

Faces Senate Panel

Clifford Defends Military Aid

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Sunday, May 19, 1968

Quake Area Still in Peril

By PHILIP KEN IRELAN
S&S Staff Writer

MISAWA, Japan—Northern Japan was clearing away the rubble and counting its dead and injured Saturday in the wake of the world's worst earthquake since 1964.

Possibilities of rain and near-freezing temperatures, coupled with continuing tremors, threatened to plunge the hard-hit region into new misery.

The toll as of Friday midnight stood at 44 dead, 246 injured, six missing. More than 1,200 are homeless.

Small shocks were still shaking the countryside and fog was

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hampering efforts to find six persons believed buried under collapsed buildings in nearby Hachinohe city.

Weathermen in Tokyo were predicting rain and temperatures in the low and mid-30s for northern Honshu Saturday night. Asian Weather Central at Fuchu Air Station said there was the possibility of two inches of rain in the area.

The earthquake Thursday morning, and a second of only slightly less intensity that evening, were the worst since the Alaskan disaster four years ago. (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)



Airmen at Misawa Air Base unload part of the earthquake relief supplies that began pouring in Friday. The first plane load of blankets and food for local citizens was followed by fresh water and water purification equipment. (S&S photo by Hideyuki Mihashi)

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Defense Secretary Clark Clifford urged Congress Friday to approve the Administration's \$420 million military aid program.

Clifford told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that deep cuts in U.S. military aid "might be misinterpreted by some as a general retreat from our commitment to the maintenance of an effective collective security."

It was the secretary's first appearance before the committee since he succeeded Robert S. McNamara on March 1.

The panel is expected to make sharp cuts this year in President Johnson's \$2.9 billion aid program for the fiscal year beginning July 1. There is substantial opposition to the \$420 million part of the authorization. (Continued on Back Page, Col. 5)

Allies End A Shau Operation

SAIGON (UPI)—Allied troops Friday ended a sweep through the Communist-controlled A Shau Valley while U.S. Marines in another valley battled an estimated 600 entrenched North Vietnamese.

A U.S. general disclosed that American and South Vietnamese troops had withdrawn from the 25-mile-long A Shau stronghold, taking with them a vast array of captured supplies.

"We are going to keep the entire area under interdiction," Lt. Gen. William Rosson said. "But because of the remoteness of the valley, extreme difficulty of the terrain and adverse weather, we would not wish to retain a permanent post there at this time."

Rosson estimated the North Vietnamese had the ability to (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Russ Premier Visits Czechs

PRAGUE (UPI)—Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin arrived unexpectedly Friday night by plane for talks with leaders of the reformist Czech regime "on questions interesting both sides."

Kosygin was the latest in a series of Kremlin visitors to Prague, where Communist Party Chairman Alexander Dubcek is

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leading his country on an increasingly independent path.

Soviet Defense Minister Andrei A. Grechko arrived Friday to see whether Czechoslovakia had any plans for pulling out of the Warsaw Pact alliance of Soviet bloc nations.

Grechko said merely that he wanted to "get acquainted with the new leadership," according to official Czech sources.

N. Viet Bars Compromise on Bombing

PARIS (AP)—North Vietnam Friday night refused any compromise on the issue of a complete halt to U.S. bombing of that country. The stand posed the prospect of a deep stalemate in U.S.-North Vietnamese preliminary peace talks.

With the talks resuming Saturday after a two-day recess, a North Vietnamese delegation spokesman said ambassador Xuan Thuy would again demand that the Americans stop the bombing and other acts of war against the North.

The United States insists that an end to the bombing must be matched by some form of decrease in North Vietnam's contribution to the Viet Cong war in South Vietnam.

The U.S. delegation declined to be committed to any specific formula for a total end to the bombing, but it has tied such

action closely to a demand for a significant letup in North Vietnam's infiltration of men and supplies to the South.

Hanoi, the delegation spokesman said, intends to hold out for a bombing halt indefinitely. Early Friday evening Soviet

Ambassador Valerian Zorin called at the Hotel Lutetia where Thuy and his delegation are staying. The Soviet Union is represented as hopeful of a positive result from the talks.

William J. Jordan, spokesman for the U.S. delegation,

Taylor-Made Diamond

NEW YORK (UPI)—Elizabeth Taylor needs a million dollars worth of jewelry to show off her assets like the Egyptian pyramids need all that sand.

But her husband, Richard Burton, says his glamorous wife occasionally does wear diamonds and other gems worth that much.

On Thursday, the actress ad-

ded yet another bauble to her collection.

The latest acquisition was a ring sporting a 33.19 carat white diamond bought at auction for \$305,000.

The emerald-cut gem once belonged to the estate of Vera Krupp, widow of West German industrialist Alfred Krupp.

A gallery spokesman described the diamond as "one of the world's most perfect stones."

told correspondents a North Vietnamese agreement on any one specific point—for example on restoration of the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam—would not be enough to justify an end to all military action against the North.

