

Dilemma Of Laos

Important differences exist between the United States and its British-French allies as to how to deal with the rising Communist threat to the independence of Laos in south-east Asia.

These concern the kind of government that should be supported in Laos, and the extent of outside participation in the current civil strife.

On this latter point, Britain and France have tended to dismiss as the propaganda of the present shaky pro-Western government the charges of direct intervention by Red North Vietnamese and other Communists.

Until recently, the American rebuttal was confined to generalized charges. Now, however, we are offering hard evidence—down to aircraft serial numbers—of a Soviet airlift of war materiel and some personnel to assist Red elements within Laos.

Our inquiry and reconnaissance indicate this airlift has been substantial and continuous. And while we do not spell out the numbers involved, we make the flat statement that a good many North Vietnamese have been brought in.

This, of course, is the critical part of the charge. For what has been most feared all along was another invasion, North Korea style. Proof of it is much harder to come by in Laos, a jungle country with few roads. Vietnamese

or Red Chinese, wearing no military attire, presumably can slip easily back and forth across the Laotian frontier to the east.

The chances are that there have been plenty of invaders. But we can only talk about those we can identify. Nevertheless, when we succeed in doing that, the British and French ought to be willing to accept the evidence.

Their preference for a neutralist government in Laos instead of a clearly pro-Western one is based on fear that a really sharp division will produce a wearing, costly civil war that will compare in length with the postwar fighting in Indochina, Malaya and Algeria.

We fear that their caution, both as to the make-up of the Laotian government and as to the intervention of Reds from the outside, may only play into the hands of Peiping and Moscow and in the end cost the West high strategic stakes in crucial Laos.

But in the field of bolder action, there certainly is no easy course. Military intervention on our part would be extremely difficult, with no guarantee of success. Support for any particular Laotian government can go only so far.

This much we do know: We must act with firmness and speed when effective action is possible. Timidity and hesitancy are the beckoning fingers that will surely embolden the Communists in this newest adventure in conquest.

failure, was set down as an added handicap.

Nixon had peace and generally good times going for him. And as a practiced debater he was expected to chew up his less experienced opponent in their four television encounters.

But Kennedy got the advantage out of the debates, holding his own and making himself far better known. Through the crucial weeks, he campaigned with tireless aggressiveness. The South, repelled by Kennedy's Catholicism and the liberal Democratic platform, was for the most part lured back by Johnson, Kennedy's shrewd choice for vice presidential nominee.

When the votes were counted, he had leaped all the barriers—his youth, his religion, his wealth, the lack of issues with great immediate impact. His margin was incredibly slim. But the real wonder was that he had done it at all.

Men of seasoned outlook will be less likely hereafter to underrate Kennedy. Certainly his choice of a cabinet and his general conduct since election have tended to reinforce the earlier 1960 evidences of high capacity.

Yet we must not forget that 1961 will be a totally new story. As has often been said, no man truly prepares himself for the presidency.

We can only wait to see whether the abilities and resourcefulness which stood Kennedy in good stead in 1960 will permit him to serve the country and the world in 1961 and thereafter.



OTHER EDITORS' OPINIONS Campaign Waste

(BALTIMORE SUN)

If the old cliches are fun to review, other aspects of the campaign are quite the reverse. This campaign must have broken all records for sheer physical activity and output of words. Press coverage was more lavish than ever before. Jet planes were available for personal appearances as far apart as Alaska, Chicago and Los Angeles all in the same day.

There was the daily grind: arrival at an airport, motorcade, cheering crowds, the locally tailored version of the candidate's standard speech, back-slapping and handshaking, and the return to the airport again. Everybody saw the candidates—if not in person, then on the air. What we failed to get on these occasions was a clear notion of what the candidates really stood for, what they really thought. The great debates were on the whole a disappointment. What each candidate said fell pretty consistently short of its target. Ideas were never really developed. The great debates were tantalizing rather than helpful.

Nor, except in a few instances, were ideas and policies and programs given fuller development by other means. Was ever a presidential campaign spread so widely—and spread so thin?

Our campaigns are too long, and modern devices available for bringing candidates to the people seem to have made campaigning harder rather than easier.

Thoughts

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.—Psalms 42:5.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast; Man never is, but always to be blest; The soul, unseated and confined from home, Resists and expatiates in the life to come.

—Alexander Pope.

If it is to be life in the flesh, that means trifling labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.—Philippians 1:22.

The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.—William James.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.—Ephesians 6:17.

The Bible is God's chart for you to steer by, to keep you from the bottom of the sea, and to show you where the harbor is, and how to reach it without running on rocks or bars.—H. W. Beecher.

A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man quietly holds it back.—Proverbs 29:11.

He who reigns within himself, and rules passions, desires, and fears, is more than a king.—John Milton.

EDSON IN WASHINGTON State Of Union Talk To Be Ike's Farewell



By PETER EDSON Washington Correspondent Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

WASHINGTON (NEA)—President Eisenhower's last State of the Union message to Congress on January 12 could mean different things to different people.

If it is in the tradition or spirit of Washington's farewell address it can be taken as a lasting document setting domestic and foreign policy objectives for years to come.

