



Pope Paul VI walks in his stocking feet across the chill marble floor of the altar platform at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to pray before a cross on Good Friday. The Roman Catholic pontiff did not wear his papal ring as a sign of sorrow for the death of Jesus Christ. (AP Radiophoto)

Pope Leads Pilgrims In Good Friday Rites

ROME (AP)—Pope Paul VI carried a tall cross Friday night in a sorrowful Good Friday procession marking Christ's agony and death, for which he said all mankind was "co-responsible."

Addressing tens of thousands of pilgrims amid the ruins of pagan Rome, the pontiff urged Roman Catholics on this saddest day of their liturgy to regain the sense of sin through contemplation of Christ's passion and crucifixion.

Curtailling his participation in the ceremony as a consequence of his operation last fall, the 70-year-old Pope did not walk the entire way with the procession from the ancient Colosseum to the Temple of Venus.

The procession made its way to 14 prayer stations on a route simulating Christ's journey to Calvary.

For the last four stations, the Pope took the two-meter-high, lightweight wooden cross from a companion and carried it himself.

The stations marked the nailing of Christ to the cross, his death, his removal from the cross and his entombment.

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GI'S SMASH RED ATTACK

SAIGON (AP)—Fighting from foxholes at a range of a few feet, American infantrymen repulsed 400 newly-equipped enemy troops who stormed U.S. positions early Friday in War Zone C, 49 miles northwest of Saigon.

After five hours of close-quarter fighting, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attackers fled, leaving 128 dead and more than 50 weapons on the battlefield. All the enemy dead were killed inside or on the fringes of the U.S. perimeter.

Sixteen U.S. troops were killed and 47 wounded.

Associated Press photographer Al Chang reported from the battlefield that the fighting was so close that at one point American infantrymen fixed their bayonets for hand-to-hand fighting as their ammunition got low. They didn't have to use them.

Chang said it was likely that more enemy troops had been killed or wounded outside the perimeter by massive air and artillery strikes.

Two American infantrymen were found dead inside their bunker. Around them were eight Viet Cong troops, gunned down by the two before they were killed, Chang said.

A radio operator held out against 10 Viet Cong until a company commander, Lt. Richard J. Prairie and three other infantrymen reinforced him. Prairie was awarded a Silver Star on the spot for heroic action.

Field reports said most of the enemy dead were North Vietnamese Army regulars, although there were some Viet Cong among them. A wounded North Vietnamese prisoner identified his unit as the 245th Bn. of the 271st Viet Cong Main Force Regt.

"For quite some time, the 271st regt. has been well-stocked with North Vietnamese Army cadre," a U.S. military spokesman said.

The heavy fighting broke a week-long lull in the war and was the first major action reported in Operation Toan Thang (Complete Victory), biggest coordinated allied campaign of the war, involving 100,000 troops of five nations. The operation kicked off Monday, with allied troops sweeping through 11 provinces around Saigon, encompassing 10,000 square miles.

The U.S. spokesman said the enemy troops were wearing new uniforms, some black and some green. He said their weapons also were new or in good condition, indicating the troops were recent replacements, having in-

Is It a Rerun?

FORT DODGE, Iowa (AP)—Gwendolyn Lepley, a teacher at South Junior High School, told her class to be sure and watch the eclipse of the moon Friday night.

"What channel?" came a query from the back of the room.

U.S. Is Pressing For Viet Talk Site

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The White House said Friday efforts were still in progress to find a "mutually agreed upon" site for U.S.-North Vietnam talks.

George Christian, President Johnson's press secretary, made the statement in response to questions about the status of a site selection after the United States indicated Thursday it was against a Hanoi proposal to set initial contacts in Warsaw.

Christian reiterated that Johnson originally suggested Geneva for the meeting. He said Hanoi came back with a suggestion of Phnom Penh in Cambodia "or another place to be mutually agreed upon."

He added: "That is the status and I doubt if I'll have anything further to say about it as contacts are under way to determine a location."

(Meanwhile, AP reported, the Soviet news agency Tass reported from Hanoi Friday that North Vietnam considers as "legally untenable" Washington's rejection of Warsaw as the site for preliminary peace talks.

(Tass said Hanoi official circles took this position because "the United States has expressed repeatedly its willingness to meet a DRV (Democratic Republic of Vietnam) representative at any place and any time."

(The Tass dispatch gave the first North Vietnamese reaction to Thursday's White House statement which seemed to rule out Warsaw.

