites.

Once in, the Negro GI is much more likely to re-enlist than his white bunkmate. Three times as likely, statistics show: 45.7% of all Negroes elect to stay in the service after their first hitch; only 15% of whites do. The Negro knows that in uniform he will be paid precisely the same as a white man with similar

rank and, relatively few limitations, will have the same working conditions as the white. At United States bases, Negroes can send their children to the same schools as whites, play golf and swim in the same recreation areas.

One-third of the paratroopers in Vietnam—all of them volunteers—are black. Those who are unskilled don't qualify for behind-the-lines technical jobs and end up in rifle companies instead—or, maybe they like the \$55 extra a month which combat represents.

Negro extremists in the United States have seized on the large number of Negro GI's in Vietnam as an issue. "Hell, no we won't go. Hell, no we won't go. Hell, no we won't go." the chant goes at militant Black-Power rallies. Demagogues like Stokely Carmichael insist that Vietnam is a "racewar" in which the United States is using black mercenaries to kill yellow-skinned Asians. Viet Cong propagandists echo the line scattering leaflets reminding Negroes that they were once slaves and that they are being used by the whites to oppress a fellow coloured race. The Negro soldier, by and large, ignores all this.

Integration in the armed services in Vietnam is by no means perfect. Only 5% of the 11,000 officers in Vietnam are black. Only two black men hold combat-battalion commands, and there are currently 380 combat units in the field. Throughout the army around the world, only 3.6% of the officers are Negro: 0.3% in the navy, 0.7% in the marines and 1.7% in the air force.

Whitney Young, leader of the Urban League, a civil rights organisation, visited Vietnam and reported that on an aircraft carrier manned by a crew of 3,000 men and 240 officers the only Negro officer was on junior lieutenant.

At a dinner in the wardroom of another ship, Young reports "there was not a single negro pilot on the ship." A lower-ranking officer, who also happened to be a Negro, was none the less invited on this occasion—his purpose being, one presumes, to decorate the dining room

with the blooms of integration, only other brown faces present. Besides ours were the Filipino and one Negro who appeared to have command of the water geyser."

And there is still a certain amount of social segregation off duty. In Saigon, the whites sport along the Tu Do while the Negroes head for the water-front "Soulsville" area.

One Negro sergeant told Young: "We remember too well the bars in the States that are technically 'open'—but you didn't go to them unless you enjoyed being made to feel uncomfortable. Over here we don't see any point in running this risk. Time for recreation is too precious. When we're off-duty we don't want to use the time fighting the race issue."

The impact of battlefield integration in Vietnam has been pronounced upon the whites there as well. Negroes, A 21-year-old Marine from Texas serving near Chu Lai, admitted "I was with a buddy of mine, a Negro who went through Boot Camp with me, when he got 'dinged' right through the head. Well, after that I feel every Negro fighting over here deserves some kind of respect." White GI response to newspaper and television reports about the slow pace of desegregation in many American states and about race riots, has been expressions of disgust and disappointment.

More significantly, the returning Negro GI's are making their presence increasingly felt on the racial scene in the United States. Men who have passed through the integrated army are unwilling to accept the old racial stereotypes once again.

Roy Bell, Negro sergeant says: "A man who fights to protect his country, I feel his country should protect him too. The civil rights problems at home are definitely on my mind. I will fight to protect my family just like I fought to protect the United States—with my life if necessary."

(Continued on page 4)

Display: Column inch, Af. 100
(minimum seven lines per insertion)

Classified: per line, bold type Af. 20

Yearly Af. 1000
Half Yearly Af. 600
Quarterly Af. 300

FOREIGN

Yearly \$ 40
Half Yearly \$ 25

HEALTH METHODOLOGY, DISCUSSED IN DELHI SEMINAR

An inter-country workshop on the methodology of planning, implementation and evaluation of health education took place in World Health House, New Delhi, the regional headquarters for South East Asia of the World Health Organisation (WHO), recently.

Twenty-one participants including health administrators and health education specialists from Afghanistan, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal and Thailand took part in the 12-day workshop. Also among the participants are faculty members from schools of public health in Indonesia, Thailand and India.

Today, the importance of health education has been widely recognised but there is need for wider use of scientific, practicable methodology for planning implementation and evaluation.

Accordingly, the WHO's Regional Committee for Southeast Asia at its sixteenth session in 1964 expressed a desire for a study of the effectiveness of health education in specific health programmes and for a methodology to be evolved for the assessment of this effectiveness.