If the message is taken as a political document—an appeal to Republicans and those "Eisenhower Democrats" who supported his every word and deed almost unquestioningly for the last eight years—it will be a statement of conservative principles that will provide guidelines for 1964 and 1968.

But if the President's message is considered a mere review of his two administrations and a defense of his policies—as was

indicated beforehand—it will be something for the incoming Kennedy administration to challenge.

There was no criticism of Eisenhower personally during the last election campaign. But there is no gainsaying now that neither the foreign nor domestic affairs of the country are being turned over in perfect condition.

President Eisenhower and a Republican Congress were elected in 1952 on campaign slogans of "Clean up the Mess in Washington," "Peace and Prosperity" and "Ending the Korean War."

The last promise was kept promptly. But the peace that has been maintained in the last eight years has been an uneasy, cold war peace at best. The cease-fire in Korea is continued by an armed truce—not a secure peace.

The fighting that was ended by the partition of Viet Nam is now breaking out again in neighboring Laos. Sporadic shelling continues on Quemoy and Matsu, following the unleashing of Chiang Kai-shek in Formosa Strait, and that has become a domestic American political issue.

In the Near East, war in the Suez was averted by the skin of our teeth. Lebanon and Jordan were saved from being gobbled up by Nasser's United Arab Republic. But the friendly government of Iraq was overthrown.

Relations with Russia got no better in spite of extended cultural exchanges and crashed in a tailspin caused by the U-2 incident. The United States was second in launching missiles into orbit and in reaching for the moon.

U.S. leadership in the U.N. was seriously challenged. Exploding demands for freedom and independence in Africa caught the United States unprepared to deal with them effectively. And so a new cold war front was launched.

The administration that took over with a pledge to stop neglecting Latin America leaves office with conditions no better. Dictators like Peron in Argentina and Perez Jimenez in Venezuela have been replaced by their own people.

A Communist government in Guatemala has been replaced by a more democratic government. But liberal President Lemus in El Salvador has been replaced by a military junta. Pro-U.S. dictator Batista in Cuba has been replaced by pro-Communist dictator Castro, with whose regime diplomatic relations have been broken—a break for the new administration to mend.

The old "mess" in Washington was cleaned up, only to be succeeded by other scandals. Prosperity has been maintained to the extent that the federal budget this year should be balanced again and that the threat of ruinous inflation has been averted, though the cost of living is no lower. The dollar gap is troublesome, but the dollar itself is sound.

What the Kennedy administration makes of all this will be revealed when the president-elect delivers his own inaugural message after he is sworn in.

But there is every prospect that the two messages will be so different there will be some difficulty in recognizing that they speak of the same country.

How Will The Sequel Read?

It is quite widely agreed that John F. Kennedy's election as president was the biggest news story of 1960. What might also be added as a footnote is that he was consistently the most underrated man of the year.

At the outset, many politicians saw his early lead for the Democratic nomination as a kind of flash in the pan. They felt sure either Adlai Stevenson or Stuart Symington would in the end outdistance him.

He stunned them first by wrapping up Ohio's big vote. Next they misjudged his Wisconsin primary victory, marking it a failure because he did not match printed expectations of a sweep. The triumph actually was substantial.

West Virginia, heavily non-Catholic, was supposed to do Kennedy in. He won it with 60 per cent of the vote.

From then on he was winging, but the doubters were numerous. The summit collapse was judged as hurtful to Kennedy, helpful to Stevenson. It hardly caused a ripple.

Among the big doubters was another candidate, Sen. Lyndon Johnson of Texas. He just did not believe that a seasoned politician like himself could be bested by the young man from Massachusetts. But he was outdone—by a margin of 2-1.

Once Kennedy was nominated, his chances of victory in November were written down. Vice President Nixon was said to have outshone him as a convention performer, and the August session of Congress, which ended in

THEY SAY . . .

With our uranium, the U.S. built the first atom bomb. They said to themselves: "Lumumba would sell the uranium to the Soviet Union and other countries. We must overthrow him." —Congo Premier Patrice Lumumba.

I intend to sue. I'm being treated the same as Khrushchev and Castro. —Mobster Mickey Cohen, picked up by New York police for "consorting with known criminals" on the sidewalk.

BARBS

It's remarkable how much game gets away from hunters. Quick, like a bunny.

It seems like we clean our walks for the sake of the neighbors who don't clean theirs.

Definition of a diplomat: any husband who can convince his wife she looks fat in a fur coat.

Regardless of results, you can't blame a man for doing his best.

Minerology

- ACROSS 1 Precious metal 5 Important metal 8 Blueish-white crystalline metallic element 12 Range 13 Exit 14 Heavy blow 15 Slip 16 Most of a nation's mineral wealth is buried in its area 17 Genus of meadow grasses 18 Entomology (ab.) 19 Man's name 20 State 21 Endured 22 War area (ab.) 23 Nimble 24 Feminine appellation 25 Puff up 26 Coalace 27 Depot (ab.) 28 Rowing implement 29 Threefold (comb. form) 30 Indian wild sheep 31 Sullen 32 Under (It.) 33 Slip 34 Australian cattle dog 35 Sailor 36 Greek letter 37 Roman bronze 38 Grandparental 39 South American wood sorrel 40 Intersperse 41 Capuchin monkey 42 Network 43 Large plant

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters. The grid is 15x15. Numbers are placed in the top-left corner. Some letters are already filled in, such as 'M', 'A', 'S', 'S', 'A', 'C', 'H', 'U', 'S', 'O', 'C', 'K', 'V', 'I', 'S', 'I', 'T', 'O', 'R' in the top row.

