

Senate Probers Bare Secret Message on Tonkin Incident

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Thursday it has a secret U.S. Navy message supporting Sen. Wayne Morse's contention that the American destroyers involved in the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident provoked an enemy attack.

Morse told the Senate Wednesday that the destroyer Maddox was "a spy ship" that incited a North Vietnamese attack on it and a sister destroyer, the Turner Joy, Aug. 4, 1964. He disputed Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara's statement that the ships were on a routine, nonhostile patrol.

A spokesman for the committee said its staff report includes a classified Navy cable suggesting that the destroyers were trying electronically to lure Communist naval vessels away from a South Vietnamese bombardment mission in the gulf.

The committee, headed by Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., is investigating circumstances surrounding the Tonkin incident, which prompted President Johnson to request and receive overwhelming congressional approval

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PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

★★★ EDITION

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Surgery Again for Lurleen

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Gov. Lurleen Wallace, fighting perhaps against a third outbreak of cancer, was stricken early Thursday and taken to a hospital for emergency surgery.

An aide said the 41-year-old governor, who had undergone two previous cancer operations in two years, was suffering from "an intestinal obstruction."

The latest surgery removed a tumor.

Lt. Gov. Albert Brewer gave that report about four hours after Mrs. Wallace entered surgery at Montgomery. He said members of the family had told him that a pelvic tumor had been removed and that Mrs. Wallace was doing well.

The decision to send Mrs. Wallace to surgery again came after seven hours of tests and diagnostic examinations at St. Margaret's Hospital. She was taken to the hospital in an ambulance at 5:30 a. m.

Her husband, former Gov. George Wallace, canceled a speech at Cape Kennedy, Fla., and remained at her bedside. Wallace, a third party candidate for president, was to have outlined his space program in the speech.

Whether there was any direct relation between the intestinal ailment and the governor's battle against cancer was not divulged. She has had malignant

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Old Glory Keeps Flying High off Hue

The American flag flutters from the mast of a U.S. Navy landing craft in the Perfume River. In the background, fire and smoke pour up from a burning boat and from an embattled sector of the Hue Citadel. Related stories on Pages 6 and 24.

(AP Radiophoto)

A New Kind Of Stamp Act

CRESTWOOD, Mo. (AP) — Loren Greason dropped a quarter into a stamp machine Wednesday and the machine kicked out 632 25-cent stamps worth \$158.

"Stamps just kept coming out," said Greason. "It didn't seem like it would ever stop. I just remember a string of green."

He said he was so excited he didn't remember whose picture was on the stamps. A postal clerk who put them back in the machine said it looked like Paul Revere.

LBJ Drafts 10-Year Program For 26 Million New Homes

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — President Johnson asked Congress Thursday to "set a far-reaching goal" to build 26 million new homes and apartments during the next 10 years.

This was the dramatic centerpiece of Johnson's longest special message to Congress this year, labeled "The Crisis of the Cities."

Johnson said the housing and urban development act he seeks would, among other things, re-

place six million "shameful substandard units of misery where more than 20 million Americans still live."

In the first five years of the program, Johnson said he wants \$2.34 billion of contracting authority to build or rehabilitate nearly 2.5 million housing units.

Some other key points in the cities program were proposals to:

—Authorize adjustment of FHA interest rate ceilings "to

reflect the economic realities of the financial markets." Similar to a recent administration call for flexible VA home loan interest the upshot would be to raise the FHA rates in this period of tight money.

—Establish a cooperative federal-state industry program to reinsure property insurance policies in high-risk city areas— notably those that might be targets of urban rioting—by char-

(Continued Back Page, Col. 3)

Coin Legend All Wet?

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — The Hagerstown Herald decided to test the legend of Washington's tossing a silver dollar across the Potomac.

Two young pitchers — Tom Elgin and Chris Raemer — were staked to \$1.50 worth of Kennedy half dollars each and taken to the Potomac River at Williamsport, Md.

Elgin, who has just been signed by the Washington Senators, and Raemer, a star high school pitcher, made the attempts at a point where the Potomac is 600 feet wide.

That's narrower than the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, Va., where Washington is supposed to have performed the feat as a boy.

Both pitchers succeeded in lofting the coins about 450 feet — but no farther.

Marines Capture Part of Hue in Citadel Attack

HUE (UPI)—U.S. Marines raised the American flag over the southeast corner of Hue's citadel Thursday, then fought their way west where another flag flew—the Viet Cong banner.

