

REDS DOWN C123

Fear 49 Dead at Khe Sanh

PACIFIC STAR AND STRIPES

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Friday, March 8, 1968

Rhodesia Hangs 3 Africans



AP Radiophoto

DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING SALISBURY HANGINGS CLASH WITH POLICE OUTSIDE LONDON'S RHODESIA HOUSE.

Compiled From AP and UPI

Rhodesia Wednesday hanged three Africans reprobated by Queen Elizabeth in an execution that may force a final showdown with Britain over independence.

Rhodesia's hangman, a cafe owner, had stood by at Salisbury's Central Prison since early morning to execute the three Negro Africans.

They were James Mlambo and Victor Khamini, convicted of murder in the firebomb death of a white motorist and Duly Shadrack, sentenced to hang for the murder of an African tribal chief.

Experts said the morning snap of the hangman's rope almost certainly foreshadowed an imminent severance of the last thin ties linking Britain with the white-ruled colony which (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Top Czech Political Officer Slips Out to U.S., Asks Asylum

WASHINGTON (UPI) —The top political officer in Communist Czechoslovakia's army has defected to the United States where he seeks permanent residence, the State Department said Wednesday.

The defection of Maj. Gen. Jan Sejna, who fled his homeland 10 days ago, was seen as a valuable windfall for U. S. intelligence officials.

Sejna, 40, is hidden away somewhere in the United States, apparently undergoing thorough briefings with U. S. officials.

State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey told reporters that Sejna left Rome Feb. 28 on a visitor's visa for

the United States and had requested permanent residence in America.

While McCloskey stopped short of calling Sejna a defector, other State Department officials said there was little practical difference in asking for permanent residence and political asylum.

Sejna was accompanied on his flight to the United States by his son, Jan, and his son's fiancée, Evzenie Musilova.

Sejna's wife was quoted in a Prague newspaper Sunday as saying that the girl had told her she intended to become Mrs. Sejna's "legal successor."

The State Department was

just as secretive about the route of the defection as it was of the Sejnas' whereabouts, but it was believed the three left Hungary where they had been visiting and traveled through Yugoslavia and Trieste enroute to Italy.

Mrs. Sejna said her husband told her he was going to visit relatives in Bohemia when he left home Feb. 25. "My husband did not arouse in me even the shadow of suspicion," she said. "He took only a dispatch case from home."

McCloskey said he could not predict whether Sejna would apply for U. S. citizenship.

Theoretically, an alien can (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

SAIGON (AP)—Military spokesmen announced Thursday that all 44 U.S. Marines and five Air Force crewmen were presumed dead on a C123 transport plane shot down by North Vietnamese gunfire near Khe Sanh.

The announcement was made as the Communists, for a fourth straight day, kept up harassing mortar and rocket shelling of airfields, military posts and population centers in scattered parts of South Vietnam.

Reports from Marine Headquarters at Da Nang, 110 miles southeast of Khe Sanh, said the stricken aircraft went down Wednesday about five miles east of the combat base in South Vietnam's northwest corner. The million-dollar plane was hit by .50-caliber machine gun fire, the reports said.

Several other transport planes and helicopters have been downed in and around the Khe Sanh perimeter.

The C123s known to the Marines as "Mortarmagnets" br- (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)

Salt Mine Fire Traps 21 in La.

CALUMET, La. (AP) — Twenty-one miners were trapped deep in the eerie caverns of a salt mine early Wednesday after fire broke out in a shaft and severed an elevator hoist.

The last word heard from the men, about midnight, was: "Pull up the cage!" After that, communications cables were burned and severed, leaving those on the surface unaware of their fate.

Emergency units swarmed into the remote marshy area bordering the Gulf of Mexico, where salt mining is a multi-million dollar industry.

State Police Supt. Thomas Burbank said troopers at the scene reported workers were trying to build another shaft in (Continued on Back Page, Col. 3)

'I'll Take Those' —And \$100,000

CINCINNATI (UPI)—All airport limousine chauffeur John Feucht did was give a passenger two suitcases. The man pointed toward them and said, "I'll take those."

Police reported \$100,000 worth of diamond rings, being handled by Morry Auerback, a salesman for the I.D.E. Co. Inc., of New York, were taken.