This gives the Americans some room to maneuver. Jordan emphasized this by disagreeing with a questioner that restoration of the buffer zone—where heavy concentrations of North Vietnamese troops now operate—would bring an end to the bombing.

"I would say that the condition for the cessation of the bombing would have to be based on the total situation prevailing at the time," Jordan said, adding that such a decision would have to be made personally by the President.

Thai Chief Defends Allied Presence

TOKYO (AP) — The need for foreign troops in Thailand will be determined by considerations of "the peace and security of the entire world," not merely by the situation in Vietnam, Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn said Friday.

The former Thai field marshal addressed the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan near the end of a world tour that took him to Europe, Latin America and the United States.

Asked if he considered the presence of some 50,000 American troops now in Thailand necessary after the Vietnam war ends, Thanom said, "The presence of U.S. and other foreign

troops like the Australians is now required by the realities of Southeast Asia."

He said a present agreement permitting stationing of U.S. forces in Thailand "is valid for the duration of the war in Vietnam."

"As for the future, we will cross this bridge when we arrive at it. We have to consider the peace and security of the entire world."

Thanom called Communist expansion plans in Asia "a new brand of colonialism, a reenactment of Western colonial ventures. Though the principal actors have changed, the newcomers prove to be, if anything,

more ruthless and determined."

Besides Vietnam, Thanom said, "We all see what has been taking place against India, Indonesia, Burma, Laos and Cambodia, as well as Thailand."

The prime minister said his government enjoyed cordial relations with most major powers.

"The only exception is Communist China, whose expansionist schemes and intrigues have in fact isolated herself from the rest of the world," he said.

However, he said, "We have not given up hope and look forward to the day when Commun-

ist China will see the wisdom of returning to the fold of the family of nations and renounce the threat or use of force as a means of national policy."

Thailand, Thanom said, is economically and socially sound "primarily by our own internal efforts."

"Whatever guerrilla problems we have in some parts of . . . Thailand, the Thai government has relied exclusively and will continue to do so . . . on its own forces. We have achieved a measure of success and the situation is now under control."

Report MIG Destroyed

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. Navy pilots reported Friday destroying a Communist MIG17 interceptor on the ground 145 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone, the farthest south in North Vietnam a MIG has been claimed either on the ground or in aerial combat.

Although the U.S. Command made it official in its communication on the basis of pilots' reports, some informed sources cautioned that it could have been a dummy model.

The North Vietnamese in the past have been known to place dummy MIGs on airfields to lure American bombers away from the real targets.

3 Missionaries OK, Held 6 Years by VC

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Three American missionaries captured by the Viet Cong and forced to care for North Vietnamese casualties during the past six years are alive and well, officials of the Christian and Missionary Alliance said.

"This is the first time in the six years that our information from behind the Viet Cong lines is so positive and

confirmed by reports from several sources," said the Rev. Dr. Nathan Bailey, president of the missionary church.

The Rev. Dr. Louis L. King, its foreign secretary, gave the new report to clergy and lay delegates here for the denomination's annual general council.

The three prisoners are Dr. Ardel Vietti, of Houston, Tex.; the Rev. Archie Mitchell, of Elensburg, Wash., and Dan Gerber, of Canton, Ohio.

Dr. King said a Viet Cong soldier captured several days ago told of being with a unit that brought the three American missionaries into the central highlands prior to Tet offensive in late January and that they aided in setting up a staging area for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong casualties.

Although they have not been allowed to make any contact with relatives or friends, the three were reported in good health.

Putting the week's reports from Vietnam together, Dr. King said two other missionaries, Miss Betty Olsen, of Nyack, N.Y., and Henry Blood, of Portland, Ore., captured by the Viet Cong last Jan. 31, are now known to have been united with the trio captured six years before.

Westy Planning Farewells

SAIGON (AP) — Gen. William C. Westmoreland will begin a series of farewell visits next week to American and allied units in South Vietnam in preparation for his departure for Washington to become U.S. Army chief of staff.

A spokesman said the farewell tour also would include visits to U.S. units in Thailand and possibly elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

Westmoreland, commander of more than 525,000 U.S. troops in South Vietnam, is scheduled to depart in June although the precise date has not been announced. His appointment as Army chief of staff was announced in March by President Johnson, who subsequently announced that Westmoreland would be succeeded here by deputy commander Gen. Creighton W. Abrams.

One of the first farewell visits on Westmoreland's schedule is a trip next Tuesday to Nha Trang to say goodbye to South Korea's 48,000-man contingent here. The Korean force is the largest after the United States of the allied contingents in South Vietnam.

The other countries with troops in Vietnam are Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand.

ROK Patrols Kill 15 Vietnam Reds

SAIGON (AP) — South Korean infantrymen and Marines killed 15 enemy troops Thursday in scattered patrol actions without taking any casualties themselves, Korean military headquarters reported.