"Dammit, I'd like to get that thing down," said Brig. Gen. Foster C. La Hue, commander of American Leathernecks in Hue.

Death Toll At High For Week

SAIGON (AP)—The number of Americans killed in the Vietnam war climbed to an all-time high of 543 last week, and 2,547 were wounded, the U.S. Command reported Thursday.

The toll was for the Feb. 11-17 period, a time of bloody fighting 12 days after the Communists launched their lunar new year offensive. In the week that ended Feb. 3, 416 Americans were reported killed and 2,757 wounded, while the week after the report was 400 Americans killed and 1,494 wounded.

For the second week, the U.S. Command said enemy and South Vietnamese casualty figures were not available.

In a separate report, however, the South Vietnamese command said 2,687 government troops had been killed between the start of the enemy offensive Jan. 30 and 4 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 21, while enemy casualties in that period were 37,515 killed in action and 6,947 captured.

The new report raised U.S. casualties in the Vietnam war to 18,229 killed in action, 112,469 wounded, but the command said 52,641 of the wounded did not require hospitalization. The number of Americans missing or captured now totals 1,242, the command said.

Promise Trial For Suspects

DA NANG, Vietnam (UPI)—Viet Cong suspects in Hue will not be shot on sight but will be given a military tribunal, the commander of Vietnam's northern quarter, Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam said Wednesday.

Lam called a press conference to "correct" a statement made by the mayor of Hue, Col. Phan Van Khoa Monday in which he said all Viet Cong suspects would be shot on sight.

"All Viet Cong will be sent to a military tribunal and will have a trial. All looters will be shot on sight," Lam said.

The general said the problem of looting was very great with so many civilians displaced in the city. He stated that there had been few reports of military looting but that apparently some civilians had been involved.

Tug Boats Shelled

SAIGON (AP)—Communist gunners opened fire Thursday on two Filipino-owned tug boats towing a string of barges and killed three Filipino crewmen, the U.S. command announced.

Attacking as U.S. jets dropped bombs and napalm on the Communists ahead of them, La Hue's Marines captured the southeastern corner of the citadel in the 23rd day of the savage battle.

The old imperial city, a walled fortress lying between the southeast and southwest corners, was still in Communist hands. The tattered red and blue Viet Cong flag still flew as it has for more than three weeks.

By taking the southeast corner, the Marines also secured the northern end of the Nguyen Hoang bridge across the Perfume River running parallel to the south citadel wall.

It was the first time since the bridge was blown up that Marines on both sides of the river have been linked up.

The Marines then turned west toward the remaining Communist pocket in the imperial city and southwest corner. U.S. spokesmen said the citadel was now virtually surrounded, hopefully cutting off the Reds' supply links to the outside.

A spotter plane directing the air strikes was shot down by sheets of Communist ground fire at the height of the battle. The plane, with two men aboard, swooped down, then appeared to pull itself up before going down south of the Perfume River.

One of the plane's crewmen climbed out of the craft before it burst into flames.

Fresh Marine reinforcements, flown into the citadel by helicopter Wednesday, spearheaded the thrust southward as the U.S. Skyhawks and Crusaders belted the Communist emplacements in the imperial palace wall.

Meantime, South Vietnamese Rangers swept northeast up the Perfume River and ran into Communist forces playing havoc with U.S. Navy patrol boats and supply craft bringing fresh ammunition and food down from the South China Sea to the Marines.

A Navy patrol boat was hit by recoilless rifle fire in the same area and sank earlier in the day. There was no immediate word on the number of men aboard or casualties.

U.S. intelligence officers said less than a battalion of Communists remained in the imperial city and southwest corner.

Wounded Civilian Lauds GI Medic

WASHINGTON (AP)—When John L. Gardner, wounded in Vietnam, returns to Saigon he's going to look up a certain young Army medic because, he said, "I owe him a lot."

Recalling Wednesday the evening he was wounded and the help he got from the medic, Gardner said:

"I'm 35 and he's about 22 and he was a very calm guy. He was patting me on the knee and telling me to be calm."

Gardner, an economic analyst



'Smoke Signals' From Red Trucks

Smoke rises from Communist trucks during a F-105 Thunderchiefs in North Vietnam near the strafing attack by 388th Tactical Fighter Wing Demilitarized Zone. (USAF)

Red Leader Captured in Hue

HUE, Vietnam (AP)—An official source disclosed that one of the biggest Communist political figures ever taken prisoner in the Vietnam war was captured in Hue Wednesday.