B52s Hammer Red Positions Near Khe Sanh

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—B52s made three separate raids on enemy positions around the besieged Marine outpost of Khe Sanh Tuesday.

Supply dumps, automatic weapons sites and enemy troop positions three miles south of Khe Sanh were the targets for evening B52 raids. The bombers returned to the general area later at night to strike at bunkers and bivouac sites. These raids followed an early morning attack on enemy troop positions two and eight miles west of Khe Sanh.

50,000 Reds Dead In 1 Month

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. officers said Wednesday the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong have lost 50,000 dead in their operations against cities and other major centers in South Vietnam from Jan. 30 until midnight Tuesday.

As against this, Americans killed were listed at about 2,000 and South Vietnamese at 4,000.

Figures for the wounded on both sides were not released, but the over-all losses of South Vietnamese troops killed, wounded and missing were placed at 9,754.

The South Vietnamese, a senior U.S. commander said, are working hard to rebuild their forces and already have inducted 14,000 new men.

The South Vietnamese, this officer said, have speeded up their training program, shortening the former 13-week training period to nine weeks.

"The future is a contest of rebuilding forces—the battle of the rebuild," he said. "And the enemy has a formidable task."

U.S. Releasing 3 N. Viets

SAIGON (AP) — The United States is releasing three North Vietnamese sailors, the U.S. Mission announced Wednesday. U.S. sources said they were being freed in exchange for the three American fliers released last month by Hanoi.

A spokesman for the U.S. Mission said the three Communist prisoners are from a group of 19 North Vietnamese seamen captured by the U.S. Navy off the coast of North Vietnam in July, 1966. Two of the group were released in the spring of 1967.

The spokesman said the mission has asked the International Control Commission to take the three prisoners to Hanoi on an ICC plane as soon as space is available.

Westy Clears Air on Command Shift

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commanding general of all U.S. forces in South Vietnam, said Wednesday the changing of command in the I Corps tactical zone was not a reflection on the U.S. Marine Corps and the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force.

In a statement to the press, Westmoreland said, "It has distressed me greatly to learn that some news articles have

The huge bombers also hit anti-aircraft sites, truck parks and infiltration routes 19 miles northwest of A Chau and 22 miles north northeast of Saigon during the day.

In the air war in North Vietnam, F105 Thunderchiefs from the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing silenced a surface-to-air missile site 24 miles north northeast of Mu Gia pass Tuesday. F4 Phantoms from the 8th TFW bombed a railroad yard 42 miles northwest of Hanoi Tuesday, but poor weather prevented an assessment of damage.

Storage areas and communication lines in the panhandle were attacked by other Air Force pilots during the day. The pilots reported destroying or damaging four storage structures and four barges. Roads were cut in five places by these pilots.

Meanwhile, carrier-based Navy A6 Intruders caused three secondary explosions and two fires in a truck park six miles north of Gio Linh, just north of the demilitarized zone. Three fortifications were also destroyed in the Navy raids.

The Intruders also bombed the Nam Dinh railroad yard 45 miles southwest of Haiphong and railroad sidings 10, 12 and 40 miles north northeast of Thanh Hoa. Poor weather prevented damage assessment, however.

Other A6 pilots cratered the approach to a highway ferry 38 miles southeast of Vinh and hit a boat yard 23 miles east northeast of Haiphong.

Marine pilots also bombed the Gio Linh area. They caused two secondary explosions at an artillery position in the DMZ, near Gio Linh. Five bunkers, nine miles from Con Thien were also destroyed by Marine pilots flying F8 Crusaders.

Col. Hood Takes Post

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO)—Col. Burton F. Hood Jr. has succeeded Col. Jasper J. Wilson as the 25th Inf. Div. chief of staff. Wilson has been reassigned as the deputy post commander at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

interpreted the changing command arrangements in the I Corps tactical zone as a reflection against the U.S. Marine Corps and the 3rd Amphibious Force."

Westmoreland said, "Contrary to these speculative news stories, I wish to make it absolutely clear that these arrangements are based on tactical and management considerations and have nothing to do with the performance of the Marines, which is, and always has been, excellent."

Westmoreland said in refer-



Villager or Viet Cong?