The subsequent Regional Committee in 1965 stressed the importance of health education at all stages of planning and implementation of health activities, and reiterated the need to evolve a methodology for making some assessment.

The objectives of the workshops, which were preceded by working groups or committees in the participating countries, were:

1. To develop guidelines on the methodology of planning, implementation and evaluation of health education;

2. To study the problems relating to planning, implementation and evaluation, with a view to finding solutions; and

3. To recommend ways and means for the implementation of the guidelines in practice and the responsibilities and role of the country working groups in follow-up.

The follow-up of the workshop will be a chain reaction of holding further workshops or other educational activities in the respective countries so that they may adapt the guidelines developed at this workshop and its recommendations to the needs and programmes of the individual countries.



Dr. A. Omar (left) president and Dr. R.A. Burna, health education officer of the Public Health Institute, Kabul, at the opening session of the inter-country workshop.

SKIING FEVER CASUALTIES RISE

It is the time of year for thousands of West Germans to hobble about with a leg in a plaster cast or in traction in the hospital.

With skiing gaining more popularity each year, the number of accidents of the slopes of the Bavarian, Austrian and Swiss alps has reached proportions which some West German firms simply cannot afford.

According to a number of surveys made by travel bureaus and doctors, some 20,000 people break a limp each week while skiing in the alps.

West Germany contributes some nine million enthusiasts to the annual "army" of skiers invading the alps.

The number of injuries is accordingly high.

Apart from pain, expense and possible permanent injury to the victims, West German industry annually loses millions of marks because of absenteeism.

Many accident victims are absent four to six weeks and more, depending on how complicated the fracture is.

Doctors report that simple fractures are becoming rarer as skis and equipment become more sophisticated and amateurs on the slopes insist on using the best the industry can offer.

The sales man at a sports supply store says he has a hard time convincing beginners that they have no business going down

the slopes on racing skies. Some West German firms, in an effort to keep their employees healthy and on the job, have virtually forbidden them to take skiing holidays.

The employee of one Munich firm says, "it breaks my heart to give up skiing, but I value my job more."

Many of the accidents need not happen if the players were more careful.

The amateurs who flock to the white slopes of the alps each winter seldom come in top physical condition. How could they, if they spend the rest of the year in an office behind a desk?

Warning from doctors, coaches and professional skiers do not seem to sink in. Instead, these men and women rush out to show their imagined skills foretaking time even to unpack.

Their bodies are stiff, unaccustomed to the strain which the sports exerts. The next logical step in thousands and thousands of cases is tumble and a sprained ankle or broken leg.

Many people also shun proper instruction. Some won't understand that properly fitted footgear is an absolute must.

"I had one man who bought the most expensive skis I had on hand. Later I saw him on the slopes wearing these skiers with houseslippers," the manager of a

sports store said.

Too many beginners believe they must go down the most difficult course feared even by professionals.

Thoughtlessness, irresponsibility and inconsideration are the other big factors leading to accidents on the slopes.

In many European skiing areas authorities have resorted to putting up "traffic" signs in the hope of stemming the accident rate.

The signs, resembling those along motor highways, indicate the degree of difficulty, dangerous spots, crossing skilifts and condition of the course.

To the chagrin of the authorities, amateur skiers often refuse to be guided by these signs.

"They think they know it better," an official of the Munich "Bergwacht" (Alpine Rescue Service) said.

Moves are now underway to make it mandatory for skiers to obey the signs on the slopes—the same as for motorists on the highways.

(DPA)

Sahel Optimistic About Weight Lifting Progress

"Whenever news comes about the establishment of a new weightlifting club or any sports activity I feel very happy," said Mohammad Anwar Sahel who is a noted weightlifter in the Education Club.

In the 1967 spring tournament Sahel placed first in the first class event with a lift-total of 217½ kg, winning the championship for the fifth straight year.

"It is very wonderful to see that our youth are showing interest in weightlifting. I think that the Afghan Olympic Association has paid considerable attention to weightlifting in the past few years and most provinces have opened weightlifting clubs."

Sahel won a trophy in a weightlifting competition in Herat in 1967.

Sahel has been to Pakistan, India and Ceylon and speaks Pashto and Urdu fluently. Unfortunately I haven't had a chance to enter international weightlifting contests," he added.

"When I was 20 I had some trouble with my heart and I was hospitalised for about two months. My health remained poor until I was advised by the famous Afghan weightlifter, Beryalai to start lifting weights. After a year I became healthy and my heart pains disappeared," Sahel said. He has now a leather goods shop in Agzal Market across from the Puli Khisti mosque.