The skirmishes took place near Ninh Hoa in the central coastal part of South Vietnam.

Korean soldiers also captured one enemy and five weapons.

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Miss America To Tour Viet

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (UPI) — Miss America Debra Dene Barnes of Moran, Kan., will make a 22-day tour of Vietnam, the Miss America Pageant announced Friday.

Her entourage will include Patricia Ann Martinez, Miss Wyoming of 1967; Sandra McRee, Miss Georgia of 1967; Charlotte Sims, Miss Minnesota of 1967; Shelia Scott, Miss New Hampshire of 1967; and Betty Lyn Buckley, Miss Fort Worth of 1966.

The tour, beginning Aug. 7, will be the second Vietnam tour for a reigning Miss America.

Time Writer Wounded

SAIGON (AP) — Don Sider, a correspondent for Time Magazine, was slightly wounded Thursday while covering fighting in the Central Highlands west of Kontum City.



Robb a Father-to-Be

Marine Capt. Charles Robb, son-in-law of President Johnson, smiles as he talks to newsmen near Da Nang after it was announced his wife Lynda Bird was pregnant. Robb said that in general he was hesitant "to comment on personal matters," but he had known before he came to Vietnam that his wife was expecting.

(AP Radiophoto)

Casualties in Vietnam

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

KILLED IN ACTION Army

Sgt. Jerry T. Evans, Birmingham, Ala.
Pfc. David R. Owens, Athens, Ala.
SP4 Lynley L. Rash, Anchorage, Alaska.
SP4 Richard F. Wells, Little Rock, Ark.
Pfc. Thomas H. Bailey, Stephens, Ark.
Sgt. Stanley J. Vossen, Inglewood, Calif.
SP4 Alonso Aragon, San Jose, Calif.
Pfc. Freddie J. Cigar, San Pedro, Calif.
Pfc. Gerald R. Brown, Los Angeles, Calif.
1Lt. Dennis E. Hinton, Englewood, Colo.
Sgt. Robert F. Nolan, Madison, Conn.
Sgt. Robert J. Leska, Trumbull, Conn.
Sgt. Frederick Burge, Washington, D.C.
Sgt. Benjamin L. Hinnant, Columbus, Ga.
Sgt. Raymond L. Gee Jr., Wapella, Ill.
Pfc. Raymond G. Witzig, Gridley, Ill.
1Lt. Woodrow W. Worth, New London, Iowa.
Pfc. Steven F. Davis, Shreveport, La.
1Lt. Karl L. Bullard, Aberdeen, Md.
1Lt. Donald J. Mattaro Jr., Langley Park, Md.
Cpl. Gary E. Canapp, Baltimore, Md.
Pfc. Gary L. Bounds, Salisbury, Md.
SP5 Charles R. Rosenbusch, Worcester, Mass.
SP4 Russell J. Heliker, Walled Lake, Mich.
Pfc. Terry W. Belts, Clifford, Mich.
Pfc. Thomas E. Bump, Battle Creek, Mich.
Sgt. Theodore E. Leyde, South St. Paul, Minn.
WO Orval W. McLeary, Puxico, Mo.
Pfc. Jay A. Cook, High Ridge, Mo.
Pfc. Terry L. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.
1Lt. William A. Rees, Beverly, N.J.
SP4 William E. Sanzoverino, Bayville, N.Y.
SP4 Bernes E. Borris, St. Albans, N.Y.

SP4 Nelson E. Fournier, Schenectady, N.Y.
Cpl. Tilghman R. McLemore, Southern Pines, N.C.
SSgt. Haywood Johnson Jr., Waxhaw, N.C.
Sgt. Paul L. Darden Jr., Snow Hill, N.C.
SP4 Douglas B. Smith, Durham, N.C.
SP4 Johnny Miller, Kinston, N.C.
Cpl. Kenneth W. Floyd, Raeford, N.C.
Pfc. Dennis E. Basden, Beulaville, N.C.
SP4 William E. Shaffer, Cable, Ohio.
Pfc. Joseph G. Gill, Oregon, Ohio.
Pfc. Randall H. Burnsed, Midwest City, Okla.
Cpl. Michael Momcilovich Jr., Nashville, Tenn.
SP4 Donald R. Stephenson, Shelbyville, Tenn.
1Sgt. Malcolm C. Dulac, Killeen, Tex.
SSgt. Wilhelm K. Dammer, Irving, Tex.
Sgt. Daniel J. Contestabile, Killeen, Tex.
SP4 Arnold L. Stumphrey, Antonio, Tex.
Pfc. Victory J. Humphrey, Baytown, Tex.
Cpl. Ronald James, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Sgt. Philip E. Pennington, Winchester, Va.
Cpl. Donald E. Lowe, South Tacoma, Wash.
Sgt. Terrence E. Kohlbeck, Stroftford, Wis.
Navy
LCdr. Paul W. Paine, Rochester, Minn.
Marine Corps
Cpl. James R. Hammonds, Evergreen, Ala.
Cpl. Herbert L. Meads, Brookside, Ala.
Pfc. Reyes C. Hernandez Jr., Colton, Calif.
Pfc. Michael D. Lee, Palo Alto, Calif.
Pfc. Charles R. Williams, Modesto, Calif.
Pfc. Adolph A. Martinez, Denver, Colo.
LCpl. David R. Bingham, Waterford, Conn.
2Lt. Robert E. Tuille, Pensacola, Fla.
LCpl. Steven Lewis, Orlando, Fla.
Cpl. Darrell W. Cottrell, Clinton, Ind.
Pfc. Dennis L. Cook, Yoder, Ind.
Cpl. David A. Jones, Fort Thomas, Ky.
LCpl. Kenneth R. Newsome, Ashland, Ky.
Pfc. Peter R. Turcotte, Rowley, Mass.
LCpl. Dwight G. Reichle, Marine City,