(The account from Tass seemed to mean that North Vietnam will insist on Warsaw as the place for first contacts with the United States.

("U.S. actions only delay such

LBJ, Park To Confer In Hawaii

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Johnson will meet South Korean President Chung Hee Park in Hawaii Wednesday, the White House announced Friday.

The White House said the two leaders would discuss a "whole range of issues of concern between the two countries." Vietnam and tensions arising from North Korean infiltration and seizure of the USS Pueblo were expected to figure prominently in the talks.

Johnson was to have met Park in Honolulu last Sunday, but the

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Nugent Viet-Bound

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—President Johnson's son-in-law, Airman 1.C. Patrick Nugent, is on his way to Vietnam. The President's daughter, Luci, told newsmen she had bade farewell to Nugent Friday night as he took off from Andrews AFB, Md.

Khe Sanh Road Open

Cavalrymen Occupy Lang Vei Camp

LANG VEI, Vietnam (AP) — Troopers of the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. occupied the Lang Vei Special Forces camp Friday, under the gunsights of North Vietnamese artillery less than two miles away along the Laos border.

There was no resistance to a ground attack by a Cavalry battalion that moved through the concrete bunkers and wrecked tanks in the camp in the north-west corner of South Vietnam.

The Cavalry unit had gone quickly through the camp at dusk Wednesday, then had moved on 700 yards to the east to the site of an old abandoned Special Forces camp for that night. When they sought to go back into Lang Vei Thursday, the Cavalry troopers ran into enemy resistance that held back three drives.

It was believed a company of enemy troops, about 80 men, had slipped back into the camp Wednesday night to fight a rear guard action. But they were gone Friday.

North Vietnamese artillerymen sent about 20 rounds into the jump-off point for the attack Friday. One cavalryman was wounded.

Big U.S. guns laid down a 500-round barrage in five minutes and helicopter gunships swept back and forth across the camp before the Cavalrymen advanced.

To the north, there was only light action in Operation Pegasus, the 20,000-man operation begun April 1 to relieve the besieged combat base at Khe Sanh.

Senior American officers say the announced aims of Operation Pegasus now have been largely fulfilled with Khe Sanh relieved. Crucial highway 9, linking the base with eastern allied positions, is open and nearly completely restored.

A company of Marines on Thursday drove the entire 12 miles from Ca Lu to Khe Sanh. In addition, South Vietnamese and U.S. Marine battalions are close to matching the pace of the Air Cavalry in westward sweeps from Khe Sanh toward the Laos frontier.

Mortars Kill 5 Viets

SAIGON (S&S) — Five Vietnamese civilians were reported killed and another 22 wounded early Wednesday morning when several rounds of mortars, fired by a U.S. unit, exploded in a small village one mile southeast of Cat Lai in Bien Hoa province. The incident is under investigation, according to the U.S. Command.



Where they once would only appear in the Sanh now stand in the open, unworried by enemy guns which have fallen silent. (AP)

Lownds Departs Khe Sanh

KHE SANH, Vietnam (UPI) — Col. David Lownds, the top Marine at Khe Sanh, stepped down as commanding officer of the 26th Marine Reg. in a brief ceremony Friday amid the rubble of his battered base.

Lownds was succeeded by Col. Bruce F. Myers of Seattle, Wash.

Members of the regimental headquarters staff were present, but the regimental battalions were out scouring the hills for fleeing North Vietnamese troops.

"I am more than pleased that I had the opportunity to be regimental commander here," Lownds, of Plantation, Fla., said.

He also seemed more than pleased to see his replacement.

Bouncing around the base in a jeep on an inspection tour, Lownds joked with newsmen, "Don't talk to me. I'm just a has-been."

Meyers said, "I plan to get with the regiment, but we will probably keep my headquarters here for a while."

Asked if the Marines would continue to hold Khe Sanh, he said, "I think the entire situation in northern I Corps is very flexible and I really couldn't say."

Saigon News Is Delayed

SAIGON (AP) — A mechanical breakdown at a government transmitter station Thursday night caused a 12-hour blackout of most news and commercial communications from Saigon to the rest of the world.

Authorities said the breakdown disrupted outgoing radioteletype messages on 20 circuits used by news services, news correspondents and commercial firms.

The transmitter station at Phu Tho a few miles outside of Saigon was repaired by mid-morning Friday.

Telephone circuits linking Saigon with the outside were not affected nor were military units.

