

Navy Ready For Trouble Off Formosa

Secretary Briefs House Committee

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of the Navy Thomas told Congress Friday the Navy can "adequately cope with any local naval actions" in the narrow Formosan Straits, but is not ready for "a major conflict."

The secretary did not elaborate on Formosa, in a statement prepared for the House Armed Services Committee. But presumably he meant that fleet units could handle foreseeable Communist submarine and air attacks that might be thrown at them in the area.

"If a major conflict should occur now or in the future," he said, "this current naval program is still designed to withstand the initial onslaught, to contribute immediately to the nation's retaliatory power, and to provide a base for full and rapid mobilization."

CAN COPE 'LOCALLY'

"The Navy at present strength can, in my opinion, adequately cope with any local naval actions with respect to the limited area of the Formosan Straits," the secretary said.

Thomas and his military chiefs, briefing the committee on Navy-Marine strength, all said they would accept proposed manpower cuts but were not enthusiastic about them.

The administration's new "long haul" program would reduce Navy strength by 62,000 men and the Marines by 31,000 by mid-1955. The program has been supported before the committee by Secretary of Defense Wilson and Adm. Arthur W. Radford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

AUSTERE BASIS

Adm. Robert B. Carney, chief of naval operations, told the committee the cutback would bring some reduction in active fleet units and put the shore establishment on an austere basis. An official summary of his remarks, prepared for a secret session, quoted him as saying "the Navy's striking power would be retained."

Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., Marine commandant, said about half of the 31,000-man cutback would be in the Marine combat forces.

"While this will not reduce the quality of our principal combat forces or their readiness to move into action," he said, "it will reduce somewhat the strength of the supporting and service units behind them—and to that extent only, it will diminish their staying power."

COMBAT-READY

Without mentioning Formosa, Shepherd said the Marines' three divisions and three air wings "are prepared to go into combat today, if need be."

Rep. Durham (D-NC) predicted in an interview meantime that the United States will develop a practical atom-powered airplane "within five years."

Durham made the statement in commenting on Gen. Nathan F. Twining's statement Thursday that advances thus far have convinced the Air Force a practical nuclear-powered military plane is possible.

Twining, Air Force chief of staff, told the House Armed Services Committee, "We have hopes this will be a truly intercontinental weapon freeing us from the dependence" on overseas bases and supply lines.

Durham, a member of that committee and top Democrat on the Senate-Atomic Energy Committee, said the successful development of the atom-powered submarine Nautilus had spurred progress on the A-plane. The Nautilus is now making test runs.

The congressman said in an interview that a major remaining problem for an A-plane is how to control the terrific heat generated by atomic energy, and that others include reducing the weight and size of the craft.



SOLE SURVIVOR—Myrna Hansen, above, pert Chicago beauty, is the only Miss Universe contest title winner who still has a movie contract. She won the Miss U.S.A. title in 1953 and now is so busy learning to become a movie actress in Hollywood she has no time for dates. Two dozen other beauties from the Miss Universe contest were signed by Universal-International studio, but all except Myrna have flown on to husbands or oblivion.

Police Find Nothing Missing In Search of Rubinstein Home

NEW YORK (AP)—Police sought Friday to piece together the mysterious life and death of murdered Serge Rubinstein, Russian-born playboy, financier and convicted draft dodger.

Rubinstein, 46, was found slain Thursday on a bedroom floor of his palatial 5th Ave. mansion. He had been trussed with venetian blind cord, and several layers of surgical tape were around his throat and mouth. The face bore several abrasions but the rest of his body was unmarked.

After a three-hour autopsy Thursday night, the medical examiner's office reported: "Rubinstein died of manual strangulation."

The ornate bedroom on the third floor of the six-story house had been ransacked but police could find nothing missing. A safe in the 20-foot-square room was untouched.

Authorities questioned three persons, including brunette Estelle Gardner, a model, who said she had dinner with Rubinstein Wednesday night and returned with him to his home.