"I appreciate the Ministry of Education efforts to provide us with good food and clothing, and for its efforts to make the club a success."

Sahel is optimistic about the future and hopes that the Education Club will enter him in international contests. He exercises daily in order to be able to break a success."

Provincial Press

By A Staff Writer

Two newspapers have commented on the current tour by His Majesty the King to western and southwestern provinces. *Waranga*, published in Gardez, the centre of southern province of Pakhtia said that the welcome accorded to His Majesty wherever he goes is in itself an illustration of the love and affection that the people of the country have for their monarch.

The newspaper refers to the King's role in national affairs. It says the King is "coordinator of affairs" now that a complete separation of power between the three branches of government has been brought about.

Toloi Afghan of Kandahar first of all describes the warm welcome the people of Kandahar city gave their monarch on his arrival there last Saturday.

Remarks by His Majesty about national affairs and problems, says the Kandahari newspaper, should be heard by people throughout the country.

It says His Majesty stressed the need for concentrating efforts on implementing various social and economic plans, in his remarks during his current tour.

Toloi Afghan in one of its editorials this week also praised the formation of an agricultural association in Chakhansoor. The newspaper says that at one time Siestan, where the present province of Chakhansoor is located, was the centre of a great civilisation. But now it has been turned mostly into barren land.

However, the possibilities for rehabilitating the area are great. One way is to solve its agricultural problems by checking the floods which every spring inflict wide damage to agricultural land.

The newspaper further says temporary measures to save the present land from floods and draughts must be accompanied by long-range projects to make the province's land fertile. This is being planned by the Helmand Valley Authority.

The formation of an agricultural company with an initial capital of Af. 10 million is also a right step towards solving the problems of the province. The newspaper says that this association will see to the improvement of the likely slanders of the people of Chakhansoor.

Deewa, published in Sheberghan, Jozjan, expressed its anxiety over the slowness of finding a solution to the Middle East problem.

The newspaper says despite the United Nations Security Council resolution on the Middle East, little has been done to put into practice and solve the problem threatening the world.

The newspaper said one concrete action so far is the appointment of a special UN envoy to the Middle East. Although he has held discussions with various countries involved, he has not been able to make any public announcement regarding the decision of the countries concerned for a solution to the problem. The Security Council resolution first called for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the territories they captured during the June war.

It says until this is done, there is little chance for a solution to other problems of the Middle East.

Once a withdrawal takes place, a just solution can be sought for other issues as well such as the refugee problem which should be settled on the basis of justice and self-determination, the newspaper said.

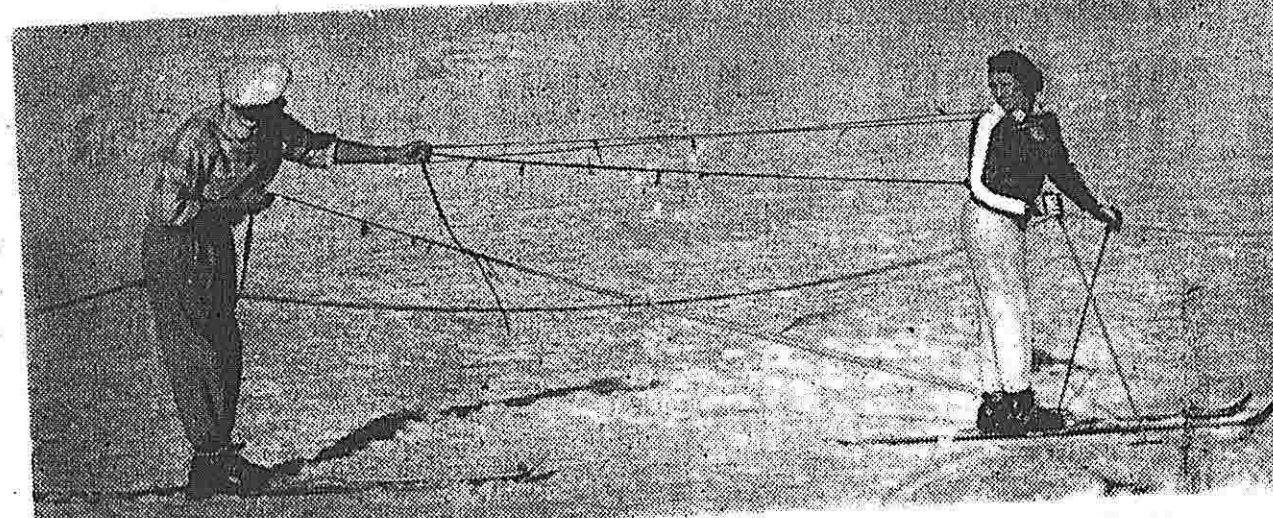
Ittefaqi Islam of Herat commented on the installation of machines in Kandahar to produce wool for carpet weaving. It is a praiseworthy move, says the newspaper.

