

# Moscow Reportedly May Push Hanoi To Accept U.S. Secret-Talks Offer

PARIS (UPI) — Reports from Moscow raised hopes of greater Russian pressure on the North Vietnamese to accept the American offer of secret talks about a peace settlement, an allied conference source said Saturday.

The reports of a Chinese ban on Soviet shipments of supplies and arms to North Vietnam indicated a possibility of increased Soviet pressure on Hanoi to take a more conciliatory attitude in the deadlocked peace negotiations, said the source.

"The Russians have a dual

reason for the pressure," said the source. "First, if the Chinese continue to block the arms shipments virtually the only delivery route left open is around the Cape of Good Hope.

"Second, the Chinese action might force the North Vietnamese to rely more on China for arms shipments. In the current state of Sino-Soviet relations this would not suit the Russians at all."

North Vietnam has not taken sides in the dispute between Russia and China that came to

a head with the border incident of March 2 in which, according to the Russians, 31 Soviet soldiers were killed.

With the way through China blocked, Russian ships would have to take the costly route around South Africa and run the gauntlet of American observation ships stationed in the Tonkin Gulf.

Russia supplies North Vietnam with almost all its heavier armament from machine guns up. The Chinese provide only small arms and grenades.



OFF TO HUNGARY — Russian Premier Alexei Kosygin and Communist party Chairman Leonid Brezhnev prepare to board a train in Moscow for a meeting in Budapest of the premiers, party chiefs and foreign and defense ministers of the nations of the Warsaw pact military alliance. —AP Photo

It was speculated that the question might be raised at the Warsaw Pact conference in Budapest. East European sources in Moscow said the parley, scheduled to open Monday, was called to discuss the Sino-Soviet situation.

Meanwhile, French sources close to the peace talks here said President Nixon, in his news conference Friday, had presented the Communists with an opportunity to reduce their offensive without losing face.

The President said there would be no further warnings on U.S. action. He said he thought the conflict would be settled in the private talks American negotiators called for last week.

## Snow Stops In Germany

HAMBURG (AP) — It stopped snowing in northern Germany Saturday but drifts up to 10 feet high from Friday's storm blocked roads and isolated villages in Schleswig-Holstein.

Ice and sleet covered roads in Lower Saxony, where temperatures hovered around freezing and made driving hazardous. Snow and ice on the roads slowed traffic into East Germany and cars were moving slowly through the Helmstedt checkpoint.

Schleswig-Holstein, the narrow strip of West Germany that borders Denmark, bore the brunt of the howling wind and snow Thursday night and Friday. Authorities said many cars were abandoned and more than 100 farms and homes still were isolated by the deep snowdrifts.

Flood tides broke a dike at Maasholm on the east coast overnight, but it was repaired with sandbags. Several ships took shelter in the port at Helgoland to wait for the seas to calm.

Ferry services between Puttgarden and the Danish island of Lollaod remained interrupted by the storm.

# TODAY'S WORLD

## ● Saigon Buddhist Leader Sentenced

SAIGON (UPI)—A South Vietnamese military court Saturday sentenced Buddhist leader Thich Thien Minh to 10 years hard labor for harboring weapons, illegal documents and army deserters.

The court handed down the sentence after deliberating five hours. Minh, a Buddhist monk who operated the Buddhist Youth Center in Saigon, was arrested Feb. 23 at the center.

Police said they found "weapons, illegal documents, deserters and rebels" in the building. Minh has been a critic of the South Vietnamese regime. He has compared President Nguyen Van Thieu to former President Ngo Dinh Diem for his "oppression of the Buddhist church."

Minh will be tried by a second military court Monday on additional charges of harboring "rebels and outlaws."

## ● Bubbly Too Dear for Frenchmen

EPERNAY, France (UPI) — Champagne stopped sparkling for French winegrowers in 1968 as Frenchmen found it becoming too expensive. Foreigners, however, led by the British, continued to consume increasing amounts of bubbly, the Champagne Producers Association announced.

The association said domestic sales dropped 12.5 per cent — blamed on sales tax increases — while exports rose 8 per cent. Britain remained France's largest customer for champagne, taking 6,872,711 bottles, some \$30,000 more than in 1967. The United States was the second-best customer, buying 4,369,900 bottles, up some 300,000.

## ● Dutschke Assailant Gets 7 Years

BERLIN (UPI) — Josef Bachmann, whose shooting of leftist student leader Rudi (Red Rudi) Dutschke touched off nationwide riots last Easter, was sentenced to seven years hard labor on Friday.

lice in the cellar of an apartment building under construction minutes later and wounded in a gun battle.

A West Berlin court found the 24-year-old Bachmann guilty of attempted murder in the April 11 pistol attack on Dutschke, 28-year-old ideologist-orator of the ultra-left Socialist German Students Federation (SDS). Bachmann was trapped by po-

lice in the cellar of an apartment building under construction minutes later and wounded in a gun battle.

SDS-led mobs stormed into the streets of West Berlin and a score of West German cities in protest against the attack. The SDS turned the fury of demonstrators against the newspapers of press magnate Axel Springer which they said created "a climate of hate against the conformists" that encouraged the shooting.