U.S. Jets Pound Panhandle Areas

SAIGON (S&S)—Despite poor weather over North Vietnam Thursday, U.S. warplanes flew 195 missions over 168 miles of the southern panhandle.

All missions were flown south of the 19th Parallel, 60 miles south of the northern limit placed on U.S. air strikes by President Johnson on April 1.

Navy pilots flew the deepest penetration into North Vietnam, hitting a highway ferry 30 miles north of the coastal city of Vinh and eight miles south of the 19th Parallel.

The sources said the fires already have destroyed huge areas of forest and have triggered numerous secondary explosions, indicating ammunition dumps and fuel storage tanks are being blown up.

The U Minh Forest has been the most impregnable Viet Cong sanctuary in Vietnam, remaining firmly in Communist control — and seldom challenged — since 1946.

Intelligence sources said pilots have described the series of fires as an "inferno."

The sources said it was not

definitely determined how the fires were started, but there were reports a group of Vietnamese fishermen set them in reprisal against taxation by the Viet Cong.

The fires come during the area's driest season, about two weeks before monsoon rains are due.

Although the heavy smoke in the area has prevented precise damage assessment, pilots reported that the numerous secondary explosions indicated greater destruction than caused by any bombing raids.

U.S. Air Losses at 3,610

SAIGON (AP) — The U.S. Military Command reported Friday that 2,059 planes and 1,551 helicopters have been lost in the Vietnam war over North and South Vietnam.

In a report covering the period through April 9, headquarters said 821 planes and nine helicopters have gone down over North Vietnam. The helicopters all were lost on rescue missions to pick up downed pilots.

The last plane to go down over the North was on March 31, the day President Johnson announced a limitation in bombing of North Vietnam.

Viet Rangers Get M16

SAIGON (AP) — The elite South Vietnamese 3rd Ranger Group has been issued 3,492 U.S.-made M16 rifles, it was announced. Every man in the six battalions of the group is armed with the same weapon carried by all American troops in South Vietnam.

Vietnam Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S) — The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

KILLED IN ACTION

- Army**
- LTC Robert L. Runkle, Ozark, Ala.
 - PFC James T. Blalock, Salem, Ala.
 - SSG Marvin E. Burrows, New Blaine, Ark.
 - PFC Jewel L. Rainwater, Van Buren, Ark.
 - PSG Doyle Williams, Marina, Calif.
 - SP4 Gilbert De La Pena, Plinedale, Calif.
 - PFC Dean H. Burns, Sonoma, Calif.
 - PFC Jack D. Downs, Tujunga, Calif.
 - PFC Gene K. Ross, Byron, Calif.
 - PFC Lars P. Sundell, Belmont, Calif.
 - SP4 Fred R. Glover, Mulberry, Fla.
 - SGT Connie V. Wells, Vidalia, Ga.
 - SP4 Don C. Sykes, Savannah, Ga.
 - SP4 Donald W. Queen, Epworth, Ga.
 - PFC William T. Hancock, Brunswick, Ga.
 - SP4 Theodore W. Sandidge, Pawnee, Ill.
 - SP4 Ronald L. Zach, Oak Lawn, Ill.
 - SGT Jerald A. Borman, Hammond, Ind.
 - SGT Michael W. Downing, Elwood, Ind.
 - SGT Gerald F. Gilbert, Goshen, Ind.
 - SSG Tommy D. Knapp, Newton, Iowa.
 - SGT Mark G. Stickels, Afton, Iowa.
 - PFC Chester Bob, Grand Coteau, La.
 - PFC Robert Smith, Converse, La.
 - SGT John H. Libby, Portland, Maine.
 - CPL Joseph G. L. Quirion Jr., Skowhegan, Maine.
 - PFC Thomas S. Woodland Jr., Indian Head, Md.
 - SGT Heinrich Gerstheimer, Detroit, Mich.
 - SP4 David T. Connors, Cheboygan, Mich.
 - SP5 Jimmy D. Pickle, Logan, Mont.
 - SP4 Kenneth F. Schorndorf, Gardfield, N.J.
 - SFC William M. Thompson, Jamaica, N.Y.
 - SGT Patrick J. Conroy, Bronx, N.Y.
 - SP4 Donald B. Kearney, Chenecady, N.Y.
 - PFC Matthew J. Buono, Staten Island, N.Y.
 - SP4 Carl L. Hill Jr., Kinston, N.C.
 - SP4 Charles L. King, Hendersonville, N.C.
 - PFC William E. Grace, Winston-Salem, N.C.
 - MAJ Roger A. Quinn, Columbus, Ohio.
 - 1LT Victor R. Miller, Beach City, Ohio.
 - SP5 Dean G. Owen, Cleveland, Ohio.
 - 2LT Robert J. Sovizal, Pottstown, Pa.
 - SP4 William J. Frey, Monroeville, Pa.
 - SFC William E. Edwards, Columbia, S.C.
 - SP4 Freeman Bolen, Sumter, S.C.
 - PFC Levern Cusum, Society Hill, S.C.
 - SSG Larry J. Lyons, Johnson City, Tenn.
 - SSG Clifton Malone, Millington, Tenn.
 - SP4 John L. Chambers, Hondo, Tex.
 - SP4 Gary E. Watson, Midland, Tex.
 - PFC James G. Johnson, Marshall, Tex.
 - PFC Pablo D. Sanchez, Taft, Tex.
 - SP5 Gene J. Howard, Williamsburg, Va.
 - CPL Douglas E. Fulcher, Tacoma, Va.
 - SSG Ernest A. Lang, Seattle, Wash.
 - SFC Conrado Cabrera-Rodriguez, Culebra, Puerto Rico.
 - SFC Alejandro De Jesus-Munoz, Ponce, Puerto Rico.
- Navy**
- BMC Samuel C. Chauvros, Old Town, Fla.

