

European Sentiment Swings To U.S.

LONDON--In the wake of the Communist offensive in Vietnam, America is receiving sympathy from Europe. A writer for the German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich said, "Experience has shown that the way America is made, the best hope for a turnaround lies in its own self-defense. It is a historic moment in which the United States must solve the crisis of having power so great that it is therefore, paradoxically, unusable."

SAIGON--The United States command stated for the first time that a battalion of guerrillas, 450 to 400 men, was fighting as a unit near the Phuoc racetrack, about three miles from the heart of the city. While the official estimate of the number of Viet Cong within the capital was given as 900 on Tuesday, it was stated on very high authority that apprehension was growing among senior American officers that the actual figure might be considerably higher.

GENEVA -- Rumania, Italy and Brazil joined in opposing an attempt by the United States and the Soviet Union to have the disarmament conference give its prompt endorsement to their proposal to prohibit the further spread of nuclear weapons. Rumania charged that the revised draft of the prohibition was growing among senior American officers that the actual figure might be considerably higher.

NEW DELHI -- Safety experts said India has a dismal highway record, killing 80 persons a year for every 10,000 motor vehicles. They said this compares with five for the United States and 10 for Britain.

PARIS--The measures proposed by the Johnson administration to curb tourist spending aroused alarm and indignation in Europe, tempered only with the hope that Congress would not approve them. A survey in major capitals turned up a consensus that the measures, if enacted, would cause serious economic damage.

MOSCOW -- Premier Alexei Kosygin conferred for 50 minutes Tuesday with United States Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson at the American envoy's request. A number of subjects were discussed but details of the conversation were not made public.

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World Roundup

Several British commentators declared the United States is fighting to defend the South Vietnamese against Communist savagery of the type they said was shown in widespread attacks--and also to protect other southeast Asian countries.

London's Daily Telegraph said the U.S. effort demands "resources of resolution, self-reliance, patience and moral stamina such as few countries have been required to display in a cause seemingly so remote from their immediate concerns. We must pray that she is not found wanting."

The Guardian declared, "Negotiation is the only way to bring peace." The Sunday Times said America's presence in Vietnam can be deplored, but added: "It is the Viet Cong, not the Americans, who are now applying--and not for the first time--mass terror methods against civilians--women and children."

A French writer spoke of "the docility and even sympathy the majority of the French press has shown in commenting on 'the crash of the B52 carrying nuclear bombs off Greenland and North Korea's seizure of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo'."

For the Americans to retaliate, major Japanese dailies wrote, would be "only inviting greater misery." They increased their appeals for a political settlement.

SAIGON--Communist forces overran the Lang Vei Special Forces camp Wednesday night, with 316 allied defenders killed, wounded or missing. Lang Vei sits between the Laotian border and Khe Sanh in the northwest corner of South Vietnam.

SEOUL -- Despite a lack of response to United States efforts to recover the crew of the Navy intelligence ship, Pueblo, North Korea has shown a desire to "keep talking" on the issue at Panmunjom, an informed American source said Wednesday.

TOKYO -- Followers of Chairman Mao Tse-tung have seized control of Red China's central province of Hubei, including the troublesome industrial complex of Wuhan, Radio Peking announced.

WASHINGTON -- The Russians have moved a force of warships into Korean waters where American fighting ships have been concentrated in the Pueblo crisis. Government sources said there are 10 to 15 Soviet ships in the area, including cruisers, destroyers and frigates. They are believed to have come from Vladivostok, Russia's main Far East naval base.

BRUSSELS -- The Belgian government told Wednesday because of a renewed outbreak of the language war between Flemings and Walloons that has deeply divided a country hoping to be the focal point of European unity. The immediate issue was the failure of ministers to agree on a way of settling the crisis at Louvain University, where Dutch-speaking Flemish students have been riding for the past three weeks.

MEXICO CITY--A blinding snowstorm caught 29 young boys in the midst of an outing on Mount Itacachuatl Sunday and by the time rescuers reached them Tuesday 12 were dead. The 17 survivors, some with hands and feet frozen, were crazed with terror. The boys were part of a group from the Guadalupe Science Institute.

WASHINGTON--The Soviets are reportedly retreating some of their submarines with nuclear missiles capable of achieving twice the range of present weapons from submerged firing positions. The program to permit the Soviet G Class subs to fire their missiles from below the ocean's surface indicates the U.S.S.R. has mastered technology pioneered with the U.S. Polaris missile-firing submarines, Pentagon sources said.

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