

'THE NEWS

PEACE EFFORTS TO BRING WAR WITH CHINA

As part of "increasing American efforts to force N. Vietnam to the bargaining table" (C.); President Johnson last week ordered the bombing of the Haiphong power plant and Monday ordered the bombing of MIG airfields. Tuesday US planes from Thailand and the Gulf bombed a railyard in Hanoi and a cement factory in Haiphong. The Pentagon described this as "not escalation."

On April 3, McNamara argued publically that his department was refraining from bombing MIG airbases so as "to avoid widening the war," and declared that "the loss in US lives will be less if we pursue our present policy." According to the AP, the Pentagon has argued that bombing the MIG bases would probably force the N. Vietnamese to base their MIGs on Chinese fields, which might make the Pentagon feel compelled to attack those bases and force China into the war. That they have changed this estimate is not clear. (C)

FASCISM RETURNS TO GREECE

Totalitarian militarism gained another nation last week with the coup in Greece. Sunday, fighters from the Greek air force buzzed cities to "dispel rumors of a split among military leaders" (C.), while troops deployed at communication and transportation facilities and at the Parliament. On Monday the junta instituted military courts "to try all crimes" (C.). Warning that "the armed forces would crush any attempt to upset the regime" (C.), the junta Tuesday ordered the Education Ministry to compel students to go to confession and communion next Saturday and "to attend Sunday masses throughout the year," (C.), violating constitutional freedom of religion and reminding Greeks of the "Fascist-style dictatorship" of the years 1936-40 (C.). Also Tuesday the junta began shipping some of its 10,000 political prisoners to prisons on the Greek islands where they "can be detained without trial for an indefinite period." (T.) That part of the Greek press now publishing is heavily censored. The new "premier," Constantine Kollias, has announced that "normal life" has returned to the nation. Sic semper libertati.

WESTMORELAND: DEMOCRACY UNPATRIOTIC

In a speech delivered in New York on Monday, General Westmoreland, now being mentioned as a possible presidential candidate by both parties, labelled political dissent "unpatriotic." Reports of his speech indicate that he seemed to be arguing, whether implicitly or explicitly is unclear, that because "the enemy" does not understand "that American democracy is founded on debate" that that debate be terminated. Westmoreland, who commands the troops in Vietnam and who said he "was delighted" by the escalation against N. Vietnam, argued that debate and protest "cost American lives." He said that "the end is not in sight, and we must be prepared for more bitter fighting."

ALSO: U.S. SIMILAR TO NORTH VIETNAM

On the basis of captured military documents, Joseph Alsop calls the National Liberation Front "indeed a front, and nothing more" for N. Vietnam and argues that N. Vietnam is similar to the United States in Vietnam. "The comparison is exact," he says. Alsop also remarks that the documents reveal that "it has always been perfect nonsense ... to suppose that Peking has power to control Hanoi's decisions," that "there was never any question of China entering the war," and that Hanoi told Peking it "would begin negotiating whenever the circumstances seemed advantageous." Alsop argued that "in the abstract China's strategic advice was excellent." (T, AP 25).

CIA DISPUTES ELECTIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA

If you miss the action in Vietnam, perhaps Bolivia? UPI reports (T., Ap. 24) communist guerrilla movements in six Western Hemisphere countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela. Four provinces of Bolivia have been placed under martial law while the U.S. Army "advises" operations against guerrillas. In Guatemala reports have it that 1000 Special Forces are already engaged against guerrillas, though the CIA overthrew the elected government there as recently as 1954. Last week the London Sunday Times revealed that in 1964 the CIA avoided the nationalization of American sugar company holdings in British Guiana by bringing down the duly-elected government of Cheddi Jagan with, as a result, "170 dead, untold hundreds wounded, roughly \$28 million worth of damage to the economy, and a legacy of racial bitterness." Cheap at any price.

*News from the San Francisco Chronicle (C.) and Palo Alto Times (T.) for the days mentioned, unless otherwise specified. An occasional publication of the Stanford Vietnam Newsletter, David Ransom ed., Box 4525, Stanford, Cal. Want to help?