Carpet weaving has so far been essentially an industry concentrated in the north Kandahar's wollen textile factory decision to start carpet weaving industry in the south is an encouraging move.

The newspaper says that Afghan carpets have received a setback in foreign markets because producers have been exporting poor quality carpets.

It should be the duty of the government, exporters and producers to see that this Afghan traditional export item does not lose its place in foreign markets.

Now that Kandahar has also gone in for this business, it is our hope that the wollen factory will conduct proper research on ways to improve the quality of carpets in the country. It should make public the results of its studies so that other producers may also benefit from them.



A beginner taking instructions.

Champion Impressed By Fanatic Boxer

Johnny Waddingham, a London office boy and amateur featherweight, celebrated his 16th birthday by acting as sparring partner to Sumori Seki of Japan, who disputes the vacant world featherweight title with Britain's Howard Winstone at the Royal Albert Hall, London, next Tuesday.

Johnny, a former schoolboy and current London Federation champion and a boxing fanatic, was training in the same gymnasium as Seki and asked if he could do a round with the Japanese champion.

His birthday wish was granted and for three minutes he jabbed it out with the man who has twice boxed for the world title.

Seki, unaware of his sparring partner's age or status, was clearly impressed and afterwards said that he was better than the two professionals with whom he had sparred since he arrived in Britain last week.

He asked if the youngster could be brought back for the rest of the training.

And of the man who may be world champion next week Johnny said, "He is very aggressive and a very fast puncher, but I do not think he punches all that hard, and I don't think he is as good as the last champion Vicente Saldivar."

"I did not spare with Saldivar but I watched him very closely every day when he was here."



Some amateurs take the most difficult course feared by professionals and end up with a broken bone.

LONDON, Jan. 16. (Reuter).—Sicily was the scene of one of the greatest earthquakes in history when about 58,000 people were killed and Messina was totally destroyed in December, 1908.

Earthquakes have taken millions of lives through recorded history, including the deaths of 130,000 people in the Kansu province of China in 1920.

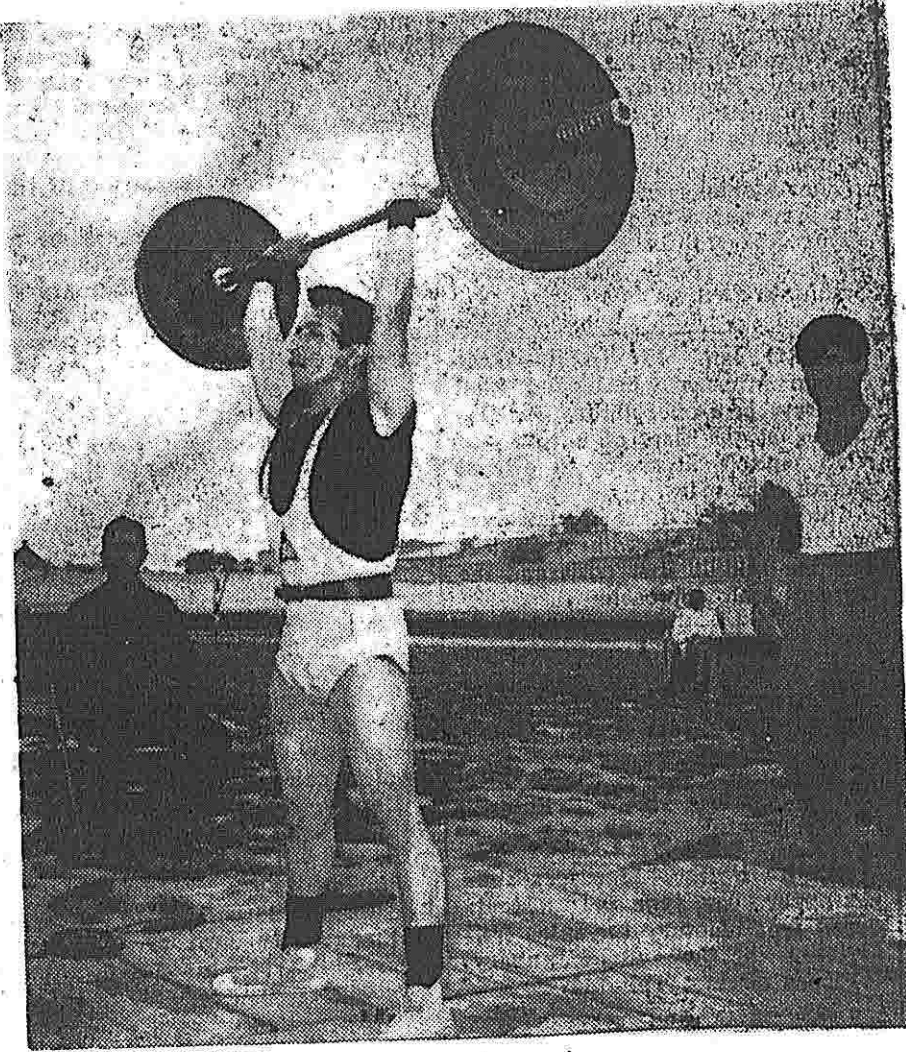
Apart from lives, the greatest material damage this century occurred in the Tokyo region of Japan in September, 1923. Dam-

