

Nixon plans troop withdrawal speech today

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Nixon will announce another troop withdrawal from Vietnam Wednesday night that fits a plan to reduce the U.S. troop level to a residual force of fewer than 50,000 men by the summer of 1972.

An aide close to the President's thinking confirmed this administration goal Tuesday. Barring change, it would mean a substantial increase in the withdrawal rate of 12,500 men a month

that has prevailed since the U.S. pullout began in June, 1969.

Although Nixon has warned against speculating what the withdrawal rate will be, Sen. George D. Aiken, R-Vt., reported that it already has been accelerated to 18,000 a month—an increase of nearly 50 per cent.

The faster new rate has been in effect for the past two weeks and if it continues, Nixon would "get them all out

some time next year," Aiken said. "I don't think he would leave many behind."

Aiken, senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was interviewed on Metromedia radio news.

U.S. troop strength reached its high point in April, 1969, shortly after Nixon took office, when it stood at 543,400 men. It now totals about 300,000, and is

scheduled to drop to 284,000 men by May 1.

The President will disclose the next stage of the U.S. pullout, and review the Laotian operation and other developments in Indochina, in a nationally broadcast address from the White House starting at 9 p.m. EST Wednesday.

The Nixon aide said the next phase would be in line with the pattern of withdrawing mostly ground combat troops, leaving behind a sufficient air, logistics and security force to support South Vietnamese troops.

The President spent most of the day working on drafts of his speech and conferring with aides, including Henry A. Kissinger, his national security affairs adviser, in a hideaway office in the Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House.

Meanwhile, in Indochina, South Vietnamese "Black Panther" troops flew into Laos aboard U.S. helicopters Tuesday and reported blowing up a North



Vietnamese regimental command post in a raid on a huge Communist supply base. More heavy combat raged on the Central Highlands of South Vietnam.

The Laos raid was the second by South Vietnamese troops since the end of the 45-day Saigon offensive against Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh Trail and more such forays were predicted. South Vietnamese commandos had tried to attack the base

area—known as "611"—a week ago but heavy enemy ground fire drove them off. Fewer than 300 men of the elite Hac Bao Black Panther unit of South Vietnam's 1st Infantry Division took part in the seven-hour Laos mission Tuesday, moving into the heart of 611 and claiming to have killed 15 North Vietnamese while suffering light casualties themselves.

Pakistan head attacks India

President A.M. Yahya Khan of Pakistan accused India Tuesday of massing troops along the East Pakistani frontier while two officials of the Pakistani high commission in Dacca defected to India Tuesday to express their support with the independence movement in East Pakistan.

Khan's charge against India said the massing of troops was a move directly threatening the security of Pakistan. India denied the charge.

Indian government sources said the two Pakistani officials, Second Secretary K.M. Shehabuddin and Assistant Press Attache Amhadul Huq, asked for a received political asylum in India. Both are East Bengalis.

More American refugees were airlifted out of strife-torn East Pakistan Tuesday and told accounts of violence in Dacca.

In a broadcast over official Pakistan radio, Yahya said India had sent the equivalent of six army divisions into West Bengal state which borders East Pakistan.

The broadcast quoted Yahya as saying "this concentration on our borders represents a direct threat to our

security." It also said that federal Pakistani troops had again "confronted" armed infiltrators from India.

The Indian Foreign Ministry in New Delhi denied Yahya's charge. "We have taken precautions not to put any regular army troops in the area," a ministry spokesman said. He said only paramilitary border forces are stationed along the frontier.

Shehabuddin was accompanied by his wife, Kheledi, and their two daughters, Rahuma, 3, and Sarhana, 1. Huq, a bachelor, has parents residing in East Pakistan.

West Pakistani agents had shadowed the two diplomats from East Pakistan since the civil war erupted in the province March 25, the defectors reported.

Huq, 33, had told UPI that the West Pakistanis could not possibly win the war in East Pakistan and that the liberation forces of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would fight forever if necessary to gain independence.

They said they were defecting to India in order to aid the cause of the freedom struggle.

Twenty-six weary American men, women and children arrived in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday aboard a Pakistani International Airlines PIA flight from Dacca and told of shooting, burning and tanks rumbling through the streets.

Some said it appeared that Pakistani troops were now in control of the breakaway province, separated by 1,000 miles of Indian territory.

"I don't think the situation will ever be the same again," said Charles McGinley of Bethesda, Md. "I feel like I am 100 years old now."

McGinley, U.S. cultural affairs officer in Dacca, returned with the group of refugees for normal reassignment. "In Dacca the army is now in control and it was quiet when we last left it," he said.

The Americans who arrived in Tehran consisted of nine families. Embassy officials said a charter plane carrying about another 100 American evacuees would arrive Wednesday. At the time of the uprising there were about 750 Americans in East Pakistan.

On Monday, 110 Americans were flown out of East Pakistan.

Nixon asks SST money termination

WASHINGTON—President Nixon asked Congress Tuesday to appropriate an additional \$97.3 million to cover costs of terminating the supersonic transport SST development program.

Of this amount, \$52.1 million would go to the Boeing Co., and \$33.2 million to General Electric Co. in refunds for cost shares.

Called music's Picasso

Stravinsky dead at 88

NEW YORK—Composer Igor Stravinsky, a towering genius who changed the course of 20th century music, died Tuesday at his Manhattan home at 88, mourned even in his native Russia where his work was long abhorred as decadent.

A fatal heart attack struck the frail, ailing composer-conductor-author in the early morning hours as he slept in his Fifth Avenue apartment. His wife, former ballerina Vera de Bossett, who rarely left his side in recent years, was with him at the end.

Stravinsky's passing evoked eulogies from musical figures around the world and touched off plans for a round of memorial concerts. Vienna Philharmonic Musicians and Conductor Leonard Bernstein interrupted a rehearsal for a moment of silence when they received the news.

The consensus of experts was that Stravinsky's place in musical history will rest mainly on his popular early works—"Firebird," "Petrouchka" and "The Rite of Spring"—rather than those

composed after World War I, although the 1951 opera, "The Rake's Progress", has entered the standard repertory.

"The works he composed before he was 30 are the ones that changed the course of music," said fellow composer Virgil Thomson. "Those are the crucial compositions of the 20th century."

French composer Henri Sauguet declared Stravinsky was "the equivalent of Picasso to music." Sir Arthur Bliss, England's most honored composer, described him as "one of those geniuses which come along once or twice in a century." Canadian conductor Wilfrid Pelletier linked him with Richard Strauss as the two greatest composers of our century.

Bred in the romantic classicism of his teacher, Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov,

Stravinsky adopted his own style about 1909 to write ballet scores for impresario Serge Diaghilev. He used syncopation irregular meters, and explosive dissonances which aroused violent criticism. The audience reaction to the 1913 Paris premier of "The Rite of Spring" was so turbulent that Stravinsky fled through a backstage window just before police arrived.

After the Russian Revolution Stravinsky resided permanently in France and became a French citizen. He tempered his modernity somewhat to develop a neo-classic style that had its finest flowering in the opera, "Oedipus Rex" 1926, and "The Symphony of Psalms" 1930. During this period he developed his role as pianist and conductor of his own works.

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