

Praises Rockefeller

ROMNEY QUITS RACE



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Wheeler Briefs LBJ, Top Aides; Troop Hike Seen

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, saying the enemy now holds some of the initiative, gave President Johnson and other top officials a new war report Wednesday that could lead to U.S. troop increases in Vietnam.

The White House refused to say what—if anything—Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recommended to the President in detailed war discussions.

4,000 GIs Arrive in Vietnam

SAIGON (AP) — Four thousand U.S. paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Div. have arrived in Vietnam to bolster Allied defenses against new Communist attacks and pressure, the American command announced Wednesday.

The brigade is part of the 10,500 Army paratroopers and Marines President Johnson ordered from the United States two weeks ago in response to Gen. William C. Westmoreland's urgent request. Continuing North Vietnamese pressure on Khe Sanh and the prospect of new Communist attacks on

(Continued Back Page, Col. 2)

But Wheeler—arriving in Washington before dawn after a quick inspection tour of Vietnam following the Communists' latest cities offensive—may have indicated to newsmen the tenor of his report.

"I think the initiative lies on both sides," the four-star general said when asked if the enemy is now calling the shots in the conflict.

"In certain areas where the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong have sizable uncommitted forces, of course they can move. In other words they have tactical flexibility."

Wheeler maintained, however, that the Communists failed to achieve their objectives in recent weeks of fighting and, where they were repulsed, the forces of Gen. William C. Westmoreland hold the initiative.

With the recent wave of Communist assaults has come

(Continued Back Page, Col. 2)



UPI Rotterdam

GOV. ROMNEY WALKS PAST EXIT SIGN AFTER ANNOUNCING WITHDRAWAL FROM RACE.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Michigan Gov. George Romney quit the Republican presidential nomination contest Wednesday.

He said it was clear to him that his candidacy had not won wide acceptance.

Romney told a news conference, broadcast by TV and radio, that it was desirable that Republican leaders have an opportunity to make plans now for choosing a candidate.

Republican governors, he said, have an opportunity to make a substantial effort to nominate a moderate.

There was immediate recognition among Republican leaders that Romney's action had projected New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller into the thick of a contest for the nomination with former Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Sen. Hugh Scott, R-Pa., a Romney supporter, said he hopes Rockefeller will become an active candidate.

"I leave the campaign with regret," Romney said. "I am deeply grateful to the many people who have worked so hard for me."

Mentioning Rockefeller, who has been backing his candidacy, Romney said that the New York governor "has given me more than I have asked."

Despite quitting the race, Romney said he intends to return to New Hampshire, where he has been a candidate in the primary on Friday, and will hold a news

(Continued Back Page, Col. 1)

Off Balance For Seal Act

NEW YORK (AP) — Sometimes seals act almost like humans. And in the case of Frank Giordano, vice versa.

A waiter, Giordano appeared before Criminal Court Judge Amos Basel Tuesday, accused of stripping to his underwear and joining the seals in their Central Park pool at 5 a.m. last July 25.

"Were you stewed?" Basel inquired.

"I wasn't drunk, but I was on my way," Giordano conceded.

"Did you have rapport with the seals?"

"I guess I did have rapport with the seals," Giordano said.

Despite the rapport, Basel fined Giordano \$50 for annoying the seals.

BULLETIN

SAIGON (AP)—A U.S. Marine helicopter was shot down by North Vietnamese ground fire near Khe Sanh and 22 American servicemen aboard were killed, military headquarters reported Thursday. It said the CH46 Sea-Knight was hit 11 miles north-east of Khe Sanh Wednesday.

Tearful McNamara Gets Top Award

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Robert Strange McNamara was overcome by emotion Wednesday at a White House ceremony marking his departure from the cabinet after seven years as secretary of defense.

President Johnson presented McNamara the nation's highest civilian award, the medal of

freedom, and lavished him with praise.

McNamara, fighting back tears, was so moved he was unable to respond fully.

Johnson predicted McNamara, who will become president of the World Bank April 1, would go on to new heights of achievement attacking world-wide the

"causes of violence and turmoil—poverty, disease, ignorance and hopelessness."

