

# France Nears Total Paralysis As Strikes Spread

PARIS -- France is sinking toward total paralysis as more workers occupy factories, mines, and offices.

Both government and strike leaders are striving to avoid a test of force, but the specter of popular hardship is growing.

Depositors staged a run on banks but some banks managed to serve their clients for the day by rationing withdrawals. However, their source of cash, the Bank of France, closed Tuesday.

Estimates of the number of strikers ranged from six to 10 million, the latter being half the nation's wage-earners. The strike began last week as a spontaneous expression of discontent with labor's share of French prosperity and developed into a direct political test of power.

Most of the nation's productive industry came to a stop Monday. Ports fell silent and barge traffic halted. General de Gaulle, who rushed home from Romania over the weekend, remains silent also.

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WASHINGTON -- The United States is telling its NATO allies it cannot keep 300,000 American servicemen in Europe indefinitely. Our European allies are being asked to assume a greater share of their own defense and to help cure the U.S. balance of payments deficit caused by the outflow of dollars to sustain U.S. troops in Europe.

Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford has reportedly told NATO defense ministers that the extent of help on the payment deficit may be a determining factor in future U.S. troop support and expenditures on behalf of NATO.

TOYOSAKI, Japan -- Farmers are digging for their belongings in the rubble of 2,000 homes left in shambles by last week's violent earthquake that rocked the northern end of Honshu.

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THE FORMER president of Ecuador, Galo Plaza Lasso, has been indicted in the \$20,000,000 job in Washington over the weekend. He beat out five other diplomats for the job in the most protracted and heated selection in U.S. history. He is the fourth secretary-general of the 20-year-old organization.

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SANTIAGO, Chile -- Eduardo Frei has entered the electoral eclipse reserved for Chilean presidents. He cannot succeed himself and has two and half years left in office. He is the incumbent and is faced with problems on all sides.

With his political leverage diminished, Frei must grapple with inflation, strikes by teachers, postal and telephone workers; dissension from the left wing of his ruling party which is calling for a common front with the Communist party for the 1970 presidential election; and political scene-stalling by candidates preparing for the 1969 congressional and 1970 presidential elections.

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SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic -- President Joaquin Balaguer's Reform Party has apparently won last week's local elections but its victory margin will be smaller than in the 1968 presidential election that put Balaguer in office.

Opposition parties charging persecution by the government and military, called for a boycott of the balloting. An estimated 40 per cent of the voters stayed away from the polls.

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PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti -- A plane flew over the Haitian capital Monday and dropped several bombs; one of which exploded near the presidential palace. The local newspaper reported it was a small bomb and did not hit anyone and that the other bombs apparently did not explode.

Haiti's U.S. ambassador blames the attack on Haitian exiles and Cubans. The bombing came on the 10th anniversary of Cuba's independence.

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MOSCOW -- The official Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, has accused U.S. Embassy Second Secretary Jon S. Lodgeson of being a spy. Izvestia charged Lodgeson's mission is "to carry out psychological undermining and intelligence activities." The attack came just six days before he was scheduled for transfer to Brussels.

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BONN, Germany -- Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger called off a visit to Spain and Portugal next week, explaining that he had to tend to urgent affairs troubling his coalition government.

Kiesinger canceled the visit to attend the final reading of a controversial draft emergency bill which will appear before the parliament next Wednesday. The legislation would empower a special federal authority to act without parliamentary control during times of crisis which critics compare to Hitler's 1933 seizure of power.

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ROME -- Early returns of Italy's parliamentary elections show a move away from Premier Aldo Moro's three-party coalition toward the far left. Italy's Communist party, the largest in the West, gained 30 per cent of the vote with help from Socialist dissidents, an increase from the 23.6 per cent the Communists won alone in 1963. The trend, however, was not considered decisive and the three parties have pledged to form another coalition government.

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HAVANA -- Premier Fidel Castro plans to eliminate Cuba's military draft in a move to raise the quality of the armed forces. He said the draft will be replaced by a system where both sexes will get military training as part of their education.

Currently, males 15 to 27 are liable for three years' compulsory service with few deferments given. Castro hopes to get more qualified personnel in the regular armed forces, estimated at more than 200,000.

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CAIRO -- Western diplomats reported last week that Cairo is ready to end the state of war with Israel and cede to Israel shipping the right to use the Straits of Tiran if Israel agrees to withdraw troops from Arab territory conquered during last June's six-day war.

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SAIGON -- President Nguyen Van Thieu announced the appointment of Tran Van Huong as S. Vietnam's new premier nine hours after accepting Nguyen Van Lo's resignation as an emergency cabinet meeting.

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LONDON -- An agent for an anonymous American bought a 10-inch bronze figure of the 19,000-year-old Venus of Willendorf for \$7,800 at a Sotheby auction. It was cast from an original by Venetian Cellini in the 1540-45 period.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

shu, 300 miles above Tokyo. Police report 38 persons killed, six missing, 246 injured, and 9,000 homeless, with damage estimates at hundreds of millions of dollars. At the nearby American Air Force Base in Misawa, the quake did \$10 million damage and caused minor injury to 29 airmen and dependents.

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SAIGON -- U.S. troops reported killing 107 enemy troops in S. Vietnam's northern sector last week as the allies headed for widespread attacks on Ho Chi Minh's birthday.

The fighting near Khe Sanh and south of Da Nang left 28 Americans dead and 136 wounded. Military officials report 22 U.S. Marines killed and 81 wounded in Operation Allen Brook, a drive aimed at rooting out enemy troops invading Da Nang.

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WARSAW -- The Polish Communists are reviving a campaign against Jews with their charges of Jewish collaboration with the Nazis during WWII. After several weeks of playing down anti-Jewish themes, the official news agency PAP published an article bitterly critical of the Judenrat government that ran the ghettos in Nazi-occupied Poland. The article claimed the Judenrat delivered valuable Jewish property to the Nazis and sent their own families to death.

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PRAGUE -- Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin has assured Czech reformists their liberalizing moves will be "met with understanding" in the Kremlin and apparently gave them hope of receiving a Soviet loan.

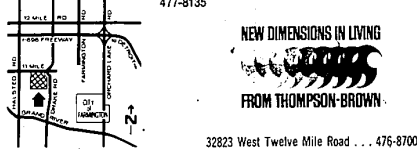
Kosygin conferred with Czech leaders last week in the midst of their tense dispute over the Czech "democratic socialist revolution." Believed to be a

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