U.S. Marines check the credentials of a Vietnamese cyclist, at left, and of villagers on a heavily laden bus on a highway near Hue. (UPI)

Sees Hue, Not Khe Sanh, Next

SAIGON (AP) — A senior U.S. officer said Wednesday he believes the battle-ruined city of Hue and not Khe Sanh is the next objective of the North Vietnamese forces.

"I don't rule out an attack against Khe Sanh," the top-ranking military source said, "but my impression is that he (the North Vietnamese) has a greater interest in Hue."

"In my opinion, Hue is his next objective."

The senior officer, who asked that his name not be used, said the North Vietnamese also were interested in capturing Quang Tri City, capital of South Vietnam's northernmost province.

Like Hue and Khe Sanh, Quang Tri is in the frontier area where the North Vietnamese have deployed four divisions—about 40,000 men—plus some lo-

cal Viet Cong units.

The military source, who has access to highest intelligence information, said the North Vietnamese have "better than a division (more than 10,000 men) deployed around Hue."

The city, the 19th century imperial capital of Vietnam,

was captured by the Communists Jan. 31 in their lunar new year offensive against cities and towns. The allies recaptured it in the fiercest sustained battle of the war, which lasted through nearly all of February, but much of the city of 140,000 now is in ruins.

Vietnam Casualties

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

KILLED IN ACTION

- Army**
Pfc. Broadus D. Hilyer, Opelika, Ala.
Sgt. Raymond D. Burbage, Long Beach, Calif.
Spec. 4 John R. Stevenson, Walnut, Calif.
Spec. 4 Terry L. Vinge, Ventura, Calif.
Pfc. William D. Choi, Soquel, Calif.
Pvt. David R. Lehr, San Rafael, Calif.
Pvt. Richard D. Williams, San Bernardino, Calif.
Pfc. Leslie R. Lewis, Chicago, Ill.
Cpl. Randy C. Moore, Tralala, Ind.
Ssg. William L. Watson, Valley Station, Ky.
Sgt. Nathan L. Robinson, Harrodsburg, Ky.
Spec. 4 David Isom, Manchester, Ky.
Pfc. Frederick J. O'Connor Jr., Somerville, Mass.
Sgt. Dennis F. Gulch, Detroit, Mich.
Spec. 4 Wayne E. Pingel, Lapeer, Mich.
Pfc. David J. Link, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Spec. 4 Gerald F. Tracy, Dennison, Minn.
Pfc. Walter D. Falth, Berlin, N. J.
Spec. 4 Patrick Skeel, Gallup, N.M.
Spec. 4 Charles E. Rabena, Rochester, N. Y.
Spec. 4 Leon E. Waters Jr., Oneonta, N. Y.
Sgt. Duane H. Snyder, Fayetteville, N. C.
Pfc. William L. Newsome, New Rochelle, N. Y.
Pfc. Willie F. Shipman, Bladenboro, N. C.
Spec. 5 Roy R. Robinson, McArthur, Ohio.
Spec. 4 Robert L. Heard, Cleveland, Ohio.
Cpl. Frank J. Wolfe, Wescosville, Pa.
Sgt. Robert L. Simmons, Ridgeway, S. C.
Pfc. Noble Collins Jr., Seguin, Tex.

Navy

- SN Richard C. Adams, Woodhaven, N. Y.
Marine Corps
Pfc. Richard A. Huettner, Oceanside, N. Y.
Pfc. Samuel D. McInerf, McConnellsville, Ohio.
Pvt. Joseph M. Sinkewicz, Plymouth, Pa.

Air Force

- SSgt. Willard F. Hayes, Fayetteville, N. C.

DIED OF WOUNDS

- Marine Corps**
Pfc. Alan G. Floyd, Decatur, Ga.

MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

- Army**
Pfc. David J. Moncavage, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Sgt. Charles F. Strack, Santa, Calif.
Cpl. Larry A. De La Rosa Jr., Baldwin Park, Calif.
Spec. 4 Ronnie J. Eskew, Yuba City, Calif.
Spec. 4 Thomas H. Peterman, Montclair, Calif.
Spec. 4 Thomas C. Vaughan, Bell, Calif.
Pfc. Norton Z. King, San Diego, Calif.
Pfc. Frank D. Ortega, Saugus, Calif.
Pfc. Dennis E. Mussman, Denver, Colo.
Pfc. George G. Lescaubeau, Harford, Conn.
SSgt. Robert L. Mosley, Atlanta, Ga.
SSgt. Aleki Jeremia, Honolulu, Hawaii.
Pfc. Darryl W. A. Pointer, Gillespie, Ill.
Spec. 4 Barton W. Brooks, Clayton, Kan.
Pfc. Charles R. Horton, Louisville, Ky.

