

United States Resuming Military Aid to Troubled Laos



WORKER CHECKED—John Waytovich, 59, leaves a police van at New York City after a medical check following his rescue from the burning aircraft carrier Constellation. A veteran of 20 years as a workman in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Waytovich, of Cop-

Stable Pro-West Government Seen For Kingdom

Washington—UPI—The United States is resuming military aid to turbulent Laos in hopes that pro-Communists have been ousted there and a stable, pro-western government finally established.

The State Department authorized military arms shipments to the government of Prince Boun Oum, which took control of the capital of Vientiane in a shell, tank and gun-fire fight last week and sent Soviet-armed troops fleeing to the northern part of the country.

U.S. arms shipments to the land-locked Asian kingdom were first reduced and then cut off entirely during the civil war between pro-Western, Communist, and neutralist factions which followed a neutralist coup Aug. 8.

Officials here kept a wary watch for signs that Laotian pro-Communists led by paratrooper strongman Kong Le, who fled to the north, might be reinforced by Russian, Communist Chinese or Red North Viet Namease aid, creating a Korea-like situation.

If this happened, the Boun Oum regime could call for U.S. troops to back up treaty obligations to protect Laos from Communist aggression.

It was disclosed Monday that the United States is resuming arms shipments to Laos. This country, which traditionally has borne most of the cost of the royal Laos army, has shipped no military goods to the country since Nov. 30.

Boun Oum became premier last week after neutralist Prince Souvanna Phouma fled to nearby Cambodia.

Navy Secretary To Probe Carrier Fire

New York—UPI—Navy Secretary William Franke joined an urgent investigation today into the \$75 million fire that seriously set back completion of the nation's most advanced aircraft super-carrier and claimed 46 lives.

Investigators wanted to know, among other things,

why combustible wooden scaffolding was permitted in the huge vessel. The wood helped feed Monday's fire.

The Navy announced that Franke was flying from Washington to make an inspection of the fire damage to the carrier Constellation at the Brooklyn Navy yard, still smouldering although the

blaze was brought under control early today.

Three naval officers of admiral rank were named to conduct the official inquiry.

The New York Journal-American said today the board will investigate reports that a penny-pinching policy to use wooden scaffolding instead of steel inside the carrier during construction caused the disastrous fire.

Wood Was Cheaper

The newspaper said it had learned that the board's investigators would be told wood was "used because it is cheaper than metal."

Fire Chief George David was quoted by the newspaper as saying the inside of the carrier was "like a regular lumber yard."

The maze of wooden scaffolding on the galley decks and hangar of the huge attack carrier, which was being outfitted for commissioning next spring, was set aflame by acetylene torch sparks landing in spilled diesel oil instead of jet fuel, as the Navy originally announced.

A spokesman said today the oil was used to operate generators that provide electric power for the ship. He said the diesel oil was "chemically about the same stuff" as jet fuel and "the burning aspects and the safety aspects of both substances are very similar."

Possible Total Loss

The fire set the completion date back many months. Some officers thought the \$275 million flattop might be a total loss.

The holocaust burned through Monday and into the night before being brought under control. Forty six bodies were recovered and 43 persons hospitalized. A total of 157 were treated for injuries.

The Navy said 36 bodies have been identified and that 10 men listed as missing may be accounted for when the 10 other bodies are identified.

The 1,045-foot long carrier was a blackened hulk, its main deck buckled and its interior plates still hot from the searing blaze. It was listing more than two degrees and icicles hung from its superstructure. Water stood three feet deep in some of the flooded passageways.

TRIMS WHEAT STOCKPILE pile in October but still added \$174 million worth of goods to federal warehouses, including \$138 million worth of corn.

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Russian Treaty With Cuba Will Strengthen Influence

Moscow—UPI—Western observers said today Cuba's new trade treaty with Russia will strengthen Soviet influence on the Caribbean island republic 90 miles south of Florida.