The name of the prisoner was not revealed, but it is known that the chief of Vietnam's national police, Brig. Gen. Nguyen

Ngoc Loan, flew to Hue to question him. Loan later flew back to Saigon and the prisoner was flown to Saigon in another aircraft on Thursday.

The prisoner was said to be a senior political figure in the northern provinces during the recent uprising, and a member of the Buddhist struggle move-

ment of 1965-66. He was also said to be an intimate friend of the extremist monk, Trich Tri Quang, who was arrested in Saigon on Wednesday.

Officials sources claimed the prisoner had flown to Hue from Saigon just before the Jan. 31 Communist attack on the city.

Sources said he was flown to Saigon for interrogation rather than kept in Hue, where his importance might have prompted a Communist effort to free him.

The number of arrests in the South Vietnamese government's apparent crackdown on dissident elements climbed to 12 and perhaps more Thursday, the sources said.

A government spokesman disclosed the name of only one other person arrested, that of Ho Thong Minh, former defense minister in the first government of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem. Minh had lived in France since 1954, but returned to South Vietnam shortly before the Lunar New Year.

Informed sources said the orders for the crackdown came from high government levels—presumably either President Nguyen Van Thieu or Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky.

Enterprise in Viet

SAIGON (AP)—The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Enterprise, the world's biggest warship, returned to the Vietnam war Thursday after being diverted to Korean waters because of the Pueblo crisis.

The 85,000-ton carrier joined two other 7th Fleet flattops—Ti-conderoga and the Bon Homme Richard in the Gulf of Tonkin 100 miles off North Vietnam.

Saigon Food Prices Drop Back in Week

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Food prices in this capital city, which have soared as much as 100 per cent since the Communist Tet offensive began Jan. 31, have dropped back to about 17 per cent above their pre-Tet level.

The figures were announced by the U.S. Aid mission in Vietnam. The decline represents a 44 per cent drop over the previous week.

U.S. officials said the resumption of rice moving into Saigon from the delta and the strong emergency measures taken by the Saigon government have reversed the prices.

In many instances, rice, fruit and vegetables were sped into the Saigon area from the countryside with armed military escorts.

Reopening of Saigon's giant central market has also helped to alleviate the situation.

with the U.S. Agency for International Development, lay in a bed at Bethesda Naval Hospital as he told the story to reporters.

He is one of nine AID civilians injured since the Viet Cong began their offensive in the cities at the end of January and the only one so far to be returned to the United States for recuperation.

Gardner was in an incomplete building next to the Korean embassy in Saigon Jan. 31 when a Viet Cong in the building shot

down a stair well. One bullet went through his leg. He received seven other wounds from ricocheting bullets.

Gardner said he must have passed out in a third floor room of the building, and it was dark and quiet when he woke up. He yelled, he said, and the medic came in. A Viet Cong kicked the door open, and the medic shot the Viet Cong. Then the medic helped him get out of the building. Gardner knew only the medic's name, Bill Francis, of the 17th Field House,

Tunnel For Reds Ruined

CHU LAI, Vietnam (10) —A tunnel complex that stretched 1,500 feet beneath a Viet Cong village was uncovered 19 miles southeast of Chu Lai during Operation Muscatine.

It was the largest tunnel-bunker network discovered by units of Americal Div.'s 198th Light Inf. Brigade.

"With the tunnels and trenches here, the VC could have held this village against a battalion," Capt. Virgil Lee Cone of Creedmore, N.C., said after his company overran the enemy position and routed Viet Cong in a vicious half-day battle.

"They used the tunnel as an escape route," he said.

While infantrymen provided security, a 198th tunnel rat team led by 1st Lt. Jerry L. Bibb of Harrison, Ark., moved into the tunnel, explored its numerous entrances and exits, and mapped it.

When the tunnel had been mapped, brigade engineers blew it with 2,400 pounds of cratering charges.

Buffaloes, VC Cause 'Bad Night'

CU CHI, Vietnam (10)—Water buffaloes and Viet Cong with flashlights make for restless nights, according to one 25th Inf. Div. rifleman.

Spec. 4 David B. Posey of Tallahassee, Fla., had moved halfway to his position on a listening post when he "bumped into something."