- Pfc. Donald D. Philbeck, Richmond, Ky.
Spec. 4 Anthony J. Henderson, Morganza, La.

- Pfc. Howard L. Painter, Muskegon, Mich.
Spec. 4 Joe H. Brown, Jackson, Miss.
Pfc. Robert L. York, Maple Shade, N.J.
Spec. 4 James H. Millich, Cornwall, N. Y.
Pfc. Frederick T. Williams, New York City.

- WO Kenneth D. Scott, Bear Creek, N. C.
SFC Jonathan R. Gaddis, Fayetteville, N. C.

- SSgt. Clifford C. Sims, Fayetteville, N. C.
Pfc. Roger D. Alberts, Fort Totten, N. D.
SSgt. Ronald L. McCollum, Shreve, Ohio.
Spec. 4 Donald T. Ewall, Parma, Ohio.
1Lt. John C. Martin, Newton Square, Pa.
Pfc. Terrence E. Fedor, Allentown, Pa.
1Lt. Terance M. Bozarth, Beech Island, S. C.

- Pfc. Silas E. Gibson, Greenville, S. C.
Pfc. James L. McCoy, Trenton, Tenn.
Sgt. Larry D. Neasbitt, Garland, Tex.
Sgt. Aurelio R. Roman Jr., Edroy, Tex.
Spec. 4 George W. Rushing, Conroe, Tex.
Pfc. Jose A. Saldivar, El Paso, Tex.
Pfc. Rayfield Williams, Dallas, Tex.
Spec. 4 Leonard M. Phipps, Renton, Wash.
Pfc. Gearwin P. Tousey, Green Bay, Wis.

Marine Corps

- Sgt. Thomas F. Young, Hot Springs, Ark.
Cpl. David F. Schneider, Avon, Ohio.

MISSING IN ACTION

- Army**
Maj. Michael J. McGinnis.
1Lt. Roger R. Hertel.
Spec. 4 Patrick H. Downey.
Spec. 4 Jerry D. Evans.
Spec. 4 Richard J. Faulkner.
Spec. 4 Willie L. James.
Spec. 4 James E. Murray.
Spec. 4 Edward Singleton Jr.
Spec. 4 Melvin U. Wanageshik.
Spec. 4 Albert Ward.
Pfc. Gerald W. Allen.
Pfc. Douglas M. Bacot.
Pfc. Gold C. Betteyoun.
Pfc. Douglas J. Burdick.
Pfc. Earl E. Parker.
Pfc. Michael D. Sheahan.
Pvt. Edward J. Torin.

Air Force

- Maj. Crosley J. Filton Jr.
Maj. Gilbert S. Palmer.
Capt. Cleveland S. Harris.
Capt. Thomas T. Wright.

Navy

- SN Larry E. Sinks.

DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

- Army**
Sgt. Elvoin E. Nious, San Francisco, Calif.
Spec. 4 Thomas A. Eckl, Pomona, Calif.
Col. Jack G. Krider, Carbon, Ind.
SSgt. William E. Boone, New York City.
Spec. 4 Nicholas P. Lligomari, Jamestown, N. Y.
Spec. 5 Launey E. King, Fayetteville, N. C.
WO William R. Hight, Charleston, S. C.
SSgt. Forrest F. S. Splitter, Denbigh, Va.

MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE

- Army**
CWO Roy B. Parsons, Daleville, Ala.
WO Stephen J. Cohen, Miami, Fla.

CORRECTION

- TSgt. Albert H. Kehrl, USAF, Change Name to read: TSgt. Herbert A. Kehrl.

For Khe Sanh, This Was a Very Good Day

By PETER ARNETT

KHE SANH, Vietnam (AP)—It was a very good day at Khe Sanh. Anywhere else in the world it would have been hellish.

It was a good day because the grimy U.S. Marines who man the Khe Sanh bunkers were expecting the worst. The worst at Khe Sanh can be very bad.

Here was what happened on one very good day.