"We are giving the world the best we have to offer," Johnson said of McNamara.

The East Room, packed with present and former government leaders, burst into applause.

McNamara, who had been

standing with his wife and three children, walked to the podium and grasped it with both hands.

"I cannot find the words to express what is in my heart today," he said, his voice breaking. "And I think I had better respond on another occasion."

He walked swiftly away from

(Continued on Back Page, Col. 5)

Reds Digging Zig-Zag Trenches at Khe Sanh

SAIGON (UPI)—North Vietnamese troops Wednesday were reported within 100 yards of the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh digging zigzag trenches, a tactic used successfully by the Communists in causing the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

UPI correspondent Robert Ibrahim reported from Khe Sanh that the trenches were clearly in evidence on the south side of the base where a U.S. Marine force is surrounded by an estimated 16,000 North Vietnamese soldiers.

In the battle of Dien Bien Phu in North Vietnam 14 years ago, Communist Viet Minh forces managed to infiltrate the French-held perimeter by sending waves of troops through trenches dug in a zigzagged pattern to evade a direct line of fire.

U.S. B52 Stratofortresses bombed within 3 miles of the base Wednesday, and jet fighter-bombers and Huey helicopters provided even closer support. Communists continued sporadic gunfire into the perimeter.

For the second day, however, weather conditions enabled C130 Hercules transport planes to land on Khe Sanh's battered runway and drop pallets loaded with supplies.

In the Saigon area, South Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces clashed in a deserted village only 4 miles north of Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Three Vietnamese paratroopers were killed and seven were wounded fighting in the streets of the Tan Thoi Hiep village.

In the Central Highlands, American infantrymen were engaged Wednesday around the provincial capital of Kontum.

In one of the skirmishes, 19 miles west-northwest of Dak To, the U.S. 4th Inf. Div.'s 1st Brigade reported killing 51 Communist soldiers.

At Kontum City, South Vietnamese Government spokesmen said Communists launched a brief rocket attack which left two civilians dead and four others injured.

U.S. military spokesmen reported Wednesday that Navy, Air Force and Marine pilots flew 92 missions against North Vietnam the previous day. Navy pilots bombed the Hai-phong railroad terminal and a thermal power plant 15 miles to the north, while other strikes were on supply routes in North Vietnam's southern panhandle region and in areas above the demilitarized zone.

Reds Claim Gains

TOKYO (UPI) — The communist South Vietnamese National Front for Liberation (NFL) Wednesday issued a special communique boasting of great victories in the general offensive of the past month. The communique was broadcast by the official Hanoi news agency and monitored in Tokyo. It ran to more than 15 pages.

Thai Police Stifle Protest at Udorn

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai police Wednesday arrested 11 European anti-war demonstrators as they attempted to force their way into the air base at Udorn, 300 miles northeast of Bangkok.

One report said Royal Thai Air Force police fired at least one shot in the air during the scuffle.

Eight of the demonstrators had to be carried bodily away from the base when they lay



Marines Dig In at Khe Sanh

In a fashion reminiscent of American doughboys in France during World War I, U.S. Marines at Khe Sanh protect themselves from enemy shelling in deep trenches, and with bunkers fortified with sandbags. (AP Radiophoto)

Dance Halls, Clubs Closed As Thieu Calls for Austerity

SAIGON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu called on the South Vietnamese people Wednesday night to accept a "life of austerity" during "the critical period of our national history."

In a television address, Thieu said the government had decided to close permanently all night clubs and dance halls.

He said Friday had been set aside for a day of prayer for those who had died during fighting in the recent Communist Lunar New Year offensive.

Austerity had been a plan of Thieu's government since it was inaugurated last fall, but had become an almost forgotten issue until the Communist offensive began last Jan. 30.

Several times Thieu had pointed to the disparity of life in Saigon with the poverty-ridden countryside, but no formal programs to eliminate high living in the cities had been promulgated.

Thieu said his government was "firmly determined" to close night clubs and dance halls permanently. He said theaters and movie houses would be allowed to reopen as soon as security permitted.