NOTHING SPECIAL (W. B. S.)

A most spectacular sight for motorists, I believe, was the result of a terrific windstorm in the Willamette Forest, along Highway 58 last week. Some of those trees appeared to be at least 4 feet in diameter. Many of them reached across the entire width of the highway, and it's a wonder there weren't many serious accidents as a result of the slowdown. Highway crews and salvage loggers were still busy on the job of cleaning up Monday.

an and child in the country. Income taxes in the states that have them yielded 3.4 billion dollars. Sales taxes brought in 4.3 billion. Gasoline taxes rose to 3.3 billion.

Well, I suppose the apologists, do-gooders and mercy-bringers will find some way to mitigate the crime of him (or those) who mercilessly killed the young college student whose body was finally found.

Something to think about: He pushes back his sleeves, holds his wrist close to the lighted dial at the speedometer, squints to read the time. After 9. Ought to be home soon. Speedometer says 60. If he knew he had only 10 seconds to live, things might be different.

TEN SECONDS TO LIVE. He massages his eye with thumb and middle finger, trying to rub out some of the sand.

NINE SECONDS TO LIVE. He's driven almost eight hours since lunch, and is beginning to feel it.

EIGHT SECONDS TO LIVE. Lousy driving in the rain. Light from his headlights just seems to soak in, along with the water.

SEVEN SECONDS TO LIVE. Probably needs a new windshield wiper blade. Old one just spreads the water around instead of wiping it clean. Get one tomorrow or next time it rains.

SIX SECONDS TO LIVE. Somebody throws a cigarette out of an oncoming car. The red glow dissolves almost before it hits the pavement.

FIVE SECONDS TO LIVE. He plants his heels on the floorboard, squirming back in the seat, trying for comfort.

FOUR SECONDS TO LIVE. At 60 miles an hour, a car covers 88 feet of pavement every second. Four seconds, 352 feet.

THREE SECONDS TO LIVE. Something looks wrong, through the blurry windshield. A tentative dab at the brakes stiffens into desperate pressure as he makes out an old, unlighted, slow moving truck ahead.

TWO SECONDS TO LIVE. Panic moves in. Turns to the left—a car's coming, headlights too close. Can't make it. Turns to the right.

ONE SECOND TO LIVE. Horror numbs everything into slow motion. He floats right into the rear corner of the truck bed. He opens his mouth to scream.—It's happened to a lot of people. Driving too long, eyes get tired, reactions slow down. Rain, darkness, a windshield that's hard to see through—Driving too fast. A car or a truck ahead that he can't see. It's happened to a lot of people. Will it happen to you?



THE DOCTOR SAYS . . . Light Exercise Can Help 'Loafers Heart'

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D. Written for Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

formerly accustomed to regular exercise is in greater danger than the heart of the loafer whose daily exertions rarely exceeded the bare minimums required for strolls to and from the dining room.

In Dr. Raab's opinion, with which I am in complete accord, each of these panalities of "soft living" contributes significantly to circulation strains.

The young mother, who engaged in competitive sport at high school or college, can't quite realize that she hasn't the strength and endurance she once had before the baby was born. And the high school or college letter man, who now spends his time behind a desk or the wheel of his car, can't resist a challenge to his prowess.

With each of these stresses, an additional load is imposed on our circulatory systems. The pulse rate speeds. The blood pressure rises. The heart muscle is called on to pump an extra amount of blood. And the coronary vessels are required to transport additional supplies of oxygen to meet the needs of the overworked pump.

Neither hesitates to perform a heavy household chore, sometimes with disastrous results. And on a holiday, the ex-athlete, still wearing a sweater adorned with the school or college letter, gets his "come-uppance" from an attempted swim across the lake, a five set tennis match with some lanky fledgling, or a rasting bout with a chunky youngster who turns out to have been the intercollegiate champion in his class.

Now the well conditioned heart responds in stride to these emergencies. Much like a trained athlete, it speeds and slows, tenses and relaxes, and adjusts and re-adjusts with the ease of "the daring young man on the flying trapeze."

Of course, the answer to the "loafer's heart" or the "detained heart" is regular exercise of a not-too-strenuously competitive nature. Walking, gardening, dancing, calisthenics, family tennis, a relaxed round of golf or romps with younger children tend to keep the muscles fit and the figure trim.

But the "loafer's heart" or the "detained heart" gets a late start, bumps and bucks like a cold motor in subzero weather and then is unable to throttle down until long after the challenging situation has come and gone.

Contrariwise, the lures of rocking chairs and of sofas that give a view of TV screens are open invitations to flabby muscles, a sloppy heart beat and the development of a "bay window."

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