It began with a flash message to the embattled combat base from the 3rd Marine Div. Hq. at coastal Phu Bai. Unit commanders were told to pass on the word.

"We will be hit with heavy enemy artillery fire at 9 p.m." Lt. (j.g.) Martin J. Lux, 26, told his Seabee detachment. "This will be followed by a heavy ground attack. You must take this seriously. This is the first time we have received a flash of this nature."

The young Seabees pulled on their helmets and flak vests, offered M16 rifles to newsmen sharing their bunker, and crouched down. Two hours to wait.

A Seabee voice spoke up. "There's 6,000 of us, 40,000 of them. Let's kill our seven each and go back to bed."

Another voice said, "I hope they knock out the front end loader and the forklift. I'm tired of working those machines."

A telephone jangled. It was the lieutenant. The base had gone on red alert. This was the second red alert in one month and it meant that enemy troops were massing.

The Seabees fell silent.

Beyond the thinly sandbagged trench lines of the Khe Sanh perimeter, red and white lights bobbed down a ridgeline. "By God, they don't even care about being seen," a Seabee sentry said.

Mortar rounds splashed out into the ridge, the lights continued meandering into a valley, 500 meters from the southern perimeter.

The attack came, but at midnight, not at 9 p.m., and it was a Sapper battalion, not the two infantry divisions known to be lurking amidst the gray-green Khe Sanh hills.

In his red dirt trench on a knoll outside the southern perimeter, Capt. Walter Gunn, a lantern-jawed, rangy U.S. Adviser, clung to the earth as his exposed position came under a rain of mortar and rocket fire.

The Vietnamese Rangers Gunn advises were grafted on to U.S. Marine lines one month ago. The Communists had tunneled to within 50 meters of their perimeter wire during the weeks of fog and rain.

The Sappers lashed into the Vietnamese positions in the main attack.

Rockets flying red tails whirled into the base. A direct



Marine observers in a forward position at the Khe Sanh combat base keep an eye on the "no man's land" to their front where

Communist besiegers have been digging trenches to within 100 yards of the base. (UPI)

mortar hit hardly scarred the six-foot deep rock roof on the Seabee bunker. A direct artillery hit in Marine lines at the northwest corner killed five Marines.

The red alert continued until two o'clock. By then initial scare reports of Communists inside the wire had proven erroneous. The Vietnamese Rangers were slugging it out bullet for bullet with the attacking Sappers but no major ground attack seemed imminent.

The Seabees breathed easier. The whole combat base seemed to relax with a collective sigh. The worst had not come. It was a good night.

Dawn slipped in through cracks in the heavy mist. It brought the whomp of a Communist 130mm howitzer battery that resides in the Co Rac mountains inside Laos 17,000 yards to the west beyond Marine artillery range. The Marines prefer the artillery to mortars. The whomp of the shell firing gives them a split second to duck, and that is usually enough.

Gunn surveyed the triumphant smiles of the acting Ranger battalion commander, Lt. Truong Thuoc, who had received a report that 70 Communist bodies were lying over the small ridge 100 meters distance, outside the wire. Only a handful of Rangers were hurt.

Gunn asked questioningly, "seventy?" The Vietnamese lieutenant smiled. "If you don't believe us Captain, go out and check for yourself."

No Americans are allowed outside the Khe Sanh wire because it is too dangerous.

"I believe you Trung Uy (lieutenant)," Gunn replied.

Three Rangers stood up from their bunkers and greeted the morning with a stretch. An automatic weapon cracked out from the near ridge. Two fell, seriously wounded.

"That's the trouble with this place, stand up and you get blown away," Gunn muttered, rubbing the thick stubble on his chin.

An Air Force C-130 transport plane flew over the base to airdrop supplies. Mortars exploded, ground fire crackled around it. Cargo parachutes fluttered out. The plane was safe.

Khe Sanh Base Commander Col. David E. Lownds, 47, held his 11 a.m. briefing for a handful of newsmen. As he began to speak, mortars cracked 70 yards away, and he beckoned everyone inside his deep bunker.

This was the fourth briefing in a row interrupted by mortars. But Lownds was happy.

"Well, last night was not their best effort," he said of the Communist attack. "I don't believe

we will get off that easy. We discovered a lot of movement in the trenchlines around the base in the early evening, people moving out there. I thought it would be a sizable attack. He hit in three places. But the biggest is yet to come. It was a good night."