Rubinstein's body was found by the family butler, William Morter, at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Also in the house at the time of the slaying were the dead man's 78-year-old mother Stella; his aunt, Genia Forrester, 82; a woman cook, and two parlor-maids. The home was barred and locked and there was no sign of forcible entry.

Police Commissioner Francis W. H. Adams, who personally knew the dark-haired, stocky victim as a man of "tremendous strength and vitality," was asked if more than one person might

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Dixon-Yates Vote Slated

Demo Resolution Said Meaningless

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic members plan to put the Senate-Atomic Energy Committee on record Friday for cancellation of the Dixon-Yates power contract but a Republican member said it was a meaningless gesture.

The group meets behind closed doors to act on a resolution proposed Thursday by the 10 Democrats who form the committee majority.

It not only would call on the Atomic Energy Commission to cancel the long-disputed contract, but also would rescind the waiver adopted by the joint committee last Nov. 13 to speed action on it.

However, Rep. W. Sterling Cole (R-NY), former chairman of the committee and now senior House Republican member, told a reporter in advance of the meeting that adoption of the resolution would "have no legal effect whatsoever." He said it was "simply an expression of opinion."

The committee, then under Republican control, voted Nov. 13 to waive a provision of the law which would have required that the contract lie over for 30 days while Congress is in session. In effect, the partyline 10-8 vote approved the contract and permitted the AEC to make it effective.

The contract, negotiated by the AEC at President Eisenhower's order, calls for the Dixon-Yates private power group to build a 107-million-dollar plant at West Memphis, Ark. The current generated there would go to the Tennessee Valley Authority to replace TVA power used by AEC.

The deal has been bitterly fought by many Democrats, particularly those from the TVA area. It has been widely supported by Republican lawmakers.

U.S. Sabrejets Poised For Clash With MIGs

Taipei, Formosa (AP)—Veteran U.S. combat pilots and their swift Sabrejet fighter bombers stood poised Friday for an eventuality—including possible clashes with Communist MIG15 jets from the Red mainland only 150 miles away.

They were whisked here in a dramatic transfer of American air might from the Philippines and Okinawa to defend this Chinese Nationalist stronghold from any Communist aggression.

The pilots are calm, unworried and confident they can deliver if called upon.

One, who asked that his name not be used, declared, "We are ready for, and can handle, anything thrown our way. But I do not believe a new war is on the way. I don't believe they (the Reds) are ready to start a war."

Another drew nods of approval when he said: "We're not going to be sitting ducks for anyone."

The planes, scourge of the Russian-built MIGs in the Korean War, are combat-ready. All U.S. Air Force and Navy planes in the Far East carry full loads of ammunition, even on training flights. Pilots are ordered to defend themselves if attacked.

The pilots are combat-ready, too. They burst from makeshift ready rooms, race across clay paths made greasy slick by rain

and into their cockpits in practice scrambles timed in seconds. Here on Formosa, on Nationalist offshore island outposts and on patrol ships of the U.S. 7th fleet are the radar stations that will give them warning if enemy planes approach.

Huge Globemaster cargo planes have brought tons of heavy equipment to Formosa to support the fighter bombers and their crews.

One landed with a brilliant red fire trucks and a mobile crane. "These are the men and the planes of the U.S. 18th Fighter Bomber Wing, described by Lt. Gen. Roger Ramey, U.S. 5th Air Force Commander, as "a very capable, veteran Korean outfit which within reason can handle any mission assigned it."

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Oakridge Man 'Poor' After Shooting Self

An Oakridge man who tried to take his own life was in "poor" condition at Sacred Heart Hospital Friday.

He is Robert Elvin Nunnely, 45, who lives near Salt Creek Bridge.

State police said that he threatened his wife Alma and their five children and then shot himself in the face with a 20-gauge shotgun.

Officers said his eldest daughter tried to grab the gun from him and may have deflected the shot slightly.

Named for Defeat

PARIS (AP)—For the first time, a new cadet class at St. Cyr, the famed French military school, will bear the name of a defeat. It is to be called "the class of Dien Bien Phu."

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