BM3 John D. Woodard, Morganton, N.C.

Marine Corps

- PFC Donald C. Mc Nac, Mobile, Ala.
- PFC Cecil L. Jones, Jonesboro, Ark.
- PFC Joseph L. Jordan, Americus, Ga.
- SGT Ernest L. Bridges, Gary, Ind.
- CPL John J. Harris, Iola, Kan.
- PFC Robert E. Mentzer Jr., Rockville, Md.
- LCPL Gerald F. Young, Boston, Mass.
- LCPL Burton W. Peterson Jr., South Boston, Mass.
- CAPT George L. Lakey, Springfield, Mo.
- LCPL Wesley W. White, Carteret, N.J.
- PFC Allen P. Sheehan, Muttontown, N.Y.
- CPL Roosevelt Tharrington Jr., Durham, N.C.
- PFC Harry L. Blalock, Albermarle, N.C.
- PFC Cecil L. Jones, Corvallis, Ore.
- LCPL Roger T. Brown, Kittanning, Pa.
- PFC David H. Mealy, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- PVT William G. Wilkins, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
- PFC Gary M. Carter, Church Hill, Tenn.
- PFC Robert K. Horspool, Ogden, Utah.
- SGT Daniel Pesiner, Salt Rock, W.Va.
- PFC Charles L. Yates, Fairmont, W.Va.
- PFC Kevin W. Moore, Milwaukee, Wis.

Air Force

MSGT Donald A. Harrell, White Oak, Ga.

CAPT William Canup, Indianapolis, Ind.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Navy

HN James A. Cardinale, Danville, Calif.

Marine Corps

CPL James J. Tedesco, Des Moines, Iowa.

MISSING TO DEAD—Hostile

- Army**
- SP4 Robert S. Jernberg, San Jose, Calif.
 - PFC Larry G. Manuel, Mattson, Ill.
 - PFC Harold E. Penson, Chicago, Ill.
 - SGT Ezekiel Paige, Siler City, N.C.
 - PFC David Culp Jr., Pineville, N.C.
 - PFC James E. Mc Pherson, Rockingham, N.C.
 - CPT Archie A. Hayman, Gallipolis, Ohio.
 - SP4 Edward Day, Charleston, S.C.
 - PFC James L. Pipes Jr., Richmond, Va.

MISSING IN ACTION

- Army**
- WO Franklin D. Audittet
 - SSG David A. Parker
 - SSG David C. Thomas
 - SGT Philip L. Knigsfield
 - SP5 James A. Kemberton
 - SP4 Anthony Simoes
 - SP4 Edward Day
 - PFC Hoyle Terry Jr.
 - PFC Crat A. Keene
 - PFC James R. Sanford, Jr.
- Air Force**
- CPT John C. Hardy
 - CPT Ronald R. Ruxroad
- MISSING TO CAPTURED**
- Army**
- SP4 Thomas H. Van Pulten
- DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION**
- SGT Alan R. Cuyinon, Lomita, Calif.
 - SP4 Douglas C. Ristine, Merritt Island, Fla.
 - CPL Danny E. Gullarie, Monroe, Ga.
 - PFC John C. Hawlick, Tulsa, Okla.
 - SP4 Harry S. Stayer, Everett, Pa.
 - CWO David W. Timm, Brodhead, Wis.
- Marine Corps**
- SGT Jose R. Bernol, Hartford, Calif.
 - PFC Leslie L. Cranev, Portland, Maine.
 - PFC Sherman T. Washington, Marianna, Pa.

