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SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA — The City Designed for Living — TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 2, 1973 FINAL

South Vietnamese Say Peace Agreement Near

SAIGON (UPI) —Vietnamese government sources said today that President Nguyen Van Thieu was informed that the United States and North Vietnam are near a compromise on a cease-fire agreement and hope to complete and sign it by about mid-January.

The sources, who are familiar with the thinking of the South Vietnamese President, said Thieu still opposed the compromise and would refuse to sign it. They said, however, he would go along with it's provisions, at least temporarily.

The sources said the compromise was reached in behind-the-scenes negotiating during President Nixon's 12-day bombing campaign against North Vietnam but did not say how the negotiations were carried out.

The sources said the principal sticking point was Hanoi's insistence that Vietnam is one country, not separate North and South Vietnams as claimed by Thieu.

According to the sources, the compromise provides that North Vietnam will agree to drop its insistence on the inclusion in the treaty of a specific phrase affirming that Vietnam is one nation. Nixon would then agree to stop demanding withdrawal of North Vietnamese forces from the South, they said.

(In Washington, acting White House press secretary Gerald Warren refused to comment on the reports.

(Officials of the Nixon administration said no specific agreement has been reached but they indicated that an ultimate agreement might contain elements of the Saigon report —Hanoi's dropping of its insistence on a one country concept and Nixon dropping his demands for a total pullout of North Vietnamese forces. The officials said such a compromise could provide the avenue to a final solution to be worked out in the forthcoming talks between Dr. Henry A. Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho.)

A letter from Nixon to Thieu was handed to the Vietnamese leader Dec. 20 by U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth C. Bunker, the sources said. The message rejected Thieu's demands that the North Vietnamese be forced to withdraw all their forces before the signing of a peace pact.

As a result, Thieu has decided to refuse to sign the peace treaty at formal ceremonies later this month in Paris, the sources said.

He will view it, publicly at least, as a separate deal ending hostilities between North Vietnam and the United States, but merely the first stage of three in a final solution to the war.

Thieu is expected to state, as he has in the past, that separate negotiations be held between his government and North Vietnam and between Saigon and the Viet Cong in order to reach a final settlement.

The Vietnamese leader, however, will go along with provisions of the treaty such as a cease-fire; the setting up of military commissions with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, and the establishment of a "National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord" with the Viet Cong to establish rules for future elections.

Thieu is known to believe that the signing of a treaty will not bring an end to the Vietnam war, although it may change its character from mostly military to mostly political.

JOAN BAEZ (L) TALKS TO UNIDENTIFIED U.S. PRISONERS
She Met Them at POW Camp During Her Visit to Hanoi

—UPI Facsimile

War Opponents Tell Of Hanoi Devastation

PALO ALTO (UPI) — Folk-her singer Joan Baez returned to the Bay Area last night after an 11-day stay in North Vietnam where she witnessed U.S. bombing.

Miss Baez estimated that 2,000 persons were killed in Hanoi during her visit.

"I was scared stiff," she said. "You begin to understand certain things about what life is like under bombardment day after day."

The strangest thing she encountered, she said, was the rubble remains of a hospital.

"The director of the hospital showed us around and said us where everything was," she said.

Miss Baez was met at San Francisco International Airport by about 100 persons, including her estranged husband, Dave Harris, their three-year-old son, Gabriel, and Miss Baez' parents.

Miss Baez was one of a four-member delegation which visited North Vietnam. It also included Telford Taylor, Chief U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal.

Telford told a news conference Monday in New York that they were "exposed to destruction and suffering and death on a scale that has distressed and dismayed us beyond words.

"We saw hospitals, housing developments, residential areas shattered and virtually erased, as well as railroad stations and airports that had been hit and damaged."

Taylor, now a professor at the Columbia law school, said the Bach Mai hospital had been destroyed and within the complex he saw a "number of buildings that had been hit directly and were completely knocked down."

Taylor said the American bombing of Hanoi was "far heavier" than the German blitz of London in World War II. He said some areas were "just a desert, like the Warsaw ghetto after the war. Just flat."

Miss Baez said, however, that the Hanoi people would smile the day after a raid and "the general attitude is you go back to work.

"If your house is demolished, everything you own disappears in the rubble; if all of your family is left living it's practically a celebration," she said.