As the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., trooper reached out to see what it was, the "something" snorted. "It felt, it smelled, and it sounded like a water buffalo," he said, so Posey made a quick detour and continued on his way.

"Then we passed a building and heard some mumbling, so we sent the interpreter inside to tell the people not to be afraid."

The interpreter cautiously entered the building, then left considerably faster: No people inside, just six water buffaloes.

Soon after the listening post team reached its position, Viet Cong armed with flashlights harassed the men.

"Later on, we spotted a man sneaking up on the position. We opened fire and next morning we found a blood trail," he said.

Leathernecks Prove Their Mettle

Cam Lo Battle Won Despite Odds

CAM LO, Vietnam (ISO)—It should have been an impossible battle — an understrength Marine rifle platoon against a reinforced North Vietnamese Army battalion. But the Leathernecks won.

They not only bettered the enemy at Cam Lo, but severely mauled the battalion while killing 111 NVA regulars and capturing 31.

The NVA abandoned more than 100 weapons on the battlefield and also left quantities of explosives and other equipment.

The fighting erupted with an NVA mortar and recoilless rifle assault on the Cam Lo district headquarters.

One day earlier, two squads of the Fourth Marine Regiment had taken over the defenses of the small outpost. Intelligence reports indicated that the headquarters might be attacked by an enemy unit of unknown strength during the Tet holidays.

"We took about 100 to 120 rounds of 82mm mortars right

off," said Capt. Raymond E. McMaken, of Macon, Ga., the deputy senior U.S. Army advisor in the Dam Lo district. "Then the communications bunker took a direct hit."

The round that pierced the communications bunker killed the senior Army advisor.

McMaken made his way to the bunker to adjust the artillery fires around the compound.

"I worked the arty right up to our wires," said McMaken. "We ringed the compound completely with fire."

"Between those tremendous Marines and the artillery, the compound was saved," he said.

Two Army quad-50 caliber machine guns on the southern perimeter were destroyed in the initial outburst of NVA fire. Then the Marine lines to the northwest were hit hard by rockets, recoilless rifle fire, heavy machine guns and small arms fire, then by NVA human wave-type assaults.

"The Marines just stacked

them up on the wires," said McMaken. "They were magnificent. They held the line and stacked the NVA in piles."

When one sector of the compound seemed certain of being overrun, five Marines rushed across the compound and took over a machine gun bunker. They got a 30 caliber machine gun into action and killed 15 NVA on the wires in front of them.

An enemy round struck their bunker, wounding all five, but they held their positions.

A Marine in the observation tower on the northwestern perimeter was firing into the massed NVA when an enemy bullet hit the barrel of his weapon. Another bullet pierced his flak jacket, but failed to harm him.

Lance Cpl. Lawrence M. Eades, of Portland, Ore., a company clerk with Combined Action Company-Papa at Cam Lo, demonstrated that he was an excellent machine gunner as well.

When the headquarters was attacked, Eades stacked 24 NVA on the wires in front of his gun position before the battle was over.

"When we were hit, I grabbed my M-16 and an M-60 machine gun and ran to my position on the northwest side of the perimeter," said Eades.

"You could see NVA all over the place, running back and forth along our defensive wires. Many were carrying crude Bangalore torpedoes or satchel charges.

"I set down the machine gun and began firing."

The enemy managed a 20-foot path through the wire. They were within 15 meters of the Marine lines, and threatening to overrun the perimeter.

According to Capt. Peter D. Haines, of Columbus, Ohio, the CAP company commander, Eades jumped upon the parapet and began firing into the enemy who had crept up to the Marine lines.

"I thought sure he'd be hit," said Haines. "He was silhouetted against a burning building. He stood right out there in the open and stacked the enemy on the wires."

Eades was wounded by enemy grenades, but stayed on the machine gun until a relief force arrived the next morning. Before dawn he had fired nearly 3,500 rounds of ammunition.

During lulls in the fighting, he carried bandages and ammunition to other Marines.

According to Eades, the enemy had crept so close, that he couldn't depress his sunsights enough to hit them. They had crept into a small hollow a few yards in front of him. The only way he could shoot them was to climb up above them and shoot down into the NVA.

Lance Cpl. Richard C. Wall, of Pleasant Grove, Utah, was another stalwart in the Cam Lo defense. He ran among his men, exposed to enemy fire, shouting orders to the fire team while firing into a hedgerow to his front and pitching grenades at the enemy.