VC Sanctuary Razed by Fires

SAIGON (UPI) — At least 70 forest fires are raging through a huge Viet Cong sanctuary causing greater destruction than any French or Allied attack of the past 20 years, intelligence sources disclosed Friday.

The fires started early this week and by Thursday between 70 and 80 were observed raging throughout the vast U Minh Forest at the tip of the Mekong Delta in Vietnam's southernmost An Xuyen Province.

Letter Writing Contest

WASHINGTON (ISO) — "A Free Ballot—a Free Country" is the topic selected by the Freedoms Foundation for its 1968 Letter Awards Program.

The letter writing competition is open to both active duty and Reserve personnel.

Awards for active duty personnel are: top award \$1,000, fifty awards of \$100, and fifty awards of \$50. For Reserve components top award is \$1,000, up to 50 awards of \$100, up to 50 awards of \$50.

Letters will be selected for sincerity and understanding of the American way of life rather than literary excellence.

The top active duty winner in each of the five military services will be invited to the Presidential Inauguration January 20, 1969. Their awards will be presented while they are in Washington.

The next five active duty winners will be invited to Valley Forge, Pa., to receive their awards at the annual Freedoms Foundation presentation ceremony on Washington's birthday next year.

The top winner in each of the three Reserve components, including the Reserve \$1,000 winner, also will be invited to the Valley Forge ceremony to receive their award.

Awards for the other active duty and Reserve components will be forwarded through channels for presentation at local ceremonies.

Letters must not exceed 500 words. Print or type full name, rank, serial number, full military address, service or Reserve component and full home address on the letter.

Ventilation: VC Bullets

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO) — One 25th Inf. Div. grenadier found himself in a drafty situation when Viet Cong bullets ripped through his uniform.

B Co. of the division's 4th Bn., 9th Inf., was on a reconnaissance in force patrol four miles north of Tay Ninh.

"My platoon was point that day, and I was close to the front where my M79 grenade launcher would be most effective," said Spec. 4 Phil Mahan of Memphis, Tenn.

Suddenly Viet Cong force opened fire. The U.S. troops hit the ground and fired back. The Viet Cong fled.

"I knew those bullets came close," Mahan said, "but when I found out that two ripped through my camouflage cover and another grazed my shirt sleeve, I just stood there and shuddered."

Reds Hold Valley 2 Years

U.S. Bombers Zero-In on A Shau

SAIGON (UPI) — For more than two years, North Vietnamese troops have brazenly held a small but immensely important hunk of South Vietnamese territory called the A Shau valley.

It remains in Communist hands today.

American planes have pounded it unmercifully, but in spite of the fantastic amount of bombs dropped there over the past 25 months, A Shau continues to be a major North Vietnamese base for the infiltration of men and supplies into South Vietnam's northern provinces.

Knifing across the Laotian border like a thorn in the side of South Vietnam, the lush green valley was lost to the Communists on March 11, 1966,

when North Vietnamese troops overran a U.S. Special Forces camp there.

And today, A Shau has once again become a thorn in the side.

Since the lessening of Communist pressure on Khe Sanh in recent days, attention has focused on the North Vietnamese stronghold at A Shau, particularly as a result of a tremendous increase in the number of B52 raids in the valley area.

In the past week, more than half of the B52 raids in Vietnam have been launched against Communist troop concentrations, weapons positions, anti-aircraft sites, bunkers, truck parks and ammunition and sup-

ply storage areas around the valley.

On one day last week, five of seven raids of the big eight-engine Stratofortresses were against targets within 16 miles of A Shau. On a single day this week, seven B52 strikes were in the A Shau area.

The increased bombing has followed reports of several significant developments in the A Shau region in recent weeks.

For the first time in the war, North Vietnamese armored vehicles — either tanks or armored personnel carriers — have been detected in the A Shau valley by U.S. reconnaissance planes, according to informed sources.

Late last month, a unit of the

U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. ran into a North Vietnamese force employing some form of armored vehicles about 25 miles northwest of Hue. It was the furthest inland that Communist armor had been sighted.