He said persons whose homes had been destroyed in the fighting that accompanied the Communist offensive would be given 5,000 piasters (\$42), plus galvanized iron sheets and cement to rebuild their homes. In Sai-

gon, the government already has announced a program to build more than \$24 million worth of apartment houses for persons whose homes had been destroyed.

He said victims of the fighting in Hue and Saigon, where prices are higher, would receive 10,000 piasters to help rebuild their homes, plus the galvanized iron and cement.

He promised that government troops would return to the countryside to search out the Communist forces.

Thieu said he was attempting to unite various religious, political and civic groups to advise the government in the fight against the Communists.

Guerrillas Widen Cambodia Action

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (UPI) — Communist guerrillas have extended their activity to three more Cambodian provinces, Prince Norodom Sihanouk charged Tuesday.

The chief of state said guerrillas had been discovered operating in Kompong Speu, Kampong Speu and Kirirom provinces to the west and southwest of this capital city. He also said Cambodian Communists had intensified their insurgency in the northwestern province of Battambang.

Reds Clash With Laotians

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — North Vietnamese elements clashed with the Royal Army forces five miles north of Attopeu in southeastern Laos Wednesday.

No report of casualties reached Vientiane but military sources termed the action as minor.

North Vietnamese troops reinforced by Communist units from the Saravane front also clashed with government forces two miles southwest of the town of Lao Ngam, northwest of Attopeu.

Reinforcements were reported trucked down highway 23 through a bypass around the provincial capital town of Saravane.

In Saravane, the situation was static with Communist probing actions six miles northwest of the town.

Pathet Lao elements attacked a police station north of the royal capital of Luang Prabang.

Planes to Fire Back

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The State Department said Wednesday that American aircraft flying reconnaissance missions over Laos have reserved the right to fire back if they are fired upon. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey told newsmen U.S. Air Force planes manned by American pilots were making the reconnaissance flights at the request of the government of Laos.

Sato Ire Splits Leaders

S&S Okinawa Bureau

NAHA, Okinawa — Ryukyuan leaders expressed mixed reactions Thursday to Prime Minister Eisaku Sato's angry remarks to one of nine Ryukyuan legislative delegates during his talk with them in Tokyo about local apprehensions over the stationing of U.S. B52s on Okinawa.

The prime minister reportedly lost his temper when Sane-yoshi Furugen, a delegate from the leftwing Okinawa People's Party protested Sato's remarks about B52s.

Press reports from Tokyo said Wednesday Sato told the delegates there was nothing to worry about in the temporary deployment of B52s to Okinawa and that they should tell the Okinawans so after they return home.

When Furugen pressed Sato, asking if he himself would go to Okinawa to say so, the prime minister reportedly shouted at him, "Get out of here if you came here to protest." Sato apologized and called his remarks rude during a session of the House of the Representatives Budget Committee later that day.

Ruling Okinawa Liberal Democratic Party's Secretary General Choko Kuwae said here Furugen was responsible for the tiff because the delegation went to Tokyo to seek Japanese government help, not to protest in regard to the B52 issue.

Kuwae, however, said local apprehensions about B52s still remain, and his party will seek High Commissioner F. T. Unger's help in this matter when party leaders meet with him Monday.

Opposition parties and their affiliated groups were bitter about the Sato remarks. They said the Japanese government's slighting of the Okinawan people was demonstrated by Sato's words.

"The prime minister's remarks evidently show discrimination against Okinawan people and are impermissible as remarks of the head of the government," charged Shinei Kyan, chairman of the Okinawa Reversion Council.

Tsumichiyo Asato, leader of the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party, said: "It's unbelievable that Japan's prime minister could have made such remarks. He showed the basic Japanese government attitude toward Okinawan problems inadvertently when pressed on his sore point."

The People's Party and the Okinawa branch of the Japan Socialist Party spokesmen said their party would lodge a strong protest to the prime minister.

