Thursday, April 17, 1975

The Daily Tar Heel

Premier Solh moves to end Beirut fighting

United Press International

BEIRUT - Premier Rashid Solh announced Wednesday that Palestinian guerrillas and Phalangist militiamen had agreed on a cease-fire in their four-day battle around Beirut in which more than 300 persons were killed or wounded.

Solh threatened violators with the "iron fist" of Lebanese security forces. But an hour after the cease-fire went into effect sporadic shooting could still be heard.

Clashes between the Palestinians and right-wing Phalangists since Sunday killed at least 105 persons and wounded more than 200 others, according to figures from both lactions.

The Phalangists, a strongly anti-Communist private political party, charge the Palestinians have too much control over

sections of Lebanon bordering on Israel. They also deplore guerrilla raids into Israel which have brought Israeli reprisal attacks' on Lebanese villagers.

Solh, in a statement broadcast by Beirut Radio, said: "After contacts with the parties concerned, and in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Arab League. Mahmoud Riad, and Arab ambassadors, a cease-fire has been agreed upon and all armed men are to be withdrawn from public places."

Lebanese security forces were instructed to apprehend troublemakers and rumormongers. Solh said.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, umbrella for the main guerrilla groups, accepted the cease-fire "in the interests of Lebanon and safety of its citizens and to help the return of peace and normal life to the country."



President Ford orders nonessential U.S. personnel evacuated from South Vietnam.

Ford orders U.S. personnel evacuated from S. Vietnam

WASHINGTON - President Ford said today he has ordered the evacuation of all nonessential American personnel from South Vietnam.

"We are phasing out on a daily basis such U.S. personnel who have no responsibility either for the government or for whatever purpose they are there," Ford told a meeting of U.S. newspaper editors.

"The present plan is to keep those there who have a position of responsibility. meaningful jobs. I am not in a position to specify how many that will be."

Asked about evacuating South Vietnamese, the President said that in his foreign policy speech to Congress Thursday he indicated there are a number who have supported the United States the past 20 years.

"I think we have a responsibility to them but I do not think I ought to talk about an evacuation. I hope we are in a situation where we can get a negotiated settlement that wouldn't put their lives in jeopardy," he said. He said it was still not too late for Saigon to make effective use of the military aid he has requested.

"I am absolutely convinced, if the Congress made available the \$722 million in military assistance that I have requested in a timely way, that the South Vietnamese could

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stabilize the situation," Ford told the editors. "Unfortunately the United States did not carry out its commitment in supplying military hardware and economic aid to South Vietnam. I wish we had.

"I think if we had, this present tragic situation in South Vietnam would not have occurred," he said.

In South Vietnam Communist forces attacking with tanks and artillery Wednesday captured their 18th province capital, routed a government regiment and shelled South Vietnam's biggest air base for the third day.

South Vietnamese intelligence reports said government reconnaissance planes had spotted a Russian-built MIG19 fighter jet parked at a one-time U.S. base at Pleiku, 230 miles north of Saigon - within striking range of the capital.

Americans under orders from President Ford began packing up to leave Saigon.

Maj. Gen. Homer Smith, the U.S. defense attache and highest ranking American military man in Vietnam, said, "I'm not suggesting it (the fall of Vietnam) may happen, but, hell, anybody who's got any smarts at all can look at the situation and figure out what kind of risk there is involved."

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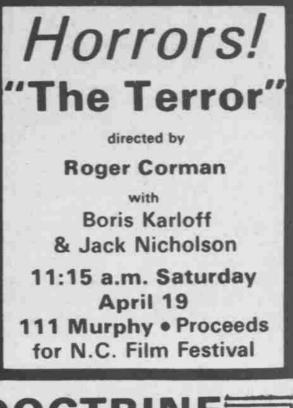
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Phan Rang, capital of Ninh Thuan province 165 miles northeast of Saigon, fell to a tank-led, 5,000-man Communist force that sent government defenders. outnumbered two to one, fleeing to rescue ships waiting off the coast in the South China Sea. Two South Vietnamese generals were reported trapped in the city.