The A Shau valley is a terminus of a Communist supply route that winds about 50 miles across South Vietnam's Thua Thien province, ending just south of the imperial capital of Hue.

U.S. military sources said early last month that the road is capable of supporting heavy truck convoys and armored vehicles at relatively high speeds.

The North Vietnamese reportedly used steel matting to form a carpeting above the road bed in two parallel strips.



'Pour It On!'

Capt. Paul Bucha of Hinsdale, Ill., commander of B Co., 3rd En. (Abn.), 187th Inf. puts in a radio call for fire support as 101st Airborne Div. paratroopers battle enemy forces south of Phouc Vinh. (USA)

Viet Amputees Get New Limbs, Hope

By BOB CUTTS
S&S Correspondent

CAN THO, Vietnam — You can rebuild a house turned to ashes, shore up a bombed-out paddy dike, replace dead chickens and pigs and even water buffalo. But what do you do when you've lost a leg?

Dr. (Capt.) Pham Van Hoang thinks the Vietnamese soldiers and civilians of the Mekong Delta have gone too long without an answer, and he's trying to provide one.

Hoang, an ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) medical corps doctor, came to Can Tho in June last year with an idea and a lot of plans. Since then, he has transformed a borrowed hospital building and some donated funds into tools that help Vietnamese amputees help themselves... for the first time in delta history.

Working in the backyard of the Can Tho Provincial Hospital, Hoang receives all amputee outpatients at his therapy center. Fifty per cent of his patients are Vietnamese soldiers, 50 per cent are women and children from outlying districts who were unlucky enough to trip a land mine or be in the way of a Viet Cong mortar attack.

They come in without hands, feet, arms, legs and sometimes without eyes. One little girl from a mortared village was brought in a few months ago. Two years old, she had no legs. "She was good for all of us," says Hoang, "because she never cried, never knew she was different from other children. She was always happy, and cheered everyone up."

Hoang and his medical technicians, Sgts. Pham Tron and Nguyen Ngoc Cang, start the

patients with braces and aids, teaching them to walk and work without an arm or leg.

A new idea of Hoang's is to train his own outpatients for new vocations. He teaches typing, sewing, and the making of professional prosthetic limbs. But the classes keep hitting snags. "There's not enough room. We can only teach 14 or 15 students at a time. And last week, three of my eight workers in the prosthetics shop were drafted. Money's a problem — everything we're doing is done on charity, and that doesn't leave enough to buy really good material for the artificial limbs."

Hoang displayed one plastic hand, like a doll's, made by his shop for \$4, alongside a life-like rubber model from the U.S., that costs \$20. "We can't afford the really good things."

But still, Hoang and his U.S.-trained aides have managed to overcome the problems and help some 70 patients a month find at least a partial answer to their own personal tragedies.

AF Hiring Thai Youth

UDORN ROYAL, THAI AB, Thailand (OI) — One hundred Thai students from the Udorn Thani SEATO Trade School have started work at Udorn RTAFB in the first U.S. Air Force-sponsored summer hire program to be conducted in Southeast Asia.

"This program gives the students a chance to earn extra money during their summer vacation and to put into practice the skills they have been learning in school," said John H. McCleary, 452nd Combat Support Group civilian personnel officer.

The students, from 17 to 20 years old, will work 54 hours a week alongside Air Force technicians.

Thai students will be learning telecommunications, welding and sheet metal, construction, auto mechanics and electricity.

Ten teachers from the Trade School will work with the students serving as supervisors and liaison with the Air Force.

GIs Rave Over Those Long-Range Rations

S&S Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The American serviceman, without the benefit of a French chef or even a gentle assist from a mess sergeant, is becoming a gourmet in—of all places—South Vietnam.

And, according to the Defense Supply Agency (DSA), his new appreciation for good food has come about thanks to "Food Pocket, Long-Range Patrol, Individual."

DSA says the packet is getting

rave notices from combat men in the field. DSA, supplier of food to everyone in uniform, reports the relatively new, pre-cooked and dehydrated rations now in use in combat are drawing enthusiastic letters seldom heard in the military.

An infantryman wrote "These rations are the best chow over here. Keep up the good work." A marine felt that "It's the greatest thing since Ma's cooking."

As a result of their popularity and the Vietnam buildup, DSA plans to buy an estimated eight million rations this fiscal year.