When the firing slackened near daylight, the Marines redistributed their ammunition and patched up their wounds. Then a reaction force arrived, supported with tanks, to begin mopping up the battlefield.

Outside of a few Army advisors, some Marine engineers and the headquarters personnel of CACO-Papa, the platoon had been the only defense for the district headquarters.

The Cam Lo defenders had practically annihilated a company of North Vietnamese regulars.

According to Haines, the North Vietnamese had plans for a big celebration following their ill-fated assault.

"We captured an enemy flag with all of the unit officers' names penned on it," he said. "We also found a bugle on the battlefield."

Captured equipment included ten machine guns, two recoilless rifles, nearly 100 individual weapons, several hundred pounds of explosives, hundreds of Chi-com grenades and numerous intelligence documents.

New Brigade Chief

SONG BE, Vietnam (10) — Col. John W. Collins, III, Demopolis, Ala., was named commander of the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade in a ceremony here.



Not Exactly a Clean Sweep

Four paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Div's C Co., 1st Bn., 506th Inf., find the going wet and rough as they cross a swamp southeast of Phuoc Vinh. The 3rd Brigade paratroopers were conducting a search and destroy sweep in the area. (USA)

Little Richie Gets the VIP Treatment

DOWAGIAC, Mich. (UPI) — It was a very brief ceremony.

Eight-year-old Richie Hall leaned on his crutches as a man in uniform gave him a plaque and a letter of thanks for thinking of U.S. servicemen at Chu Lai, Vietnam.

Richie seemed almost embarrassed with all the attention and had little to say. About all he wanted to say was in a letter written to "a U.S. soldier."

Richie, who had his left leg amputated last October because of cancer, wrote to the servicemen in Vietnam in care of Gen. Charles Ryder of the Americal Div. at Chu Lai. He just wanted someone to answer him. Instead, he received more than 400 letters.

His letter to the soldiers just before Christmas read:

"Dear Whoever You Are, I'm eight years old and I know what it's like to be away from home. I haven't been as far from home as you are. But I wish and pray you could be home soon.

"I can't ever do anything to help you over there. But I know what you're doing for me and all of everyone back here. And we thank you, I write lots of letters every day. But I never wrote too far away before. I had my left leg taken off because I had cancer. I liked to get letters when I was away from home. So I hope you do too.

"I can't go to school but my teacher comes to my house. I

live on a farm and have two girl sisters and two boy brothers. I'm going to get my new leg soon. Maybe I'll get it before you write back.

"Please write back. But if you can't, I'll know why. I don't know you, but I love you for what you doing for me.

"God bless you and I'll pray for you and your friends."

His letter was distributed to the men of the 3rd Bn., 16th Arty., stationed at Chu Lai. The response was overwhelming and included the letter from Lt. Col. Warren M. Schauf, an aide to General Ryder.

"It is because of the many courageous boys and girls like yourself that our duties over

here have become more important and bearable. Please do not think you are unable to do anything for us over here," Schauf said.

"Your letter has been a great help and inspiration to us all. We hope you will be walking on your new leg very soon and you will once again join your friends at school. You will remain in our hearts and prayers," he wrote.

In addition to the ceremony in the Dowagiac Armory in front of the Dowagiac unit of the Michigan National Guard in full dress uniform, Richie has received a letter of thanks from President Johnson, a plaque from Ryder and several honorary military sleeve patches from units serving in Vietnam.

Jets Attack Hanoi Radio Propaganda Station

SAIGON (AP)—U.S. Marines' all-weather A6 Intruders have attacked the Hanoi Radio broadcasting station that beams out all Communist propaganda from the North, the American command announced Thursday. Sources monitoring Radio Hanoi said, however, it was still on the air.

It was the first such attack on the station, described by military spokesmen as the most powerful radio transmitting station in Southeast Asia.

The strike coincided with these other developments that indicated a sharp upsurge in both the ground and air wars:

—Air Force F105 Thunderchief fighter-bombers attacked another first-time target, a sprawling military storage area 41 miles southwest of Hanoi.

—American combat casualties soared to an all-time high last week with 543 men killed and 2,547 wounded.

—Official U.S. sources disclosed that a new Communist rocket, solely of Chinese manufacture and origin, has been used in the war for the first time.