Another member of the group, Michael Allen, associate dean of the Yale Divinity School, said the "most horrible scene" he witnessed was a devastated residential district where he found an old woman sobbing "My son, my son. Where are you? Where are you?"

Allen said he was told that one underground hospital in Hanoi treated some 200 wounded a day from bombing raids over a 10-day period.

The fourth member of the delegation, Barry Romo, a Vietnam veteran and national coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said he was treated "like a brother" by the North Vietnamese. He said some of them asked for VVAW lapel buttons.

Albert Vows Funds Cutoff If No Peace

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Carl Albert of Oklahoma was easily re-elected speaker of the House of Representatives by fellow Democrats today and was quoted as threatening end-the-war legislation if the Vietnam fighting is not stopped.

Albert was chosen to a second term by a vote of 203 to 25 at a closed caucus over Rep. John D. Conyers of Michigan. Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill of Massachusetts had no opposition to election as new majority leader.

While Albert was quoted as saying Congress might impose an end to the war if President Nixon does not end it, Sen. George S. McGovern, D-S.D., asked Senate leaders to request Nixon to appear at a closed session of senators next week to explain his bombing policy.

A small group of wives and mothers of some U.S. war prisoners met with Albert prior to the closed caucus. Rep. Benjamin Rusnthal, D-N.Y., who attended the meeting, said Albert told the group an end to the war amendment would be attached to the first appropriations bill, possibly as early as February, if peace has not been achieved.

Albert was not available for comment but Rusnthal, a long time supporter of antiwar moves, said, "That's the strongest statement he's ever made" on Vietnam. Albert has generally supported Nixon's Vietnam policies.

Rep. Olin Teague, D-Tex., was re-elected chairman of the Democratic caucus.

The leadership permitted debate on a proposal calling for election rather than appointment of the third-ranking Democratic leader, the party whip. This is the job held in the 92nd Congress by O'Neill.

Albert had no major opposition for election to his second term as speaker, nor did O'Neill in his bid to succeed Hale Boggs as No. 2 man in the House.

Fair in Most Of the Empire

There's a chance of showers tonight in the northern area, but most of the Redwood Empire can expect continued fair weather through tomorrow, says the National Weather Service.

There will be light winds.

Predicted highs and lows are 63 and 37 for Santa Rosa and 55 and 30 for Ukiah.

Additional weather information can be found on page 2.

A Link In Deaths Of 4 Girls?

By BONY SALUDES

Sonoma County authorities today wondered whether there is a common link in the deaths of four girls whose nude bodies were found under starkly similar circumstances last year.

But meantime, they're concentrating their investigation into the latest case — the deaths of Maureen Sterling and Yvonne Weber.

The search that began the night of Feb. 4 ended Sunday when skeletal remains, found over a steep embankment on Franz Valley Road last Thursday, were identified as those of the two Santa Rosa girls.

Although it may be impossible to determine exactly what caused their death, it is quite obvious they were murdered — probably like Kim Wendy Allen.

Police juvenile officer Robert Rabell, who conducted an investigation in February when the two girls disappeared from the Redwood Empire Ice Arena, met over the weekend with Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Lee Jamme.

He turned over results of his investigation — an investigation which reportedly had lain dormant in police files until the two deaths.

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LT. GRANGER

Son of RP Man: U.S. Bombs Did It

The son of a Rohnert Park man is one of four captured U.S. airmen quoted as saying that American bombs — not falling on North Vietnamese missiles—have devastated Hanoi.

The four, all captured since the Dec. 18 resumption of bombing in the north, said they had seen the destruction and were "shocked" by it, according to a reporter for the French news service, Agence France-Presse.

The agency quoted Lt. Paul Louis Granger as deploring the fact that "so many innocent victims" died in the bombing.

"We saw complete streets which had been leveled," Granger is purported to have said.

Lt. Granger, a resident of Westover, Mass., is the son of Clement Granger, Rohnert Park.

The elder Granger said he had seen the story from the French news agency, but he politely declined to make any comment whatsoever about its contents.

The Defense Department Dec. 22 listed Lt. Granger as a war casualty.

The Press Democrat reported earlier that other sources said he had been shot down and was apparently a prisoner of war.

His father thought it "best all around" if he did not comment.