Mich.
Pfc. Daniel J. Blomfelt, River Rouge, Mich.
LCpl. Roger L. Rowland, Monticello, Minn.
Cpl. Ronald G. Dobbs, Chaffee, Mo.
Pvt. Ricky D. Smith, Excelsior Springs, Mo.
LCpl. Anthony Taylor, Newark, N.J.
Pfc. George G. Capparelli, Riverside, N.J.
Pfc. James McDonald, Newark, N.J.
Pfc. Brian F. Wedlake, Midland Park, N.J.
Pfc. James R. Burke, Fremont, Ohio.
Pfc. Rendle Dulan, Plaquemine, Ohio.
Pfc. Johnnie C. Smith Jr., Columbus, Ohio.
Col. Ronald R. Gamble, Harrisburg, Pa.
Col. Wesley G. Baughman, Dallas, Ore.
LCpl. Israel Perez, Brownsville, Tex.
Pfc. James L. Hammons, Corpus Christi, Tex.
Pfc. Daniel L. Navarro, El Paso, Tex.
DIED OF WOUNDS
Navy
AMS3 Lloyd A. Cone, Greenville, S.C.
Marine Corps
Pfc. Carl O. Pearson Jr., Silverhill, Ala.
GySgt. Paul E. Chavez, Duarte, Calif.
Pfc. Jerry L. Janeway, Delhi, Calif.
Cpl. Paul Thorik Jr., New Britain, Conn.
LCpl. James D. Faucht, Eunice, La.
Pfc. Nathaniel H. Jackson, Monroe, La.
Pfc. Paul M. Willis, Berkeley, Mo.
Pfc. John C. Fitt, Albany, N.Y.
LCpl. Roy R. Cram, Idanha, Ore.
MISSING IN ACTION
Air Force
1Lt. William R. Cook
Maj. Joseph C. Bors
DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION
Army
SP4 Gary R. Craig, Jeffersonville, Ind.
SP4 Rollin D. Davis, Grand Junction, Iowa.
Pfc. Benjamin A. Honeycutt, Fort Worth, Tex.

U.S. Denies New Curb On Raids

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House, commenting on reports the United States has curtailed some air operations in Vietnam hoping to inspire a better atmosphere at the Paris talks, said Friday there has been no significant de-escalation since March 31.

Press secretary George Christian told newsmen:

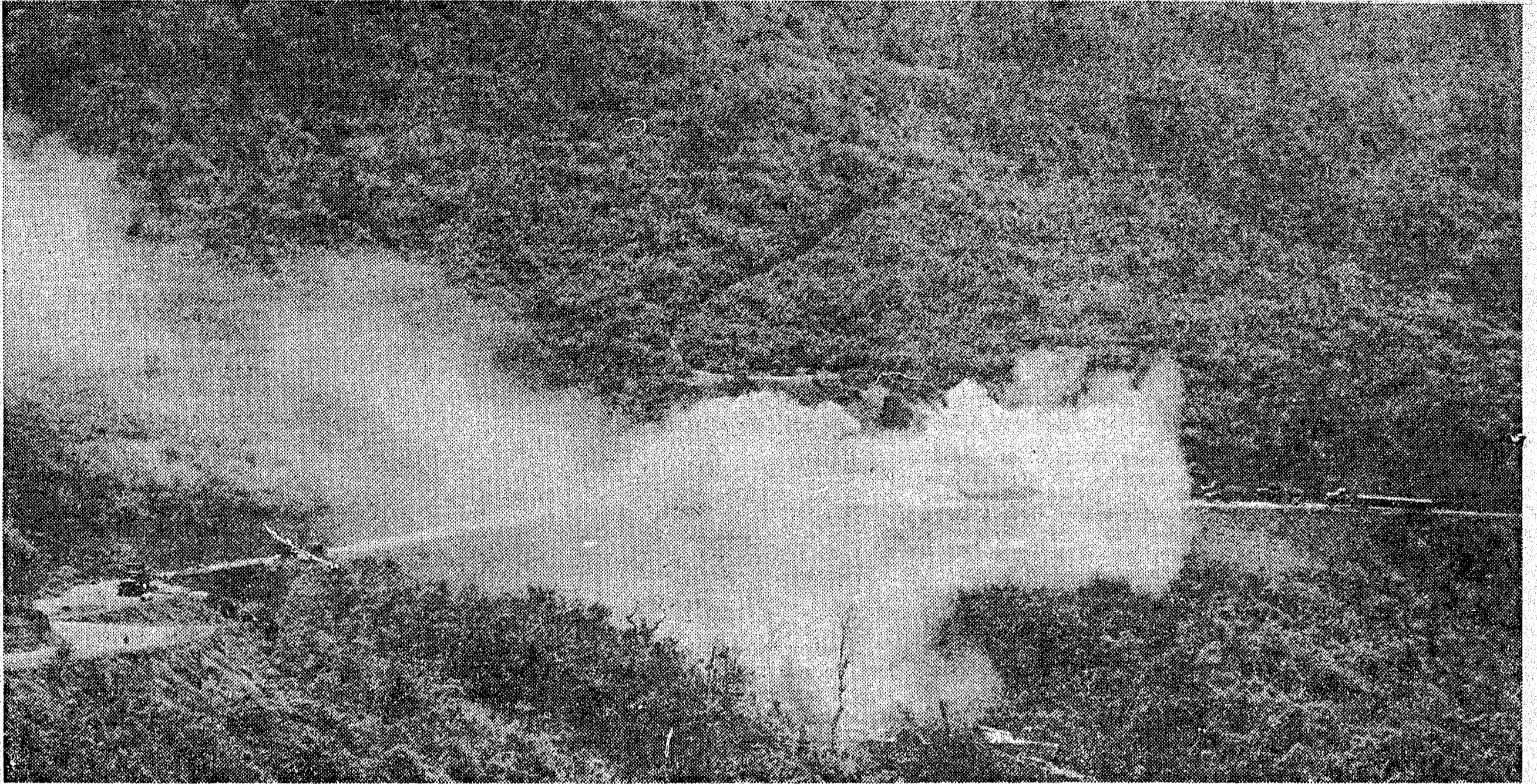
"I would say that the restraint shown by the United States in stopping aerial bombardment north of the 20th parallel is the only significant change downward in military activity that I know of."

President Johnson announced the partial bombing halt on March 31 and Christian said, "I don't think that restraint has been matched in the South."

In a lengthy exchange with questioners, Christian also commented:

"It's difficult to show restraint when the city of Saigon is attacked and other wider violence occurs at the instigation of the other side . . . I would not say there has been any diminution of violence in South Vietnam in the past several weeks."

Road Engineers Press On Despite VC Attacks



S&S

WITH SMOKE STILL RISING FROM AN AMBUSH, A MEDEVAC COPTER LANDS TO EVACUATE WOUNDED MEN OF THE 35TH COMBAT ENGINEER BN.

By SPEC. 5 RAY BELFORD

S&S Staff Correspondent

HAI VAN PASS, Vietnam — First Lt. Daniel Ortman's jeep twisted slowly down the north rabbit ear at the top of the Hai Van Pass heading down to check on construction work along his area of responsibility on Highway 1.

As his jeep rounded the bend at the bottom of the ear a 2½ ton truck filled with Vietnamese soldiers came up behind him.

There was a loud, sudden blast and the back of Ortman's jeep lurched in the air as Claymore mine exploded and sent deadly small steel fragments across the road.

Ortman, an old hand at ambushes, quickly ran his surprisingly undamaged jeep on out of the fire zone. He then jumped clear of the jeep and he and his men ran for cover.

The Vietnamese truck had not been so lucky. The claymore fragments tore holes in the cab of the truck, wounding three soldiers, but the truck ran on through the fire zone. Ortman sent them on down the road to Lang Co where they could get their wounded men treated.

Other U.S. forces at the top of the rabbit ear witnessed the command-detonated explosion.

First Lt. Gary D. Snyder, acting company commander of C Co. of the 35th Combat Engineer Bn., jumped in his jeep with two sergeants and headed down the hill to investigate.

Some U.S. Marines, stationed at the top of the pass, also came down.

As Snyder's jeep passed the place where the enemy claymore went off, another ear-shattering explosion erupted from the side of the hill and more claymore fragments spewed through the jeep.

The three wounded men rolled out of the jeep and ran for cover. Snyder was slightly wounded in the neck, one of the sergeants was also wounded in the neck and Snyder's operations sergeant was hit in the side.