The food packets have eight specific menus with three of each type meal packed in a moisture-resistant case. Simply by adding water, a varied, well-balanced, nutritious and familiar meal can be prepared by a soldier or marine in the field in anywhere from seconds to five minutes depending upon whether hot or cold water is used.

The olive drab camouflage packets feature menus like chicken and rice, chili con carne, spaghetti with meat sauce or pork with scalloped potatoes. They also include a confection, a cereal or fruit-cake bar, coffee, cream, sugar, toilet tissue and matches.

They cost \$1.74 each, have an average gross weight of only 11 ounces, and are an outgrowth of developments started five years ago by the Army.

U.S. Is Pressing for Neutral Viet Talk Site

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contacts," Tass said in describing Hanoi's reaction.)

Top Administration officials remained optimistic about eventual agreement on a location for initial "contacts" once Hanoi has derived as much propagand-

Johnson—

(Continued From Page 1)
meeting was postponed because of the violence that followed the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Johnson flew to his Texas ranch Friday for an Easter weekend of rest and preparation for the trip to Hawaii.

The President probably will fly to Hawaii from the ranch near Johnson City, Tex., on Monday, and will confer with Adm. U.S. Grant Sharp, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, and ranking staff officers of the U.S. Pacific Command headquarters.

Johnson's plans after his meeting with Park on Wednesday were not announced, but with Congress in Easter recess all next week, the President might be expected to return to Texas for a few more days of relaxation.

The White House said Johnson invited Park to Honolulu because he had not seen the South Korean president since the Pueblo seizure in late January.

The President asked Congress Feb. 8 for \$100 million worth of planes, anti-aircraft equipment, naval radar, patrol boats, ammunition and other military supplies to bolster South Korea's defenses against North Korean threats.

He then sent his special troubleshooter, Cyrus R. Vance, to Seoul to confer with Park. The South Koreans were reported to have been concerned that the United States, in dealing directly with North Korea for the release of the intelligence ship Pueblo and its crew, was paying too little attention to North Korean moves against the South.

Additionally, South Korea has nearly 50,000 troops in South Vietnam, the second largest Allied contingent next to the United States.

As a result, Seoul has sought assurances of American intentions to hold the line both in Vietnam and in Korea, and Park presumably will be eager to consult Johnson about recent peace initiatives with North Vietnam.

Pak Chung Hun, Korea's deputy prime minister for economic planning, is to arrive in Washington Saturday for a series of meetings with U.S. and World Bank officials.

da as it can from the U.S. refusal to meet "at any spot on earth" as President Johnson once said it would.

Officials, at the same time, disclosed that a formal U. S. reply was delivered to North Vietnamese representatives in Laos Friday declaring that Warsaw—the second location suggested by the Communists—did not meet President Johnson's insistence upon a truly "neutral" location.

This followed public rejection of the proposal Thursday by the White House in a statement charging Hanoi with seeking to play propaganda over the location and urging it to exercise "good faith."

Top Administration officials also said ambassador-at-large W. Averell Harriman, former deputy defense secretary Cyrus Vance and "three or four other officials" were ready to leave almost immediately once the site is selected.

As of Friday, a rundown on efforts to agree on a meeting place looked like this:

—The United States initially suggested Geneva or some other suitable neutral site.

—Hanoi countered with a suggestion of Phnom Penh the capital of Cambodia, indicating that it wanted an Asian location.

—Washington found Cambodia "unsuitable" because it has no diplomatic relations and thus no secure communications from there. It suggested New Delhi, Rangoon, Jakarta or Vientiane, the capitol of Laos.

—Hanoi came back with its Warsaw suggestion, which the United States has now turned down.

Some U.S. officials believe that Hanoi eventually will agree to Rangoon, although there are some rumors that the North Vietnamese may come back with a counter suggestion of Paris.

Administration officials, meanwhile, still are trying to explain why President Johnson, after having said at San Antonio last September that he would send a representative to any "spot on earth" to talk with the North Vietnamese, was now insisting on a truly "neutral" site.

Their argument appeared to boil down to this: When the President and Secretary of State Dean Rusk made such statements in recent years they were thinking of an essentially secret contact and were willing to undertake this anywhere. However, the publicity surrounding preparation for the initial Harriman "contacts" has been so great that the selection of a place has been invested with ideological significance not previously contemplated.