The four airmen were presented to foreign reporters at Hanoi's International Club by

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Pentagon Says Bombs May Have Hit Hanoi Hospital

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon said today U.S. bombs may have hit and damaged the huge Bach Mai hospital in Hanoi.

A Defense Department spokesman, Jerry W. Friedheim, said reporters the United States had detected "limited, accidental damage" to the hospital as well as to Hanoi's civilian airport.

Last Wednesday Friedheim denied any American bombs had hit the 950-bed civilian hospital.

Today Friedheim said of damage to the hospital, "It could have been from U.S. sources; it could have been from North Vietnamese sources."

He denied reports by singer Joan Baez and some other Americans just back from Hanoi that the hospital had been destroyed. He said parts of it were still in operation.

Friedheim said it has been impossible to determine whether the damage to the two civilian facilities were caused by bombs, the crash of American bombers, by a North Vietnamese missile that went astray or by North Vietnamese MIG fighters crashing after being shot down over Hanoi.

"It appears that some limited accidental damage has occurred to some facilities at Gia Lam airport and at a hospital in the enemy calls Bach Mai. The exact extent of this damage is uncertain as is its cause. Our information does not square with Hanoi's propaganda claims of massive destruction at these sites," Friedheim said.

He also said in a statement: "I would like to reiterate that our policy remains one of targeting only military targets in North Vietnam. We know and have said many times, that from time to time accidental damage to other than military targets occurs, sometimes involving United States ordinance or aircraft, sometimes involving North Vietnamese ordinance or aircraft.

"We regret any such accidental damage from whatever source, but we reiterate that our strikes have been targeted only at military targets."

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and a group of other Americans associated with the antiwar movement said they would seek $2 million to help rebuild the hospital and said $200,000 already had been raised.

The fund drive is being

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Limited Bombing Resumes

SAIGON (UPI) —U.S. warplanes ending a 36-hour New Year's Day truce hit the panhandle area of North Vietnam today but American military sources said they steered clear of the Hanoi-Haiphong heartland.

In line with U.S. command policy, spokesmen refused to provide details of the bombing which resumed at 1 p.m. today (midnight EST Monday), but the sources said the strikes were limited to the panhandle below the 20th Parallel which runs 65 miles south of Hanoi.

President Nixon earlier ordered a halt in the bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong complex, which Hanoi and some military experts called the heaviest of the entire war, when he announced new peace negotiations in Paris next week.

Despite the 36-hour bomb halt over the North and a 24-hour

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—UPI Facsimile

A SOBERING EXPERIENCE INDEED. Some 400 members of the San Francisco Olympic Club run into the waters off Ocean Beach in the second half of their annual hike and dip on New Year's Day.

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116th YEAR — No. 63

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Whites Ask Integration

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (UPI) —Blacks in the city's elementary school basketball program always win the games —sometimes in the past by scores like 80-5 or 90-7.

They win so much that some white parents want to break up the black teams and integrate them by allowing white children to play with the blacks.

Harold E. Rice, director of recreation, said Monday the city's two black teams— composed of fifth and sixth graders—won so much that it "didn't look right." He said the coaches and promoters of the black elementary teams had won so much they lost sight of the original purpose of the program—to teach fundamentals.

Black leaders are fighting the move to integrate the program.

"This is a divide and conquer method whereby they are trying to eliminate the competition because their kids can't win," said the Rev. Austin Harold of the Turner Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Andrew White, president of the Macomb County chapter of the NAACP, said his organization would go to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission "or adopt any other means we can use to block" the city's recreation board plan to intermesh players from the two all-black and five all-white teams.

"Because of limited recreational programs, our kids play basketball all year long," Harold said. "The other kids can play tennis and golf."

Harold and White said the approximately 6,000 blacks of the population of 21,000 in this city northeast of Detroit live in a "poverty belt" along the city's East Side, and play a lot of basketball among themselves.

After many one-sided scores, the city adopted a rule two years ago to automatically end a game when a team got 45 points ahead—but Rice said the black teams made a "farce" of that rule by stalling when they got near the 45-point lead.

But for now, the city's nine-member recreation board plans to centralize, with the coaches drafting players "both black and white" and from different neighborhoods.

"We are trying to serve all the people," Rice said.

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