They said the agreement, obligating Russia to buy 2.7 million tons of Cuban sugar if the United States refuses to do so, would lessen the effect of U.S. economic sanctions on Premier Fidel Castro's regime.

The pact for Cuba, said 100 factories built with Soviet help would soon go into production in the Caribbean nation.

Guevara has signed trade treaties with a number of other Red regimes during his current tour of the Communist world.

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Cuba also proposes to sell Russia nickel, fruit and hides in exchange for Soviet wheat, machinery, metals and technical assistance.

Premier Nikita Khrushchev, appearing in public at a reception here Monday night for the first time since Dec. 2, renewed his promise of support for the Castroites.

To Do 'Utmost'

Russia agreed to "do its utmost" to supply Cuba with vital products which it is no longer able to obtain from the United States.

Foreign Datelines

Havana—UPI—Premier Fidel Castro threatened early today to develop new sugar-growing areas at Cuba's expense.

Munich, Germany—UPI—Germans and Americans joined today in a solemn memorial service for the victims of a Saturday plane crash that claimed its 50th life today.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—UPI—Emperor Haile Selassie's army roamed the countryside today ferreting out the last of die-hard imperial guards who tried to overthrow the throne last week.

Juarez, Mexico—UPI—Stage and screen star Ethel Merman filed suit in Civil Court Monday for a divorce from Robert Six, president of Continental Airlines.

Portland, Oregon—UPI—Oregon and Washington Legislative Interim Highway committees plan to meet here again Jan. 21 to discuss further the proposed Columbia river bridge between Astoria and Megler.

Midwest Gets Cover of Snow

By United Press International

Snow spread a welcome mat for winter's official arrival from the Northern Plains across the Midwest today, and even weatherwise Chicagoans found it tough to take.

Winter arrives Wednesday by the calendar, but most Midwest winters were convinced its time-table was off. Their cars crawled at a snail's pace along snow-laden roads and travel was slowed even on the network of superhighways which have gradually extended across the central states.

Thousands of Chicagoans were late to work as a fine snow which began early Monday evening piled up, drifting in spots, to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.

Harrisburg Signal Dismissal Denied

Salem—UPI—Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill today denied a motion to dismiss a complaint by the city of Harrisburg against the Southern Pacific Co. involving signals at the La Salle st. crossing.

Bar Association Petition Planned

Salem—UPI—Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton said today he will file a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court asking it to keep the requirement that attorneys must be bar association members in order to practice law.

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Stock Prices Suffer Another Mild Drop; Volume Dries Up

New York—UPI—Stocks suffered another mild decline today but volume dried up noticeably on the downside.

Holding down the Dow-Jones industrial average were Procter & Gamble off around 3 1/2 and General Foods down around 1 1/2. Union Carbide tacked on 1 1/2 in a narrow chemical group.

Several good gains showed up among the aluminum and aircraft issues with Alcoa ahead 2. Reynolds a point and North American, Chance-Vought and Northrop closing all up a point or more.

Today's prices on selected stocks:

Allied Chemical	56 1/2
Alum. Co. Am.	79 1/2
American Can	33 1/2
American Motors	18 1/2
A. T. & T.	96 1/2
Anaconda Copper	43 1/2
Armco Steel	37 1/2
Benix Corp.	68 1/2
Bestfoods Steel	38 1/2
Boeing Air	38 1/2
Caterpillar Corp.	30 1/2
Chrysler Corp.	39 1/2
Continental Can	35 1/2
Crown Zellerbach	32 1/2
Du Pont	15 1/2
Dow Chemical	74 1/2
Du Pont	18 1/2
Eastman Kodak	113 1/2
Firestone	34 1/2
General Electric	74 1/2
General Foods	72 1/2
General Motors	41 1/2
Georgia Pacific	35 1/2
Grain Processing	17 1/2
Greystone	20 1/2
Gulf Oil	31 1/2
Homestake Mining	47 1/2
Idaho Power	51 1/2
E. M. M.	59 1/2
Int. Paper	92 1/2
Johns-Manville	37 1/2
Kennecott Copper	74 1/2
Lockheed Aircraft	28 1/2
Montana Power	31 1/2
Montgomery Ward	28 1/2
NAT Biscuit	73 1/2
New York Central	13 1/2
Pac Gas & Elec (xd)	44 1/2
Penney, J. C.	44 1/2
Penn RR	11 1/2
Radio Corporation	53 1/2
Richfield Oil	86 1/2
Safeway	37 1/2
Shell Oil	38 1/2
Socomey Mobil Oil	37 1/2
Southern Co.	48 1/2
Southern Pacific	19 1/2
Standard California	45 1/2
Standard Indiana	44 1/2
Standard N. J.	38 1/2
Sunoco	31 1/2
Texas Co.	81 1/2
Texas Gulf Sulfur	19 1/2
Texas Pac Land Trust	27 1/2
Transamerica	23 1/2
Trans World Air	51 1/2
Tri-Continental	37 1/2
Union Carbide	123 1/2
Union Pacific	28 1/2
United Aircraft	36 1/2
United Air Lines	26 1/2
U. Rubber	43 1/2
U. S. Steel	77 1/2

State Committees To Discuss Bridge Across Columbia

Portland, Oregon—UPI—Oregon and Washington Legislative Interim Highway committees plan to meet here again Jan. 21 to discuss further the proposed Columbia river bridge between Astoria and Megler.

Committee members will report to their respective highway committees when legislatures of the two states convene next month.

At a meeting here Monday Oregon legislators said they doubted this state would accept a 75-25 split on cost of the bridge deficit with Oregon paying the larger amount.

Washington lawmakers expressed doubt that Oregon's proposal of a 50-50 split in costs would be acceptable there.

The bridge would cost some \$24 million with Oregon selling the bonds to finance it.

Lawmakers said that a compromise might be possible.

The Washington group also proposed that each state pay for its bridge approaches. Oregon's would cost some \$1,570,000 and Washington's \$179,000.

Rep. William Holmstrom of Astoria said that if the legislators could agree on a percentage participation, Oregon "certainly would be in a position to look favorably on the proposal for separate state financing of the approaches."

Mill Prohibited From Building Line Under Beach

Salem—UPI—Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said Monday in an opinion for the State Land Board that International Paper company at Gardiner may be permitted to overflow lands between high and low watermarks bordering Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes.

But on another point, Thornton said present state law prevents the board from authorizing the company to build a subsurface pipe line from a proposed mill under the public beach for disposal of wastes in the ocean.

International Paper proposes construction of a large pulp mill near Gardiner.

The overflow opinion authorizes the board to grant the firm "flowage easements."

Needs Amending

As to right of way for the beach pipeline, Thornton said the legislature would have to amend the law first. The pipeline would be buried beneath the sand.

"Any contemplated change in the law should take into account the fact that the offshore oil explorations referred to in last week's opinion might possibly take the form of slant drilling of test wells," Thornton said. "Such holes might well pass through or under the beach itself. In this same connection, the legislature should also consider that there may also be a need for surface pipelines over the ocean beach for transmission of oil and gas from off-shore wells, if the oil or gas is found in commercial quantities."

Last week Thornton said that the Land Board has no authority under present law to enter into a lease with a private firm for oil exploration on the submerged off-shore lands.

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Work will include modifications and completion of three existing buildings and a sewage treatment plant.

Cascade Plywood To Close Lebanon Plant

Lebanon—UPI—Cascade Plywood Corp. plans to shut down for a week the first part of January because of a lack of orders, company officials said today.

Plans for the party were made at the Dec. 13 meeting of the Grange.

The Home Economics club is meeting this afternoon at the home of Harland Glasscock, Phoenix. A potluck luncheon was held.

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Dayton, Ore.—UPI—State Sen. Carl Francis (R-Dayton), said Monday he planned to introduce a resolution at the Oregon Legislature in favor of abolishing the National Electoral College.

Francis said "it's an outmoded way to elect a president." He said the winner of a plurality of the total popular vote should always be the winner.

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