There was a short silence, and then Ortman and his men began firing up the slopes. Their fire was answered with light white puffs of smoke from a wooded area as the enemy opened up with AK47 automatic rifles.

From the top of the hill where the other U.S. forces were watching the ambush unfold, more fire was directed into the enemy's position.

A Marine .50 cal. machine gun began saturating the slopes above the pinned down engineers.

There was a white puff of smoke from the ridgeline — before the smoke had cleared a 106mm recoilless rifle round wiped it out.

A man on the hill yelled, "He got one. I saw him fall out."

About 15 other men with automatic rifles just below the Marine hilltop position also opened up on the enemy about 400 yards away.

Another of the big recoilless rounds from the Marines on the hill exploded near where the first had landed.

And there was silence.

The ambush was over. But six men had been wounded in the 10-minute incident.

A medivac helicopter was called to pick up Snyder and his two wounded sergeants. For the helicopter pilot, from the 45th Engineer Group to which the 35th Bn. belongs, it was his third medivac mission of the day.

Earlier in the day, another unit from the 35th had been ambushed. The helicopter pilot had been driven off at first in that ambush by a B40 rocket, but he later came back and made the pick-up. He had also picked up a wounded U.S. civilian whose truck hit a mine earlier in the day.

So it goes for the men of the Army's 35th Engineer Bn. as they try to keep highway 1, leading out of Da Nang toward Hue open. At the same time they are trying to improve the once one-lane road through the twisting Hai Van Pass north to Phu Loc—a stretch of 31 miles.

During the first week of May the engineers lost one man killed and 38 wounded, as the Viet Cong stepped up efforts to close the vital link of highway through the pass.

The casualties for that week were more than the battalion had suffered in a little more than two months since they began the gigantic job of opening and improving the road through the heavily infested enemy territory.

During the same week the Viet Cong command detonated four claymore mines, planted eight pressure mines in the highway, set two booby traps, mortared the battalion's spread out units six times, snipped at the engineers at work three times, sprang three ambushes and blew seven culverts.

The road the engineers are trying to shove through the infected enemy territory runs out of Nam O, nine miles north of Da Nang, winds up along the steep slopes of the Hai Van Pass to the rabbit ears down through "Turtle Point" to Lang Co. From Lang Co the road twists over the Phu Gia Pass onto a flat and straight stretch of road dubbed the "Bowling Alley." On north of the "Bowling Alley" the road runs through "Claymore Pass," whose once almost vertical enemy ambush sites, on into Phu Loc.

On the 31 miles of road there are 25 bridges and 179 culverts the engineers must keep repaired, improved and in some cases rebuilt.

In mid-February the 35th Engineer Bn., plus two attached companies began working on highway 1. The unit had been working in the vicinity of Qui Nhon when they were ordered north after the Tet offensive.

When the unit arrived, the road was closed. There were three major breaks in the then narrow one-lane road through the Hai Van Pass plus several obstacles. In the area of the "Bowling Alley" between Phu Gia and Phu Loc, every bridge and culvert was destroyed and the enemy had created obstacles by interdicting the road

with cuts caused from small explosive charges in more than 70 places.

Efforts to reopen the road over the Hai Van Pass by units of the 7th Marine Engineer Bn. and the 61st Naval Construction Bn. in the first two weeks of February had been costly and unsuccessful.

On Feb. 13 and 14 the 35th tried to move up the pass, but were also forced back.

On Feb. 15, the commanding general of the 1st Marine Div. ordered efforts on the road to be stopped until the tactical situation could be dealt with.

On Feb. 17, two battalions of the 101st Airborne Div. moved into the Phu Loc area and began searching for the enemy along the highway.

For four days, beginning on the Feb. 20, A and B companies from the engineer battalion moved up the Hai Van Pass with the 2nd Bn. of the 502nd Airborne and repaired the damage and opened the road across.

The two companies then set up a forward position on the north side of the Lang Co bridge where they could continue to extend the open portion of the road.

As the engineers began reconnaissance work on the "Bowling Alley" on to Phuoc An, north of their current area of responsibility, they were held up by enemy ambushes.

On Feb. 27, M company from the 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, assaulted enemy positions near Phuoc An and the engineers were able to move on through and complete temporary repairs to within two miles of Phuoc An.

The next day the engineers worked their way on into Phuoc An and put a 105-foot four-trestle dry span bridge across the river at Phuoc An. The next day they worked on east to link up with the 32nd Naval Construction Regt. and the highway was open from Da Nang to Phu Bai, and the first convoys to the stricken areas around Hue moved north on March 1.

For the next two months the engineers worked on improving the highway, replacing bridges,

culverts and widening the road to two lanes with only scattered incidents.

Then in early May the Viet Cong decided they wanted to close the highway again.

"Before the first of May the incidents were very amateurish, but lately the jobs have been more professional," said Lt. Col. John V. Parish Jr., commanding officer of the battalion.