Boost for Economic, Social Programs

Ryukyus Due \$25.3 Mil. U.S. Aid

NAHA, Okinawa (USCAR) — Civil Administrator Stanley S. Carpenter disclosed that the U.S. Civil Administration (USCAR) will make available a total of \$25.35 million for Ryukyuan economic and social development during the current fiscal year 1968.

In a ceremony at his office in Urasoe-Son, the civil administrator informed government of the Ryukyu Islands (GRI) Chief Executive Seiho Matsuoka that the total is broken down into the following categories:

—\$8.63 million in direct U.S. grant-in-aid funds to the GRI,

the major portion of the previous price act which set a ceiling of \$12 million on economic aid to the Ryukyus.

—\$3.37 million, the remaining portion of funds under the previous price act, to be provided by USCAR for scholarship and technical assistance programs.

—\$13.35 million from the FY '68 USCAR general fund program, for essential public works programs, such as roads, water, electric and sewer projects, airfields and other vital public facilities.

Moreover, Carpenter said that President Johnson has proposed

to the U.S. Congress that the GRI be provided with an additional \$5.5 million this fiscal year under the revised price act —which raised the previous ceiling from \$12 million to \$17.5 million.

This amount is to be granted for Ryukyuan teachers' compensation, additional school construction and municipal housing, upon congressional approval of the presidential request.

A highlight of the ceremony was the signing of an initial agreement by the civil administrator and chief executive, as is the custom of U.S. and Ry-

kyuan leaders each year, covering that portion of U.S. aid—\$8.63 million—which is granted direct to the GRI. Projects to be financed out of this sum include:

—\$4.15 million for Ryukyuan teachers' compensation, school construction, and equipment.

—\$883,000 for GRI medical insurance and retirement programs.

—\$995,000 for disease control and other public health and sanitation programs.

—\$860,000 for public safety services and equipment.

—\$1.75 million for the highway one bypass, municipal housing and airfield improvements.

Of the \$12 million, the remaining \$3.37 million will be used for sewer projects, the Ryukyuan scholarship program sponsored by the Department of Army at American universities and colleges, the doctors' training program at the Okinawa Central Hospital in Gushikawa, and other technical assistance projects.

Under the FY '68 general fund program, the Ryukyus will receive benefits from the following projects and contributions:

—\$3.5 million contributed to the GRI from pol sales proceeds.

—\$2.2 million for water projects.

—\$3.1 million for electric power projects.

—\$2. million for sewer projects.

—\$980,000 for the highway one bypass.

—\$1.6 million for airfield improvements, assistance to municipalities, disaster relief and other programs.



Philippine Leader Reviews Troops

Republic of the Philippines Vice President Fernando Lopez (right) salutes as he reviews a U.S. Marine Honor Guard at Cubi Point NAS, R.P., immediately following his arrival there. He is accompanied by (left) Rear Adm. Fillmore B. Gilkeson, Subic Naval Base commander, and

an unidentified Marine lieutenant, the Honor Guard commander. A 19-gun salute by the guided missile frigate Belknap preceded his review of the guard. Lopez then sped to Olongapo City for land distribution ceremonies. (USN)

House OKs Viet Troop Bill

MANILA (UPI) — The Philippine House of Representatives voted Thursday to retain the 2,000-man Philippine civic action group in South Vietnam for another year.

The House voted 59-3 in favor of a bill appropriating 35 million pesos (about \$8,750,000) to finance the Philippines engineering troops in Vietnam.

The passage of the bill was expected despite heated debates in the House and student demonstrations in front of Congress.

The measure now goes to the Senate.

Tripartite Meeting At Buckner Slated

S&S Okinawa Bureau

NAHA, Okinawa — American and Japanese representatives of the Tripartite U.S.-Japan-Ryukyus Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner of the Ryukyus — Laurence C. Vass and Jiro Takase—arrived here from Tokyo Thursday to attend their first meeting, scheduled to be held at Fort Buckner Friday.

The committee is to be formally inaugurated in High Com-

missioner F. T. Unger's office, marking the start of the stepped-up efforts toward the economic and social progress of the island people.