age was estimated at 1,000 million sterling.

An earthquake in Quetta, in May, 1935 killed 50,000 people, and in January, 1939, a similar disaster killed 30,000 people in Chile.

An earthquake killed 6,000 people and razed 50 towns in Ecuador in August, 1949.

Yugoslavia suffered the loss of 1,070 lives and the destruction of four-fifths of the town of Skopje in July 1963, as a result of earthquake ravage.



Sahel in action.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Klavdia Boyarkich, the Soviet Union's triple gold medalist at the 1964 Innsbruck winter Olympics has not been included in the Soviet women's ski cross country team for the Grenoble Olympics.

Athletics
In a lute sprint, French international Jean Wadoux beat off a double British challenge from Mike Tagg and Alan Aushmer to win the 7 km cross country race in France Sunday.

Squash
Jonah Barrington, Irish left-hander, achieved an historic "double" when he retained the British amateur squash rackets championship at the Lansdowne Club, in London Sunday.
He scored a 9-3, 9-6, 9-5 final victory over England's Mike Corby, of Middlesex.

He is the first player to win both the British amateur and open titles for two years in succession since the "open" became a knockout rather than a straight challenge affair.

The 26-year-old Irishman injured his arm in Liverpool last weekend when playing in an exhibition game.

Barrington's achievement has been the result of complete dedication to the game over

past four years. And it marks the first two steps towards his great ambition of making a clean sweep of the world's major titles before turning professional next season. "No one can claim to be the best in the world until he beats all others in their own countries as well as at home," said the champion who now casts his eyes on the Egyptian, Australian and South African titles.

Golf
Firing two-under-par golf for their first nine holes, Australian Bruce Devlin and former champion Billy Casper surged to the front heading into the final nine Sunday in then \$ 104,500 Bing Crosby Golf tournament.
Each posted a 34 going out over the pebble beach course for 249 at the end of 63 in the 72-hole inaugural of the 1968 season.

Third round Leader Johnny Pott faltered with a 39 and 251. That left him just a stroke ahead of Jack Rule at 252 and two ahead of Jack Nicklaus, Deman and Bobby Nichols going into the stretch.

Nicklaus and Nichols carded 37s and Beman a 36 on an overcast morning when the rain stopped just as the leaders started their rounds.



KABUL, Jan. 17:—Twelve Afghan teachers and administrators left yesterday for Tehran for a six-week study of community schools in Iran under the auspices of USAID in Kabul. Another 11 Afghan teachers and administrators left Kabul Sunday for six-weeks of community school studies in Manila, also under the financing of USAID.

UK DENIES INTERFERENCE IN NIGERIA

LONDON/PARIS, Jan. 17 (DPA)—The British Defence Ministry yesterday categorically denied reports that two British warships had interfered in the Nigerian civil war on the Federal side. These reports were totally unfounded and "just wrong", a Defence Ministry spokesman said. According to sources close to the Paris liaison office of the Biafran forces the secessionist government in a teletype message to the office yesterday morning said the two warships were two hours from Port Harcourt in Cameroon waters. It present. The ships had had been formally requested by Lagos, they said. They had sailed from Liverpool on January 6, and had been sent to intervene in the fight for Bonny Oil Port last weekend, but had arrived at the scene only after the Federal units had been forced to leave Bonny with some 1,000 killed. The Paris liaison office reportedly arranged for Biafran purchases in Europe. Port Harcourt at present constitutes the only remaining Biafran link with the outside.