Intelligence reports indicate that the 402nd North Vietnamese Sapper Bn. has been training the local Viet Cong in the area, and according to a couple of Chieu Hoi—Viet Cong defectors—they want to close the road for a second-wave offensive.

Recently the Reds have been dropping propaganda leaflets for the engineers. They read: "Officers and Men in Units belonging to U.S. Engineer Corps.

"Your works are not on these roads but to build your native land and your families happiness. Along with the American people, you had better create a wealthy, beautiful and progressive society of the United States.

"Struggle for your repatriations.

"Don't work on the roads and the bridges serving for mopping-up operations of U.S. aggressors and their lackeys.

"Don't go to the battlefield for the money bags of the U.S. monopolists and tycoons.

"Don't intervene in the Vietnamese Peoples internal affair."

The pamphlet is signed by the Quang Nam—Da Nang Peoples Liberation Army.

In spite of the increased enemy activity along the road, the work goes on. The blasting of rock continues. Road graders are working. Bulldozers are pushing in rock fill, and the more than 1,000 Combat Engineers sweat in the sun—determined to have the pass open, and a paved two-lane road through by September.

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Death, Destruction in Iowa

Uprooted and broken trees and upended autos are strewn about a churchyard in Charles City, Iowa, a community of 10,000,

in the wake of a tornado which killed 12 persons and destroyed 372 homes. Story on Page 3. (UPI Radiophoto)

Rain, New Tremors Peril Quake Area

(Continued From Page 1) Since the first quake Thursday, 88 after-shocks have continued to rock northern Honshu and southern Hokkaido.

Japanese government officials said total damage was expected to exceed \$100 million.

Aomori Prefecture was hardest hit, with 39 reported dead, close to 200 homes destroyed and more than 1,000 damaged. Hokkaido reported two deaths, Iwate Prefecture two, Miyagi Prefecture one.

U.S. officials at Misawa Air Base said Friday that 29 American servicemen and dependents had been injured. They estimated damage to the base at \$10 million. A Japanese employe of the base exchange was killed while fishing at nearby Lake Towada.

Relief supplies and equipment started pouring into the base Friday. The first plane load was a shipment of 50 blankets and 14 boxes of food for local townspeople from the citizens of Tachikawa.

The Army Depot at Sagami sent a 3,000-gallon-an-hour water purification unit and seven-man crew Friday afternoon, while Tachikawa Air Base sent fresh water trailer tanks.

Although base and city power has been restored, officials said the installation's water supply will be off indefinitely.

The base commissary conducted normal business Friday, but elsewhere in northern Japan food prices began skyrocketing due to shortages of perishable items brought from the south over now-severed rail lines.

Spokesmen for the major rail artery into Aomori Prefecture said the line may be out for two weeks or more. The Shihoro Line in Hokkaido was expected to resume service in a few days.

Japanese relief agencies, aided in many cases by U.S. military aircraft, are rushing food and clothing to thousands of the homeless in refugee tent-cities and shelters established in surviving buildings.

The government invoked the disaster relief law for the region Friday morning and extended contingency funds to the stricken areas.

The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force has mobilized 400 men and 80 vehicles for recovery of bodies and restoration of desperately needed power and water facilities. Thousands of

others were working around the clock to rebuild homes, roads and rail lines.

Stars and Stripes photographer Hideyuki Mihashi reported that farmers in the Misawa area were returning to their fields to plant the spring rice crop.

Copter Crash Kills Marine

INDIO, Calif. (AP) — One Marine was killed but 15 others survived the flaming crash of a Marine helicopter Thursday on the south slope of El Toro Peak in the Santa Rosa Mountains.

The helicopter, from the Marine Air Facility at Santa Ana, Calif., crashed at the 8,000-foot level of the 8,700-foot peak, located about 40 miles southwest of here.

Three Marines were injured and taken to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, a Marine spokesman said.

The CH53A helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Sq. 462 was on a mission to install communications relay equipment across the peak. Nicknamed the Sea Stallion, the CH53A is capable of carrying 37 combat-equipped Marines.

Women Smokers' Babies Smaller

MILAN, Italy (UPI)—Women who smoke tend to have smaller babies and give birth prematurely more often than non-smokers, a conference on air pollution has been told.

The Italian league against fumes and noise said a survey in a Milan clinic showed 21 per cent of premature births in cases where mothers smoked and only nine per cent where non-smokers were involved.

A Shau Valley Drive Closes

(Continued From Page 1) reoccupy the valley, the main Communist supply route into South Vietnam from the Ho Chi Minh trail, "within a matter of weeks."

Maj. Gen. John Tolson, commander of the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div., described the A Shau campaign as "the toughest operation we have encountered in Vietnam."

Dubbed Operation Delaware, the campaign which began April 18 cost 139 Americans killed and 662 wounded. Allied troops reported killing 726 Communists and capturing five.