It just wouldn't be Easter without a bunny around—even in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta. A 9th Inf. Div. trooper cuddles the traditional Easter bunny while napping before going out on an operation. The rabbit had broken loose from a breeding pen. (USA Photo by Sgt. I.C. Paul Foley)

Pope Leads Pilgrims

(Continued From Page 1)
His eyes darkly ringed from the fatigue of this Holy Week, the pontiff put aside the cross and walked in the chill night air to the microphones.

His voice was feeble as he spoke of his emotion over the "cruel and humiliating crucifixion."

But it picked up power and animation as he came to his point:

"We are co-responsible for this sacrifice. Why? Because Jesus died for us. He died for our causes. We are morally tied to those who crucified him. It is for our sins that the Lord died." Meanwhile in Jerusalem, thou-

Rusk Remains In Hospital

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk, undergoing medical examination at Walter Reed Army Hospital, will remain there another day or two, press officer Robert J. McCloskey said Friday.

A member of Rusk's staff has carried papers to him to go over. McCloskey said it is uncertain at this time whether Rusk will accompany President Johnson to Honolulu next week.

Weather

Asian Weather Central
TOKYO AREA
Saturday Night: Fair; Low: 44
Sunday: Fair, Partly Cloudy; High 65
TEMPERATURES
April 12

H		L			
Bangkok	84	75	Naha	84	75
Chitose	50	17	Saigon	90	73
Guam	84	75	Seoul	54	30
Hakue	57	35	Taipei	61	55
Manila	91	73	Tokyo	54	46
	H	L		H	L
Albany	58	38	Memphis	78	46
Albuquerque	68	45	Miami	87	69
Amarillo	72	41	Milwaukee	73	32
Atlanta	67	41	Moscow	45	34
Birmingham	73	41	N. Orleans	77	49
Bismarck	84	35	NYC	57	47
Boise	67	56	N. Platte	84	31
Boston	49	40	Okla., City	78	45
Chicago	73	44	Orinda	85	48
Cincinnati	64	33	Paris	61	36
Cleveland	53	32	Phila.	64	44
Denver	74	35	Phoenix	83	57
Des Moines	85	43	Pittsburgh	55	32
Detroit	63	32	Port., O.	50	34
Duluth	78	31	Rapid City	82	41
Fargo	85	39	Reno	74	32
Fort Worth	76	46	Richmond	65	45
Honolulu	82	69	Singapore	84	75
Houston	75	58	St. Louis	74	42
Indianapolis	68	33	St. Paul	83	43
Jackville	77	56	Salt Lake	74	41
Jakarta	97	75	San Antonio	74	53
Kansas City	84	51	San Diego	70	59
K. Lumpur	91	74	San Fran.	59	49
Las Vegas	87	49	Seattle	53	36
London	45	39	Shreveport	80	48
L.A.	79	62	Sydney	78	59
Louisville	66	37	Tucson	77	56
Melbourne	90	63	Wash.	66	45

Hunt for King's Killer

FBI Pickup Order Called Error

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The FBI issued, then withdrew, a pickup order for Eric Starvo Galt, a Birmingham, Ala., white man, as the widescale search for the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., entered its second week.

Federal agents refused to say why they were seeking Galt.

But a bulletin distributed on the statewide police teletype network in Florida said Galt was driving a white Mustang. Witnesses in Memphis told investigators earlier they saw a

man in a white Mustang drive away from the rooming house from which King was shot.

At about the same time the pickup order was sent in Florida, federal agents in Atlanta impounded a white Mustang that had been parked since last Friday at a public housing project near the Georgia State Capitol.

The message, withdrawn with the explanation that it was erroneous, described Galt as a white male, 36-years-old, about 5-foot-11 and 175 pounds with blue eyes and brown hair.

This roughly matched the description circulated by federal authorities the night of King's

slaying.

Special Agent John Hanlon of the Miami FBI office, who withdrew the pickup order about four hours after it was issued, said "I cannot comment" when asked whether investigators were releasing the identity of a suspect in the King case.

The FBI in Memphis and Atlanta also refused to discuss the developments. And in Washington, an aide said Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark would have no comment.

However, Clark said Thursday night in New York that a progress report would be made to the nation soon on the man-hunt for the killer.

Attack—

(Continued From Page 1)
filtrated down the Ho Chi Minh Trail from North Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese overran some American bunkers on the perimeter of the base but were quickly repulsed in a crossfire of blazing machine guns, mortars and grenades.

Under the light of flares, Air Force fighter-bombers strafed and bombed the enemy troops, and artillery pounded them until they withdrew at daybreak.