Social Prejudice

(Continued from page 2) It has been pointed out that the ten founders of the militant Negro organisation which openly advocates the use of weapons to defend black rights—the Deacons for Defence and Justice—are all former service veterans, familiar with guns and willing to use them. Young says these men have "acquired new confidence and new skills, among them the skills of guerrilla warfare, confidence and new skills, among them the skills of guerrilla warfare, of killing, of subversion, and the gamut of tricks of military combat." There is always the ominous threat that these techniques may be put to use in future big city race riots if negroes' demands for a better life are not met. But this does not alter the fact that America's black men are fighting in Vietnam today on the most integrated status yet achieved.

Weather Forecast

Sky in the northern, central in some areas. Yesterday, the and western regions of the country will be overcast with occasional rain and snow warmest areas of the country were of 20 C, 68 F. The coldest was Lal with a low of -22 C, -7 F. Wind speed in Kabul was recorded at 5 knots in Kabul yesterday.

The temperature in Kabul at 11 a.m. was 0 C, 32 F. Yesterday's temperatures:

Kabul	5 C	-7 C
	41 F	19 F
Herat	18 C	2 C
	64 F	36 F
Kunduz	12 C	-1 C
	53 F	30 F
Ghazni	2 C	-10 C
	36 F	-10 F
N. Salang	-2 C	-10 C
	28 F	-14 F
Gardez	4 C	-16 C
	39 F	3 F

AT THE CINEMA

PARK CINEMA
At 2:30, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. American film in Farsi
ROBIN CRUSOE
ARIANA CINEMA
At 2:30, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. American film in Farsi
THE PROFESSIONALS

World News In Brief

LONDON, Jan. 17. (DPA)—About 160 international financial experts opened a two-day private conference here to discuss cooperation among the European countries and world monetary reform.

The conference attended by bankers from Britain, West Germany and Belgium as well as American businessmen, Italian Finance Minister Emilio Colombo and British Deputy Chancellor of the Exchequer John Diamond was opened by the former governor of the Bank of England, Lord Cromer.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 17. (DPA)—The European Common Market Commission has allocated about 10 million worth of subsidies to six associated African countries, according to an announcement made yesterday.

This brings to \$473 million the total of payments to associated countries by the Common Market's Second Development Fund.

To new subsidies are for road-building in Mali; improving cotton farming in Senegal; supporting cotton prices in the Central African Republic; seed protection measures in Upper Volta; and fitting out classrooms in Somalia.

The Malgasy republic is to get the lion share of the allocations: about \$41 million for establishing a cocoa palm plantations in Sambava area.

CAIRO, Jan. 17 (AFP)—UAR Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad will leave here on Saturday for Damascus at the start of a tour of Arab capitals, according to official sources here today. The sources said the foreign minister would discuss with Arab leaders the Middle East crisis and the current Arab approach.

NEW DELHI, Jan. 17 (DPA)—Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia will have talks with Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

ROR SALE

Brand new Mercedes-Benz passenger car, type 200 just ordered from factory for sale. Will arrive at the end of January. Please contact Tel: 24477

hi and Trade Minister Diresh Singh when he arrives here on January 22, according to a programme for the visit issued today. He will also meet President Zakir Husain and hold a joint press conference with Mrs. Gandhi at the end of his three-day visit.

BELGRADE, Jan. 17. (DPA)—West German-Yugoslav negotiations on the resumption of diplomatic relations will begin in Paris later this month, it was learned here Tuesday. Bonn severed diplomatic ties with Belgrade in 1957 when Yugoslavia recognised East Germany.

Peace Talks

(Continued from page 1)

"It is even evident, and it is not necessary to be an expert in semantics to note it, that the statement of January 28, 1967, which continues to receive wide approval and powerful support around the world, has thus been made perfectly clear by the remarks of December 29," Bo said. Asked whether he believed Washington would accept the December 29 proposal, Bo said, American leaders had yet to stop continuing "escalation of the war."

He said that in the light of statements by U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk on January 4, the American leaders "persist in speaking only of an unconditional stop to the bombings."