The Ryukyuan representative is Hiroshi Senaga, formerly deputy chief executive of the Ryukyuan government and now president of a local sugar company. Vass is now serving as minister-counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, and Takase was formerly Japanese ambassador to Burma.

Upon their arrival at the Civil Air Terminal in Naha, Vass and Takase were greeted by many ranking U.S. and Ryukyuan government officials including Unger and Ryukyuan Chief Executive Seiho Matsuoka.

The diplomats made no special remarks about their work in the committee except that they were fully aware of their responsibilities as the representatives of the countries and would do their best to fulfill them.

The committee was created as a result of a Japan-U.S. agreement made in Washington last November by Prime Minister Sato and President Johnson.

2 Rescued Pilots on Okinawa

NAHA AB, Okinawa (OI) — The crew of a U.S. F4D Phantom II fighter from Clark AB, R.P. arrived in Okinawa Wednesday after a close brush with death Monday in the waters off the northern coast of Luzon, the main island of the Philippines.

Maj. Robert P. Bateman, the aircraft commander, and copilot Capt. William S. Paul, ejected from their disabled aircraft 40 miles north of Luzon at approximately 8 a.m. Monday.

Their life raft was pounded by heavy seas and high winds for six hours. Several ships attempted to rescue them, but were unsuccessful.

They were finally rescued by Seamen Morgan L. Jones, James B. Harrington and Theodore F. Zizer, of the American vessel S. S. Anniston Victory, at 2:10 p.m. The ship's master, Simon A. Motley, praised the efforts of his seamen who dived off the side and helped pull the men in by ropes.

Motley stated that the men

risked their lives by going over the side to get the downed pilots out of the water.

The pilots were taken from the Victory by a tug boat from Okinawa's Naha Port Wednesday at 11 a.m. On the tug was Col. Duncan C. Myers, vice commander of the 405th Tactical Fighter Wing, Clark AB, the men's parent organization.

Myers presented a special plaque from the men of his wing to Motley for his ship's efforts in saving both pilots.

Jail Term For Priest

MANILA (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest from Pangasinan Province northwest of Manila was sentenced Wednesday to prison for killing another priest with a gun, Philippine News Service (PNS) reported.

In a dispatch, PNS said Rev. Father Jose Sison Estrada drew a sentence ranging from seven to eight years for fatally shooting Fr. Isidro Estrada (no relation) during a quarrel over parish funds.

The incident occurred in 1965. The report said Fr. Estrada was found guilty by a local court of homicide and illegal possession of a firearm. He was meted out a prison sentence of eight to seventeen years for homicide, and one year for the second offense.

PNS quoted the priest's lawyer as saying he would appeal the verdict. Fr. Estrada was out on bail.

R.P. Fire Leaves Many Homeless

MANILA (UPI) — Hundreds were left homeless Wednesday when a fire of undetermined origin swept through a crowded block of shops and homes in the Manila suburb of Pasay City.

No casualties were reported and firemen brought the blaze under control in about two hours.

Firemen estimated the damage would reach nearly \$500,000.

3 Big Drug Firms Fined \$150,000 For Price-Fixing

NEW YORK (AP)—Three major drug firms were fined \$150,000 each in U.S. District Court Wednesday for conspiring to restrain trade and monopolize the market in broad-spectrum antibiotics.

Federal Judge Marvin E. Frankel sentenced Chas. Pfizer & Co., American Cyanamid Co. and Bristol-Myers Co., which were convicted Dec. 29 on the price-fixing charges after a jury trial.

Romney—

(Continued From Page 1) conference there.

Romney said he would answer questions at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Manchester, N.H., at the Sheraton-Wayfarer Inn.

A reporter asked Romney, "whom will you support?" but the governor walked from the room without answering.

(Rockefeller, arriving at Washington's National Airport just about the time Romney finished his brief statement, said that he was not a candidate for the GOP nomination despite the withdrawal of Romney, UPI reported. But Rockefeller reaffirmed that he would accept a draft if one really developed at the Republican convention in Miami Beach Aug. 5.)