In addition, 128 U.S. helicopters were shot down during the month-long operation, spokesmen said. All but 20 were recovered and repaired.

To the southeast of A Shau, just south of the big U.S. Marine base at Da Nang, a bat-

talion of Leathernecks fought bunker to bunker Friday trying to oust some 600 dug-in Communists in the Song Thu Don Valley.

The Marines called in heavy artillery and air strikes on the North Vietnamese bunkers in what is believed to be a Communist "training and recreation area" about 13 miles south of Da Nang.

UPI correspondent Raymond Wilkinson reported that when the barrage was lifted and the Marines began to inch forward they were hit with heavy Communist small arms fire, mortars and grenades.

"They are clinging very stubbornly and tenaciously," one Marine officer said. It was believed that the Communists were defending a regimental command post of the 308th North Vietnamese Div.

The latest casualty reports were sketchy, but at least 24 Communist bodies were reported Friday. The Marines report-

ed killing 131 on the first day of the battle Thursday.

Preliminary reports showed at least 25 Marines killed and 37 wounded through Thursday.

Wilkinson said field reports indicated that American casualties in Friday's fighting would run as high.

The announcement of the end of the A Shau Valley campaign included a list of North Vietnamese weapons and equipment captured during the sweep.

It included a Soviet-built tank, tracked vehicles, two bulldozers, 66 trucks, one jeep, electronics and radio equipment, 2,200 rifles and machine guns, scores of flame-throwers, anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Rosson said the A Shau operation was an "attack against his (the Communists') logistic base which most effectively thwarted the enemy's designs on Hue."

Clifford Defends Arms Aid

(Continued From Page 1)

tion that would be used to supply arms and military materiel to U.S. allies.

Clifford said the scale of assistance abroad has been decreasing over the past decade but "the program cannot be phased down so rapidly so as to deny them the support they still need if they are—as both we and they desire—to carry an increasing share of the security effort."

Clifford said the program enables U.S. allies to maintain a position of strength from which they can "effectively resist pressures from their more powerful neighbors."

Recent moves in Czechoslovakia toward more independence from the Soviet bloc reinforce the need for continued U.S. aid to free nations in Europe, he said.

"If the nations of Eastern Europe are beginning to feel a desire to exert greater freedom . . . then I believe we would do well not to rock our boat in this part of the world."

He said it would be "wise and advisable" that the United States maintain a continuing and close relationship with such aid recipients as Greece, Turkey and Iran.

Clifford and members of the committee cautiously avoided discussion of the Paris talks on Vietnam.

Multi-Nation Craft Orbiting

VANDENBERG AFB (UPI)—ESRO II, a satellite bearing the flags of the United States and 10 European nations, soared into a polar orbit Thursday from the Western test range here.

The 180-pound cylindrical satellite, on a mission to measure solar and cosmic energy, was the first of a series of satellites to be launched as part of a joint venture by the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The 10-member nations of ESRO are Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Weather

Asian Weather Central

TOKYO AREA

Saturday Night: Cloudy; Low: 59
Sunday: Cloudy with Rain; High: 67

TEMPERATURES

May 17, 1968

	H	L		H	L
Bangkok	94	80	Naha	79	72
Chitose	45	37	Saigon	93	81
Guam	85	77	Seoul	70	58
Itazuke	75	61	Taipei	91	73
Manila	93	75	Tokyo	63	58
	H	L		H	L
Albany	75	48	Melbourne	55	41
Albuquerque	76	42	Memphis	85	67
Amarillo	77	50	Miami	88	75
Atlanta	84	63	Milwaukee	60	52
Birmingham	83	70	Moscow	63	52
Bismarck	60	38	N. Orleans	90	71
Boise	69	34	NYC	65	59
Boston	67	53	N. Platte	52	38
Chicago	56	52	Okla. City	74	54
Cincinnati	75	67	Omaha	60	44
Cleveland	74	60	Paris	61	43
Denver	40	35	Phila.	69	55
Des Moines	60	47	Phoenix	90	51
Detroit	70	56	Pittsburgh	76	57
Duluth	50	37	Port., O.	78	42
Fairbanks	62	30	Rapid City	58	38
Fargo	57	30	Reno	69	30
Fort Worth	85	73	Singapore	85	75
Hong Kong	88	77	St. Louis	75	56
Honolulu	86	71	St. Paul	46	40
Houston	87	74	Salt Lake	60	34
Ind'apolis	70	60	S. Antonio	85	73
Jack'ville	93	71	San Diego	69	56
Jakarta	91	73	San Fran.	57	50
Kansas City	71	53	Seattle	70	48
K. Lumpur	88	72	Shreveport	84	73
Las Vegas	81	52	Sydney	65	44
London	57	48	Tucson	80	54
L.A.	75	54	Wash.	77	40
Louisville	78	68			