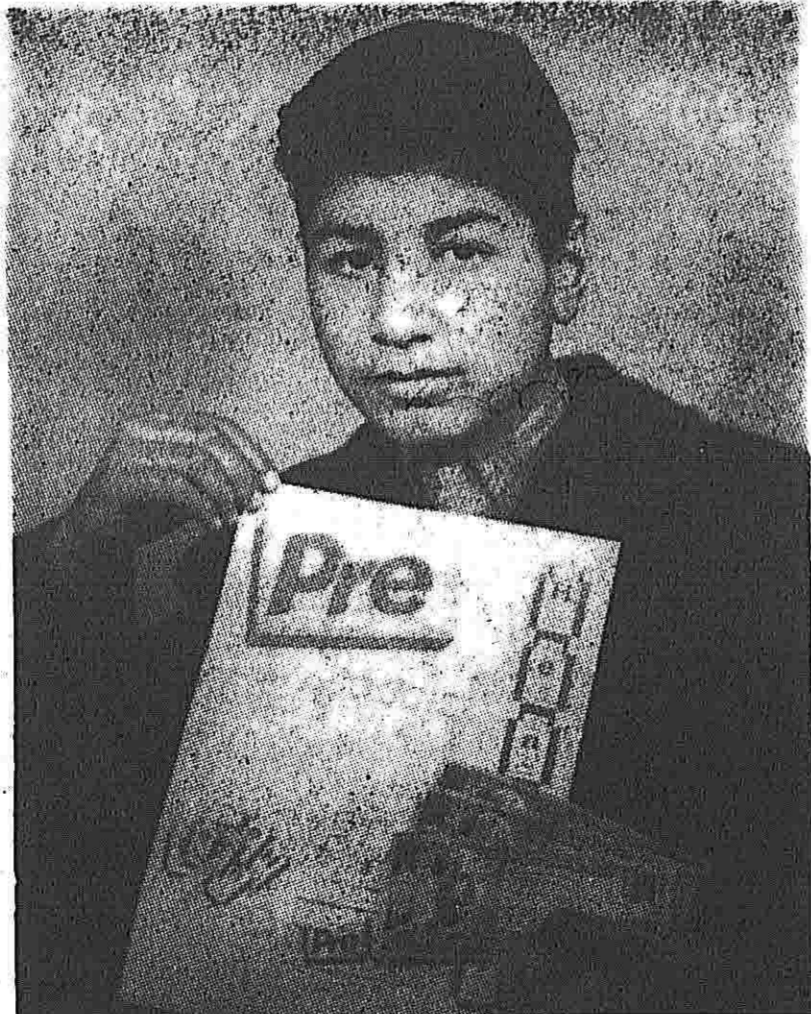
"But in sticking to that indefensible position," Bo concluded, "they emphasise still more clearly the correct attitude of the government of the People's Republic of Vietnam in the face of their fallacious peace proposals."

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Wednesday 17th January
Saturday 20th January
Monday 22nd January
Wednesday 24th January



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ENTERTAINERS HONOURING ANTI-VIETNAM SENATORS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (reuter)—A group of Broadway and Hollywood stars opposed to the war in Vietnam Tuesday announced plans for a New York gala next Sunday to honour members of Congress who have resisted U.S. participation in the conflict.

Film producer Gene Pearson and actor Tony Randall told a press conference here that the show's proceeds—expected to top \$100,000—will go toward the 1968 re-election campaigns of two senators and five congressmen who oppose American policy in Vietnam.

The two senators—Democrats Wayne Morse of Oregon and Ernest Gruening of Alaska—were the only members of the upper house who voted against the 1964 Tonkin Gulf resolution backing President Johnson's power to act against North Vietnam.

Sen. Gruening called Vietnam "an undeclared, illegal, indefensible immoral and monstrous war" and said the U.S. had "no justification at all" for getting into it.

Battle On Between Biafrans, Federals

LAGOS, Jan. 17 (AFP)—Fierce fighting is raging between Federal and Biafran troops near Aguleri on the Anambra Estuary of the Niger river, according to reliable reports reaching here.

These reports said the Federals, after twice trying unsuccessfully a river borne invasion of Onitsha last week, opened a strategic front north of Onitsha and army and airforce launched a two pronged offensive from Asaba and near Aguleri, west and north of Onitsha.

Extent of the conflict was not known but Biafra Radio, monitored here, said its troops repelled a Federal attempt to enter Onitsha through Aguleri.

No Trained Officers For New South Yemen Navy

ADEN, Jan. 17. (AFP)—Patrol vessels comprising the new Southern Yemen navy arrived here yesterday with the problem of who is to train the ship's officers still unsolved.

