

Nixon obsessed with saving Saigon

NEW YORK (AP) — From the time he ordered the secret bombing of Cambodia in the second month of his presidency, to the unleashing of B-52 bombers against Hanoi at Christmas four years later, Richard Nixon was obsessed with saving the anticommunist Saigon government despite the doubts of some of his closest aides.

He was so personally involved with the Vietnam War and negotiations with the Communist side that when his strategy began to fall

apart in 1972 Nixon became convinced that his presidency would be destroyed like that of his predecessor, Lyndon Johnson and he began looking around for a successor.

But he was consoled by his loyal confidant, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who threw up his hands when Nixon told him "and made his pitch that he North Vietnamese should not be allowed to destroy two presidents."

In the end, Nixon reveals in his memoirs to be officially published

Monday in New York, he was forced to settle for much less than the permanently anticommunist Vietnam that he had envisaged when a vice-president he first visited that country in the autumn of 1953.

But he resolved his won internal doubts over the agreement when he signed with Hanoi to end the war in 1973, and those of an angry Pres. Nguyen Van Thieu, by pointing out to the South Vietnamese leader in yet another secret commitment, that "far more important

than what was said in an agreement was what we would do if the enemy renews its aggressions. You have my absolute assurance that if Hanoi fails to abide by the terms of the agreement it is my intention to take swift and severe retaliatory action."

The Vietnam war dominates Nixon's recollections of his first four years in the presidency when Watergate was still only a shadow on his political horizon. An avowed hawk, he saw Pres. Johnson's problems in Vietnam

as caused by his failure to level with the American people over the extent of U.S. involvement, and his defensive military strategy.

On entering office, Nixon attempted to take the military initiative by secretly bombing Communist supply lines in Cambodia, a decision he called "the first turning point in my administration's conduct of the Vietnam war."

But he also employed the old Johnson ploy, secrecy, because, he argued, "of the problem of domestic anti-war protest. I wanted to provoke as little public outcry as possible" at the outset of his administration.

At one point Nixon told his diary, "I suppose in some respects the Vietnam story is one of mutual miscalculation." But his satisfaction over finally ending the war, however messy, was short lived. He wrote:

"In a speech March 20 I heralded the homecoming of the last group of POWs and said that for the first time in 12 years no American military forces are in Vietnam."

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Katangan rebels invade Shaba

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Katangan rebels have invaded the mineral-rich Shaba province of the central African nation of Zaire for the second time in 14 months, Belgian and Zairean reports said Sunday.

In a dispatch received here, the official Zaire news agency said the invaders included Cubans and that they filtered across Zaire's southern border from Zambia. The Belgian Foreign Ministry said the attackers came from Angola, on Zaire's southwestern flank.

UN to discuss neutron bomb

UNITED NATIONS — The Soviet Union brings its anti-neutron bomb campaign to a new forum next week — a special session of the U.N. General Assembly called to debate international disarmament. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim is billing the session as "the most prestigious gathering of world leaders in 20 years," with 13 heads of state or government and 19 foreign ministers listed among 121 speakers in the session. It is to run from May 23 to June 28.

Woman jailed for loving blues

TAMPA, Fla. — A 27-year-old woman is serving five days in jail for making harassing telephone calls to the Tampa Police Department — she called Tampa police officers repeatedly to say, "I love you."

Cheryl Davis was convicted after officers said she called them 19 times during an eight-hour period — eight times in one hour.

Mideast jet sale test begins today

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter learns this week whether he has enough congressional support for his plan to sell jet fighters to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The first big test will be in the Senate Monday with floor debate and then a vote on a resolution to block the sale. If Carter wins on the Senate floor, the congressional fight will end since opponents need majorities in both the Senate and House to block the arms sales.

If Carter loses in the Senate, he still will have a chance to prevail in the House.

The Carter administration proposes to sell 60 F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia, 50 F-5E fighter-bombers to Egypt and 15 F-15s and 75 F-16 fighter bombers to Israel. The administration also has announced its willingness to sell 20 additional warplanes to Israel later as a conciliatory gesture to win support for the three-way sale.

The sale does not require congressional approval. But if both

houses vote to reject it within 30 days of its submission, the sale cannot go through. Carter submitted the plan on April 28.

After the arms sales debate, the Senate is expected to turn Tuesday to another hotly controversial item, a labor bill which opponents intend to try to kill with a filibuster.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to unforeseen financial difficulties a beautiful collection of genuine handwoven PERSIAN & ORIENTAL RUGS belonging to an Iranian concern, has been ordered for immediate auction to the highest bidder. None of the carpets in this collection have ever been used. All of them have been selected over a period of many years. A partial list of this valuable collection is: KASHANS, IMPERIAL CROWN KER-MANS, SILK QUME, ARDEBIL, PRINCESS BOKHARA, TABRIZ, BELOUCH, AF-GHAN, AFSHARI and many others in various sizes, large & small & runners.

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Meany to defy request to strike wage increases

WASHINGTON (AP) — AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany said Sunday he will not comply with Pres. Carter's request that he instruct union locals to hold down their demands for wage increases this year.

Meany said he applauds Carter's goal of slowing inflation, and said that if prices come down he is confident wages also will come down.

But he said flatly that there is no kind of voluntary wage guideline

that he could accept and direct his local unions to follow.

"We are willing to cooperate and go right along and do anything that we possibly can do," Meany said. "But we can't respond to something that it is impossible for us to give him a positive answer on."

He made the comments on the ABC interview program "Issues and Answers."

Meany said the request for a hold on wages came at a White House meeting last week.

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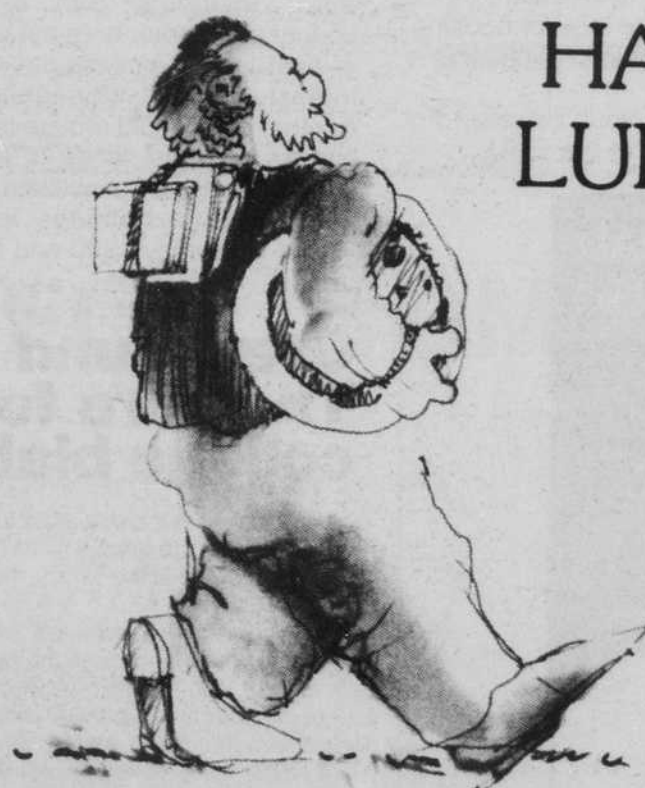
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