The Communists now control 18 of South Vietnam's 44 provinces.

Newsmen said what military experts believed to be North Vietnam's crack 7th Division - about 10,000 men at full strength rolled over a 2,500-man South Vietnamese regiment just west of yet another embattled province capital - Xuan Loc 38 miles northeast of Saigon.



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Groups oppose New River suit

WASHINGTON - Three groups supporting Appalachian Power Co.'s proposed New River Power Project have asked the federal court here to be heard on the pending case challenging its construction permit.

The groups, two from North Carolina and one from Virginia, support building the dam and oppose the State of North Carolina's suit that seeks to have the project reexamined for environmental reasons.

The groups are the Committee for the Improvement of Allegheny (County, North Carolina), the Ashe (County, North Carolina) Citizens Committee and the Grayson (Virginia) Business Development Association.

Their attorney, Dan R. Murray of Sparta, N.C., criticized the "dilatory tactics" of North Carolina and said they have caused serious harm to the affected areas in North Carolina and Virginia.

The result, the brief said, is a state of limbo

such that "local governments are unable to plan for the future, not knowing what type of community they will be planning for."

Challenging North Carolina's contention that the \$430 million twin-dam project might harm the scenic river, the brief said it will be of "inestimable benefit to northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia."

Meanwhile, state legislators representing the counties in North Carolina affected by the project were to meet today to decide whether they will press for enactment of a bill to bring a segment of the New River into the state's scenic river system. The bill could play a part in blocking the power project.

The bill would designate 26.5 miles of the river in Ashe and Allegheny counties as an area of scenic river and place restrictions on

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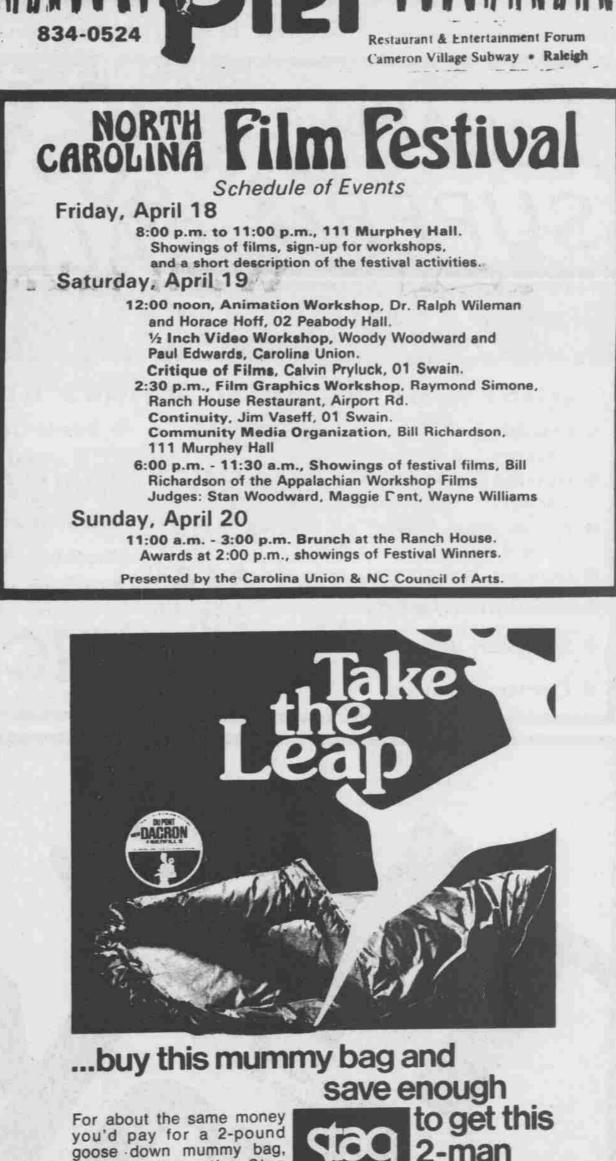
development there.

The state of Virginia got in the fray Tuesday when it asked federal court here to dismiss the North Carolina protest.









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