A few minutes later Lownds was told that an enemy rocket that landed in the perimeter wire at the northwest edge of the base had uncovered a deep newly dug tunnel that ran under Marine lines. He had one more worry to add to his burdens.

In the early afternoon a Special Forces patrol returned from a nearby ridgeline where a U.S. Marine platoon was wiped out a week earlier. The bodies of the dead Marines were still out there. The patrol, made up of Montagnards, reported the Marines' dog tags, rifles and gas masks were taken by the Communists.

Another aircraft, this time an Air Force C-123 transport, ground onto the airstrip. Rushing to board was Hugh Van Es, a young Dutch soundman for NBC (National Broadcasting Company). The aircraft moved up the runway with a burst of speed, gripped at the sky, then twisted to the south and smashed into a row of bunkers.

Van Es and the other nine on

board scrambled out through a tiny window, scratched and bleeding. The mortar that had knocked the aircraft from its course slapped in three more rounds, wounding both pilots, three television correspondents who had run to the scene, and a half-a-dozen Marines.

A Marine officer watching the blazing plane commented, "That's half a million dollars down the drain. But we saved everyone aboard, the first time we have done that in a dozen wrecks. This is fine."

Night slowly descended on Khe Sanh, erasing the shell-pocked roads, the splintered buildings, the carcasses of helicopters, planes and jeeps.

In the deeper bunkers where no natural light penetrated, night and day have no meaning. The meaning down there is the thump of the incoming shells and the continuing wonder if the stout roofs can survive a direct hit from the heavier enemy guns.

In one such bunker Seabee Lt. Lux informed his men that another red alert had been posted, that attack could be imminent.

"Just cross your fingers," Lux said, his youthful face crinkling into a grin under his steel helmet. "We survived today. Today was a very good day. Let us hope tomorrow is as good, no worse."

602 Reds Come Over

SAIGON (AP)—Six hundred and two Viet Cong and North Vietnamese turned themselves over to the South Vietnamese government since the Tet offensive, it was reported.

The government Ministry of Chieu Hoi, or open arms, reported that 217 of the turncoats came in between Jan. 29 and Feb. 4. The Communist Tet offensive was launched Jan. 31. The following week produced 264 "returnees" and 121 were reported for the week Feb. 12-18.

The total for the year up to Feb. 18 was reported at 1,781.

U.S. Disputes Radio Hanoi

VC 'Tet Victories' Called Lies

SAIGON (UPI)—The U.S. military command in Vietnam has issued a statement disputing Radio Hanoi's claims of "unprecedented successes" during the Tet offensive.

Attempting to show U.S. forces in a critical situation in Hue, Radio Hanoi reportedly broadcast on Feb. 27 that Communist forces had "put out of action over 10,000 enemy troops and captured over 1,000 others."

However, the U.S. command

said total allied casualties were 490 killed and 2,252 wounded, including 124 Americans killed and 1,008 Americans wounded. "Known enemy losses during the same period were 4,393 killed and 1,123 individual and 146 crew-served weapons captured," the statement said.

It also described as false Hanoi Radio's claim on Feb. 23 that "patriotic army men in the puppet 629th Civil Guard Company, garrisoned at the Lu Te

Airfield in Can Tho, on 16 Feb. revolted and coordinated their action with the revolutionary armed forces in assaulting the enemy there, wiping out more than 300 enemy troops."

The U.S. statement said: "There is no 629th Civil Guard Company. The regional forces unit at Can Tho did not revolt but rather materially assisted in the defense of Can Tho when it came under enemy small arms, automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire."

S. Viet Air Bases Busiest in World

SAIGON (OI)—Three United States bases in South Vietnam topped the air traffic control operations last year at the largest United States commercial air terminal—O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Air Force Communications Service headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill., listed Bien Hoa's operations at 753,823, Da Nang's at 714,380 and Tan Son Nhut's 648,137. O'Hare officials counted 645,878 during 1967.

Senate Votes Ban On Transporting Riot Explosives

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate adopted an amendment to the Civil Rights Bill Wednesday which would make it a federal crime to transport across state lines molotov cocktails and other explosives for use in riots.

The senators killed a second proposal which would make it a federal crime to engage in sniping, shooting, destroying property or other violence in a riot.