Rare Bird Beyond Help

YOMITAN, Okinawa (S&S)—Government Forestry and Cultural Property Protection Commission officials recently sighted a rare bird in the field in the Bolo Point area of Yomitan.

The officials said that the bird was of a rare species of crane (grayish feathers and red legs) which makes its home in Southeast Siberia and migrates to Korea and southern Japan during winter.

Ten days after the sighting, they went to Yomitan again to see if the bird was still there. They sighted the bird—not in the field, but in a Kadena shop, stuffed, ready for sale.

Weather

USAF Weather Central
TOKYO AREA
Thursday night: Cloudy, rain; Low 46
Friday: Cloudy, rain; High 50

TEMPERATURES

Feb. 28		Feb. 29	
H	L	H	L
Bangkok	87 73	Naha	68 59
Chitose	57 43	Saigon	90 75
Guam	81 74	Seoul	50 29
Honolulu	68 55	Taipei	48 37
Manila	86 73	Tokyo	57 36
Feb. 29		Feb. 30	
H	L	H	L
Albany	40 12	Memphis	49 39
Albuquerque	42 41	Miami	49 36
Amarillo	41 34	Milwaukee	31 20
Atlanta	51 35	Moscow	78 64
Birmingham	44 39	N. Orleans	63 35
Bismarck	33 28	NYC	45 28
Boise	56 31	N. Platte	50 19
Boston	35 21	Okla. City	53 27
Chicago	33 29	Omaha	46 29
Cincinnati	37 28	Paris	39 27
Cleveland	33 25	Phila.	45 21
Denver	40 24	Phoenix	79 50
Des Moines	35 20	Pittsburgh	36 19
Detroit	38 24	Port., O.	67 50
Duluth	27 20	Rapid City	40 30
Fairbanks	47 10	Reno	44 29
Fargo	31 24	Richmond	54 14
Fort Worth	44 30	Singapore	89 70
Hong Kong	59 51	St. Louis	35 30
Honolulu	78 64	St. Paul	32 24
Houston	76 54	Salt Lake	54 37
Indianapolis	34 20	S. Antonio	73 41
Jackville	80 42	San Diego	66 59
Jakarta	89 77	San Fran.	58 55
Kansas City	53 32	Seattle	70 45
K. Lumpur	52 45	Shreveport	49 35
London	45 37	Sydney	55 55
L.A.	63 50	Tucson	79 54
Louisville	36 23	Wash.	53 22
Melbourne	68 54		

24 Pacific Stars & Stripes
Friday, March 1, 1968



UPI Radiophoto
PRESIDENT JOHNSON PRESENTS MEDAL TO RETIRING DEFENSE SECRETARY MCNAMARA.

4,000 GIs—

(Continued From Page 1) the cities led to the request.

The 4,000-man 3rd Brigade raised U.S. troop strength in Vietnam to 504,000. They are within the over-all ceiling of 525,000 troops planned to date, but Johnson has said that Westmoreland will get more troops than that if he needs them.

Westmoreland, commander of all U.S. troops in Vietnam, said in an interview three days ago that additional troops beyond the 525,000 already programmed probably will be required. This could mean the call-up of National Guardsmen and Reserves.

The 4,000 paratroopers, 80 per cent of whom are already veterans of at least one tour of combat duty in Vietnam, have been assigned to the Americal Div., for the time being. The Americal Div. is responsible for a 100-mile stretch of coastal lowlands south of Da Nang.

The infusion of the paratroopers into the Americal Div. will free another brigade of 4,000 men from the division for duty along the critical northern frontier where the U.S. command faces its strongest pressure, particularly at Khe Sanh.

Some 40,000 North Vietnamese troops are menacing Khe Sanh, the Marine fortress blocking the Communists' northwest invasion routes into South Vietnam.

The paratroopers themselves may eventually be shifted to the frontier, depending on Communist moves and changes in strategy.

Wheeler Reports to President

(Continued From Page 1) heightened speculation Johnson will have to reach once again into the military manpower pool to beef up the U.S. effort in Vietnam.