## ● Bavarian Salute to Astronauts

MUNICH (UPI) — The Bavarian state mint is minting gold and silver medals in remembrance of the successful test of Apollo 9's lunar lander, it was announced Saturday.

A mint spokesman said the medals show portraits of astronauts James A. McDivitt, David R. Scott and Russell L. Schweickart on the front and the Apollo 9 spacecraft and its lunar lander on the reverse.

## ● AFL-CIO Asked to Reconsider

BRUSSELS (UPI)—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has appealed to the American AFL-CIO to reconsider its Feb. 20 decision to withdraw from the confederation.

ny on the reasons he gave in this withdrawal.

But ICFTU General Secretary Harm Bulter said the executive board had decided not to enter into a public argument with AFL-CIO President George Me-

- Meany recently said too many European ICFTU members had too close contacts with Communist organizations which he said could not be considered trade unions.

Bulter said the AFL-CIO withdrawal could cause the ICFTU to lose about \$360,000 out of its \$2 million budget.

## ● Cardinal Most Popular Austrian

VIENNA (UPI) — Viennese Cardinal Franz Koenig was voted the most popular Austrian in a poll of 2,000 persons conducted by the Austrian Institute of Public Opinion. Conductor Herbert von Karajan was voted second most popular.

## Sell Me a Cell, Art Buyer Begs

ACAPULCO, Mexico (UPI) — An Acapulco art collector has offered to pay the city "whatever price they ask" for the wall and door of surrealist painter Sofia Bassi's cell at the municipal jail.

any price they say. It doesn't matter," he declared.

The mural was painted on stucco, which had been smoothed and sanded by other prisoners. Mrs. Bassi, considered one of Mexico's better surrealist painters, said it was her best contribution to Mexico.

Mrs. Bassi, who was convicted of the Jan. 3, 1968, killing of her son-in-law, Italian Count Cesare D'Acquarone, at their villa, teamed with Mexican artists Jose Cuevas and Alberto Gironella to paint the wall and door with a mural called "Justice, Punishment and Calumny." Mrs. Bassi, who pleaded innocent, painted the "calumny" portion.

Throughout a long trial, the 60-year-old Mrs. Bassi maintained her innocence. The glamorous, green-eyed grandmother is still waiting to be sentenced in the death of D'Acquarone, who fell into the family's swimming pool after being shot five times at close range.

When the work was unveiled Thursday, Jose Maria Tasende, owner of one of Acapulco's biggest art galleries, jumped with joy, calling it a masterpiece. "I'm ready to pay 100,000 pesos (\$8,000), 200,000 pesos or more—

There was some question about whether it would be legal to sell the wall and door, which have been turned into a work of art and therefore become a national property. Besides, the cell is still occupied.

# Geneva Disarmament Talks Called Good East-West Gauge

GENEVA (AP)—The 17-nation disarmament conference will reopen here Tuesday after a seven-month recess during which the Russians invaded Czechoslovakia and the United States elected a new leader.

international climate is sufficiently improved for such talks to get under way "within a few months."

This will be the first long meeting between leading U.S. and Soviet officials since the inauguration of President Nixon, and it is expected to be a useful gauge for measuring East-West relations.

Nixon's decision to "substantially moderate" America's proposed missile shield and new Communist Chinese activity on the frontier with Russia could help get things moving. Washington and Moscow believe the Chinese are capable of launching long-range nuclear missiles.

The biggest disarmament issue is the proposed talks between the United States and the Soviet Union about limiting anti-missile systems.

Three major issues expected to dominate the Geneva conference are:

The invasion of Czechoslovakia delayed the start of these negotiations but an informed Western diplomatic source said the

—An underground nuclear test ban;

—A treaty to ban the manufacture and use of biological and chemical weapons;

—A treaty to ban fixed nuclear or other armaments installations

on the sea bed.

Chances of a comprehensive test ban treaty seem remote. The Soviet Union claims modern detection methods are so efficient that visiting inspectors are unnecessary. They would also be potential spies, the Russians allege.

The United States says on-site inspection is still vital because there is no equipment sensitive enough to distinguish between a minor earth tremor and an underground nuclear test.

Swedish compromise proposals for an international inspection system could help break the ice.

Britain is pushing for an international treaty which would outlaw biological and chemical weapons but the initial Soviet reaction has been cool.

The diplomatic source said the sea bed treaty is the best bet for progress during the forthcoming sessions which is expected to go on, after a short summer recess, until the next U.N. General Assembly meets in the fall.

The source said the Nixon administration is keenly interested in procuring such a treaty. The sea bed has been largely neglected as a means for promoting atomic warfare, but potentially it could provide the safest and most undetectable site for nuclear missiles.

The source added that Moscow appears to be equally interested, but following the agreement last year on the treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons, observers here are generally agreed that no immediate new

progress can be expected.

The Nixon administration is still feeling its way and a sea bed agreement would involve long and complicated legal definitions before a draft treaty could be produced.

At the same time the conference is under more pressure than usual to come up with something positive before the General Assembly meets. This is because one of the most important provisions of the treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons is an obligation by the nuclear powers to press on immediately toward new disarmament agreements.

Non-aligned countries that have ratified or signed the treaty will be expecting an act of good faith from the nuclear powers in return.