The navy, financed entirely by British aid, is costing £ 450,000 including the capital expenditure up to March 31, 1968.

The South Yemen fleet, costing about £ 127,000 a year in upkeep costs, was formed for the now defunct-federation of South Arabia to stop illegal immigration, arms smuggling, and protect fishing.

It is manned by seven British officers and nearly a hundred ratings under Com. Patrick Morton, 54, former Royal Naval officer.

The former federation engaged the officers on two-year contracts.

So far, South Yemen has no Arab officers.

Morton said that if the navy were to be Arabised within the foreseeable future it was essential to find ratings with general certificate of education qualifications and to start officer training now.

He added that there were no facilities in Aden and he did not mind if training took place in USSR, India, Britain, or elsewhere.

A South Yemen defence official said no decisions had been made on the fleet, but this was not due to political hesitancy.

The Defence Ministry had other urgent matters to consider, he added.

The navy's patrol vessels were built as minesweepers in the 1950's but were never commissioned.

Each carries a 40 mm. gun and a 2.5 mm. Browning machine gun.

U.S. Regrets F-111 Order Cancellation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (AFP)—A Defence Department spokesman, commenting on yesterday's announcement by Prime Minister Harold Wilson that Britain will cancel its order for 50 F-111 fighter bombers, said: "We very much regret this action."

The planes, capable of speeds twice that of sound, represented a sales value of about \$one billion. Britain would have to make a \$300 million cancellation payment to the F-111's builders, General Dynamics Corporation, well informed sources said. However Wilson hopes to settle this with only \$40 million, according to an AFP despatch.

The F-111 deal was part of British arms orders in the United States totalling \$2,815 million. Other equipment the British were buying in the United States includes Polaris rockets, F-4 fighters, and C-130 heavy transport aircraft.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17. (DPA)—New Yorkers had to do practically without taxis yesterday as 29,000 union-organised and many of the 5,000 private cabbies began a 24-hour warning strike to press for higher fares.

The Union of Taxi Drivers, engaged in a week-long tug-of-war with city authorities on the issue, has threatened an indefinite strike for next week.

U.S. Emphasises Peaceful Use Of Nuclear Energy

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (DPA)—Use of nuclear energy could generate enough electricity to "air condition much of Africa and the subcontinent of Asia," U.S. Atomic Energy commission chairman Dr. Glenn Seaborg said here Monday.

It could also be used to heat cities that will spring up in sub-Arctic regions, the U.S. scientist said.

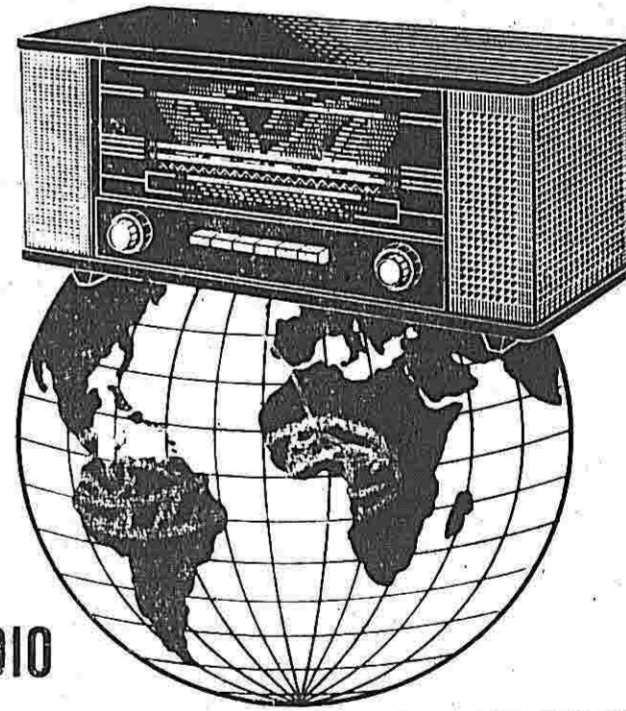
But the "dreadful prospect of nuclear holocaust" had overshadowed "the great accomplishments and promise of the peaceful atom," during the first 25 years of the atomic age.

On the constructive side, he pointed out that the U.S. had only a dozen plants for nuclear-generated electricity a few years ago which would increase to 80 by 1970 with a capacity of 60 million kilowatts.

Nuclear plants could also supply "the future energy that would be needed to grow, process and distribute food from both land and sea for an adequately fed world population that will be twice as large as today's and eventually much more than this."

THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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