McCarthy Scores in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (UPI)—Minnesota's "concerned Democrats" Wednesday claimed a major victory for Sen. Eugene McCarthy in his first national showdown against President Johnson.

Support for the peace candidate at Democratic-Labor party precinct caucuses Tuesday night stunned party regulars in the home state of Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Nearly complete returns showed McCarthy captured the three congressional districts in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, entitling him to at least 15 of the state's 62 delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Defects—

(Continued From Page 1)

live in the United States indefinitely, but the political background of the Czech officer may require him to try to divest himself of Czech citizenship and adopt American nationality.

Permit Arabs to Vote

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Arabs of East Jerusalem will be permitted to vote in the coming elections to the Jerusalem municipality, Justice Minister Shimshon Shapira told the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. There are several East Jerusalem Arab councillors on the Holy City's municipality. They joined when the city was united June 28 last year.

Sen. Russell B. Long, D-La., author of both proposals, urged the Senate to adopt them if, as he put it, it wants to do something about such militants as H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael.

The ban on transporting or manufacturing "in commerce" any firearm, explosive or incendiary device for use in civil disorders was adopted by a vote of 72 to 23.

It was made a part of the Civil Rights-Open Housing Bill on which the Senate has been working since Jan. 18.

The Senate amended the open housing section of its bill Wednesday to require that charges of discrimination must be based on bona fide offers to buy or rent a house or an apartment.

Sen. Gordon Allott, R-Colo., author of the amendment, said bona fide meant that a buyer must be "ready, willing and able to perform."

His amendment was one of three quickly adopted at Wednesday's Senate session to the part of the bill that would make it unlawful to refuse to sell or rent a dwelling because of race, color, religion or national origin.

Ship Ablaze In North Sea

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—The 10,900-ton freighter Bavaria was rocked by explosions in the North Sea Wednesday night as fire swept through its holds.

The Bavaria reported its cargo of general freight and chemicals was ablaze.

Radio Norddeich—a ship's radio station—which picked up the first distress call to "send all help and assistance" said part of the ship was an inferno. A series of explosions below deck had spread the fire.

The crew was fighting to keep the blaze confined to the holds, but the fire was "very fierce and breaking out to the decks."

There were no reports of any injuries.



A Marine at Khe Sanh digs a little deeper push, while his buddies man a machine gun stop in preparation for a long-expected Communist the bunker. (AP Radiophoto)

Trapped—

(Continued From Page 1) an attempt to reach the isolated men.

"We believe that the fire is out now," a spokesman for Cargill Salt Mines said at mid-morning. "We did have a fire which damaged a hoist, and that's why we can't get the men out."

At its headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn., a Cargill spokesman said its safety director, Roy Gretzer, reported that emergency oxygen equipment, masks and lighting was situated in the mining area where the men were located.

Gretzer said the Federal Bureau of Mines, whose nearest location is Dallas, had been informed and that an emergency crew from the bureau was preparing to go to the scene.

The Cargill spokesman said the night crew superintendent had called from the mining level about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and reported a fire in the shaft, presumably near the cage lift.

Rescue units expected it would take several hours to reestablish communications, since it was not known exactly where the men were stranded. Shafts reach to different depth levels and the miners could be as deep as 1,200 feet.

Cargill's area headquarters is in Calumet, but the mine is located 14 miles south in the marshes reachable only by boat or airplane. New Orleans is about 120 miles northeast of the area.

Reds Down C123

(Continued From Page 1) cause each time one lands on the Khe Sanh airstrip it draws fire from the entrenched Communists, are used to ferry in supplies and ammunition.

The transport planes also ferry fresh troops into the base and bring out those whose tours are up.

The downing of the plane came as North Vietnamese shelling of the beleaguered combat base appeared to be easing. During the past 24 hours the Marines reported a total of 100 incoming rounds, a far cry from the massive poundings which have gone as high as 1,307 rounds in a day.

In other war action, South

Vietnamese Military Headquarters reported at least three more Communist mortar shellings early Thursday.

One bombardment of an undetermined number of mortar rounds landed in the city of Ca Mau, capital of the southernmost province of South Vietnam.

The spokesman said casualties had not yet been determined but that a number of civilian homes had been burnt.