—The same sources said elements of two Communist divisions are still menacing Saigon and some enemy forces are poised within six miles of the capital city of nearly three million people.

—With U.S. Marine jets bombing in front of them in a priority effort to end the 23-day battle for Hue, Marine infantrymen pushed 150 yards through the Fortified Citadel.

—Sources also disclosed that the North Vietnamese 324B Div. had moved from across the Demilitarized Zone southward to the area of Quang Tri city, another key provincial capital 34 miles north of Hue. Fifty thousand Communist troops were reported to be in or just on the

fringes of South Vietnam's two northernmost Provinces—Quang Tri and Thua Thien.

The attack Wednesday on the Hanoi Radio broadcasting station apparently was aimed as a blow against Communist propaganda claims.

The station is 3½ miles west-southwest of the center of Hanoi.

Monitors in Saigon said late Thursday afternoon that Radio Hanoi was still coming in "loud and clear" on all short-wave frequencies. Sources said, however, it was possible that some of the bombs from the A6 Intruders may have hit the medium wave transmitters apparently used to broadcast inside North Vietnam.

At the U.S. Marine base in Khe Sanh in the northwest corner of the country, sporadic Communist shelling went on.

Associated Press correspondent John Wheeler reported that one of the stronger ground probes of the Marine lines in recent days had been hurled back.

He said 100 Communist troops had advanced through a heavy fog toward a portion of the Khe Sanh perimeter manned by South Vietnamese Rangers. The fog lifted suddenly, exposing the advancing troops.

The Vietnamese Rangers opened up and cut down the enemy force with withering fire.

South of Saigon, it was disclosed that troops of the U.S. 9th Inf. Div. with helicopter gunship support had killed 60 Communists Thursday in the deepest penetration yet of the Mekong Delta by U.S. combat units.



Aegean Quake Refugees

A mother gives milk to child in a refugee camp on the Greek island of Ayios Evstratios in the northern Aegean Sea. An earthquake hit the island three days ago, killing 19. (AP Earthphoto)

Secret Message

(Continued From Page 1)

of a resolution approving any measures he deemed necessary to pursue the Vietnam War effort. The first U.S. bombing raids against North Vietnam followed six months later.

Fulbright says there is serious doubt whether the Maddox and Turner Joy actually were attacked by North Vietnamese torpedo boats the night of Aug. 4, and that McNamara has withheld secret information supporting this possibility.

McNamara says Fulbright's position is totally wrong, and that it is "monstrous" for anyone to suggest the incident was induced by the administration as an excuse to starting the bombing.

Morse, an Oregon Democrat, believes the two destroyers probably were attacked. But he says the United States was at fault in the incident because it was a "provocateur" in the gulf.

McNamara Thursday ordered Pentagon officials to rush their security review of the transcript of his private testimony before the committee Tuesday so it could make the document public as soon as possible.

Fulbright, who has said McNamara gave his panel a "one-sided and distorted view" of the Tonkin incident, told newsmen it would be early next week, probably Monday, before the trans-

cript as approved by the Pentagon could be reviewed by the committee and copied.

McNamara said "only the deletions necessary to safeguard intelligence collection" would be made by the Pentagon.

Morse's speech Wednesday was based, a committee spokesman said, on a cable sent to the Maddox Aug. 4 by the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

According to Morse, the cable said:

"The above patrol will: (a) clearly demonstrate our determination to continue these operations, (b) possibly draw NVN (North Vietnamese Navy) PGMS (patrol boats) to northward away from area of 34A ops, (c) eliminate De Soto patrol interference with 34A ops."

The term "34A ops" was defined in another Navy message as "South Vietnamese bombardments of North Vietnam," Morse said. McNamara has acknowledged that South Vietnamese torpedo boats shelled North Vietnamese radar installations on two islands in the gulf the night of Aug. 3-4, but that the Maddox and Turner Joy had absolutely no connection with the operation.

De Soto is the code name for the type of patrols the two destroyers had been assigned to carry out. McNamara said their task was to sail in international waters off the coast of Asian Communist countries "to learn what we could of military activity and environmental conditions in these parts of the world."

All such patrols, he added, were "primarily defensive" and the Maddox carried additional—but standard—radio gear for "detecting indications of a possible hostile attack on the patrol."

The Maddox's primary assignment was to observe North Vietnamese naval activity in the gulf, particularly regarding infiltration into South Vietnam, McNamara said. Any "more sinister purpose" did not exist, he added.