Though there has been no official indication of what troop increase, if any, is in store, congressional figures have mentioned numbers as high as 100,000 above the current 525,000-man ceiling. Pentagon officials indicate this is excessively high, but point out that any increase probably will require a callup of reservists. Wheeler briefed the President

Bomb Halt Would Open Talks: Paris

PARIS (AP) — The French government has received explicit information that an unconditional halt in American bombings of North Vietnam would be a "necessary and sufficient condition for an opening of negotiations," a government spokesman said Wednesday.

French Information Minister Georges Gorse said the French government believes that failure to open negotiations increases daily the risk of seeing the war spread to other parts of the world.

Gorse read a prepared statement after the regular weekly French cabinet meeting.

The brief statement read by Gorse was as follows:

"The declaration of U Thant according to which the unconditional cessation of American bombardments of North Vietnam would be a necessary and sufficient condition for the opening of peace negotiations corresponds to information explicitly received by the French government."

Thant's public declaration was made after a trip to New Delhi, Moscow, London and Paris where he discussed the Vietnam War. In both New Delhi and Paris Thant met officials of the North Vietnamese government.

Though Gorse did not say

where the French government received its information, it was generally assumed it came from the North Vietnamese themselves. France has a diplomatic mission in Hanoi, and North Vietnam has a delegate general, Mai Van Bo, in the French capital. French North Vietnamese contacts are regular.

In Washington, U.S. officials said Secretary of State Dean Rusk was aware of the French government statement before he attended a breakfast session at the White House with the President and his top aides on the Vietnam War outlook.

The initial reaction here was that the statement was a repetition of what U.N. Secretary General U Thant had conveyed to President Johnson last week.

"Repetition doesn't add anything new," one official said privately. There was no immediate official reaction.

2,500 'Legitimized'

MEXICO CITY (UPI) — Authorities estimated that at least 2,500 children were "legitimized" by a wedding of 800 couples here. The weddings were part of the government's long-standing drive to cut down the number of illegitimate children in Mexico.

McNamara

(Continued From Page 1)

the podium into an adjoining room, where he was joined by his family and President and Mrs. Johnson.

McNamara's successor, Clark M. Clifford, will be sworn in as defense secretary by Johnson Friday.

"For seven years, Bob McNamara has guided our defense establishments," the President said. "He has helped to give America the strongest military power in history. Now he will try to build the kind of world that alone can justify that power."

Johnson praised McNamara as "an intensely loyal and brilliant and good man."

The formal citation mentioned McNamara having "brought a new dimension to defense planning and decision-making," and noting that while the outgoing defense secretary knew well "that while freedom depends on strength, that strength depends upon the determination of the people."

Book Worth Its Weight in Gold

NEW YORK (AP) — A rare copy of a guide for Mormons who joined the California gold rush in the 1850s has brought a top price of \$2,800 at a Park-Bernet Galleries book auction.

The book, entitled "Mormon Way-Bill to the Goldmines," was published in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1851, and was intended to guide Mormon gold-seekers to camping sites and water holes in the California gold mine area.

Only five of the volumes are believed in existence. The book was purchased by Warren Howell, a San Francisco book dealer.

Disability Explanation

Due to a typographical error in the second of the recent four-part series on income tax by Capt. Salim J. Balady, disability severance pay was listed as an item that must be included in gross income. Disability severance pay should not be included in gross income.

man soon to succeed him, Clark M. Clifford; Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor; the deputy secretary of defense, Paul H. Nitze; and others.

Wheeler later briefed the full presidential Cabinet on his findings, which Christian said covered the situation as it appears for the allies as well as how it looks from the enemy's standpoint.

Christian wouldn't characterize Wheeler's report as optimistic or pessimistic. He said it will be evaluated further by various agencies, especially the Pentagon.

and other ranking war planners for two hours, working from preliminary notes.

White House press secretary George C. Christian said Wheeler covered "the problems we face" in Vietnam and gave a "balanced, factual picture of his impressions of the situation at the present time."

But when asked about possible decision on adding more troops, Christian said: "I cannot give you specific details."

Sitting in on Wheeler's report were: Secretary of State Dean Rusk; Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and the