From South Vietnam's central highlands, Associated Press photographer Joe Holloway reported a day-long fight between government soldiers and a Viet Cong force less than seven miles north of the Montagnard city of Ban Me Thuot.

The fighting near Ban Me Thuot was one of several sharp ground clashes between U.S., South Vietnamese and Communist forces. Official Communiques released by Allied commands listed nearly 500 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops killed since Tuesday.

U.S. losses were reported as 13 killed and 54 wounded; government casualties were described as light.

Russ Harass U.S. Fisher

CAPE MAY, N.J. (AP)—The Coast Guard ordered an armed cutter on special patrol Wednesday following an incident in international waters between a large Russian fishing trawler and a small American fishing boat.

The Coast Guard said 36 fishing trawlers moved in close to the American vessel, the 42-foot Sun Pal, and one crossed its lines and severed them.

A Coast Guard spokesman said the incident occurred Tuesday about 17 miles south of Cape May and outside the 12-mile fishing territorial limit of the United States.

Defiant Rhodesia Hangs 3 Africans

(Continued From Page 1) declared independence unilaterally 27 months ago.

A police major held the unsigned execution announcement, while a captain nailed it to the Central Prison door at 9:34 a.m.

In London, Britain is urgently considering bringing murder charges against key Rhodesian rulers and the hangman, the government disclosed Wednesday.

Commonwealth Secretary George Thomson told a tumultuous session of the House of Commons that Britain's Attorney General, Sir Elwyn Jones, "is giving urgent consideration" to all the legal implications of the executions.

Laborite questioner Andrew Faulds had asked specifically if the British authorities would seek to punish—even with the death penalty—the "judges, officers of the so-called government of Southern Rhodesia, the wardens and the hangman."

Thomson replied: "All those matters are for the attorney general and, as I have already indicated, he is giving them urgent consideration."

In a chamber seething with scarcely-contained anger, leading spokesmen of Britain's three main parties—the ruling Laborites, the opposition Conservatives and the mid-road Liberals—joined in condemning the action of the Smith regime in hanging the Africans and in defying the royal reprieve.

A mile from the Westminster Parliament a posse of 40 mounted and foot police stood guard outside the Rhodesian Mission where banner bearing demonstrators paraded their protests against the executions.

The decision to go ahead with the hangings came after a seven-hour meeting of Premier Ian Smith's cabinet in Salisbury Tuesday to discuss the consequences of the high court's ruling Monday that Queen Elizabeth's prerogative of granting mercy to the three was ineffective in Rhodesia.

Defiance of the royal reprieve, experts said, would almost certainly mean the last break between Britain and Rhodesia, which still recognizes the queen as head of state and pays tribute to her as "Queen of Rhodesia."

In Washington, the United States officially deplored the execution.

Weather

USAF Weather Central
TOKYO AREA
Thursday night: Mostly cloudy; Low 40s
Friday: Cloudy, rain; High 59

TEMPERATURES			
March 6, 1968			
	H	L	
Bangkok	91	75	Naha
Chitose	37	34	Saloon
Guam	90	79	Seoul
Honolulu	64	34	Tripoli
Manila	90	77	Tokyo
	H	L	
Albany	43	30	Memphis
Albuquerque	62	32	Miami
Anchorage	56	39	Milwaukee
Atlanta	63	27	Moscow
Birmingham	63	24	N. Orleans
Bismarck	50	27	NYC
Boise	62	45	N. Platte
Boston	43	32	Omaha City
Chicago	55	36	Omaha
Cincinnati	64	30	Paris
Cleveland	48	24	Phin.
Denver	67	24	Phoenix
Des Moines	50	40	Portland
Detroit	48	22	Rapid City
London	51	26	Reno
Fairbanks	24	-5	Richmond
Fargo	39	32	Singapore
Fort Worth	62	38	St. Louis
Hong Kong	74	58	St. Paul
Honolulu	65	70	Salt Lake
Houston	56	46	S. Antonio
Indianapolis	57	28	San Diego
Jackville	70	27	San Fran.
Jakarta	77	77	Seattle
Kansas City	60	39	Shreveport
K. Lumpur	74	66	Sydney
Las Vegas	79	42	Tucson
London	50	36	Wash.
L.A.	74	57	
Louisville	64	35	
Melbourne	70	50	