Morse said the two destroyers were on a "decoy operation." That is, he said, they were trying to draw North Vietnamese patrol vessels away from the South Vietnamese operation.

"The Maddox was a spy ship under instruction to stimulate the electronic instruments of North Vietnam to carry out a spying activity," Morse said. "That is not a routine patrol for a destroyer."

LBJ Picks Viet Deputy

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — The Texas White House announced Thursday the selection of a new deputy ambassador to South Vietnam and labeled as a "rumor" speculation that Henry Ford II might be in line for a major federal job.

President Johnson, who flew to his Texas ranch Wednesday night for a long holiday weekend, will nominate Samuel D. Berger, now a deputy assistant secretary of state, to take the Saigon post. He would succeed Eugene Locke, who resigned last month to seek the Democratic nomination for governor of Texas.

Johnson said before leaving Washington that he would be meeting during the weekend with Henry Ford II, chairman of the National Alliance of Businessmen which seeks jobs for 500,000 of the hardcore unemployed in big city slums.

Press Secretary George Christian said he did not know if Johnson would see Ford at the ranch or back in Washington.

LBJ Housing Plan

(Continued From Page 1) tering a national insurance development corporation within the department of housing and urban development.

—Permit insurance companies to defer taxes to the extent that they participate in the plan to provide property insurance in the high risk areas.

Johnson's blueprint was a long range one, calling for only relatively modest increases in federal outlays during the first year.

Reveal Threat Against Soviet Envoys in D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department disclosed Thursday that security precautions around the Soviet embassy were increased recently as a result of an anonymous threat against Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin and other Soviet diplomats.

The department did not speculate on any possible connection between the threat and a bomb that exploded in front of the embassy building early Wednesday.

President Johnson, who called the bombing "senseless," ordered the FBI, Army demolition experts, and Washington police to run down the perpetrator. There was no word on their progress, except that "several leads" were being followed.

The State Department said the threat against Dobrynin's life was contained in a letter re-

ceived at the end of January. It did not say who received the letter, but there were reports that it was sent to the White House.

As a result, the department said it alerted law enforcement agencies both in New York city and Washington.

"In consequence, security precautions were increased," the department's statement said.

Dobrynin was among several persons in the embassy at the time of Wednesday's pre-dawn bombing, but no one was injured by the blast. Windows were shattered and furniture was damaged.

The Soviet government charged the United States had not provided adequate protection for the embassy.

The Soviet Tass news agency has reported that the Soviet government on Feb. 15 asked the United States to take special security measures at the embassy and the State Department confirmed that this was substantially correct.

Weather

USAF Weather Central TEMPERATURES					
Feb. 22					
	H	L	H L		
Birmingham	90	74	Nash	57	50
Chicago	27	-5	Salt Lake	86	73
Cincinnati	41	23	Seattle	71	52
Dallas	37	20	Tampa	57	50
Denver	84	66	Tokyo	49	37
	H	L	H	L	
Albany	69	3	Melbourne	80	46
Albuquerque	42	4	Memphis	34	24
Ann Arbor	34	16	Miami	72	50
Atlanta	37	24	Minneapolis	19	3
Birmingham	30	29	Moscow	23	17
Bismarck	66	3	N. Orleans	65	36
Boston	59	43	NYC	21	05
Boulder	11	05	N. Platte	12	04
Chicago	23	05	Okla. City	26	16
Cincinnati	17	-6	Omaha	19	-4
Cleveland	10	23	Palms	89	71
Denver	45	14	Phoenix	75	48
Des Moines	15	-2	Pittsburgh	11	-6
Detroit	39	0	Port. O.	58	49
Duluth	99	-18	Rapid City	18	07
El Paso	65	-18	Reno	60	45
Fort Worth	31	13	Richmond	33	14
Hong Kong	53	46	Singapore	89	71
Honolulu	78	71	St. Louis	22	07
Houston	49	40	St. Paul	08	-11
Indianapolis	19	02	Seattle	44	37
Jackville	45	30	S. Antonio	61	35
Jakarta	87	73	San Diego	64	58
Kansas City	24	07	San Fran.	63	48
K. Lumpur	94	66	Seattle	55	49
Los Vegas	76	49	Shreveport	48	27
London	39	28	Sydney	78	69
Louisville	49	60	Tucson	76	48
Louisville	20	12	Wash.	28	09