U.S. halts all attacks on North Vietnam

A LL UNITED STATES attacks on North Vietnam, by air, sea and land-based artillery were halted at 3 p.m. on Friday, 1 November, following an announcement by President Johnson late on Thursday night that he had given orders as Commander-in-chief of U.S. armed forces.

The President added that the Paris peace talks on Vietnam would be widened in scope from today to include the South Vietnam government delegates and representatives of the so-called national liberation front, which is the political arm of the communist Vietcong.

Mr. Johnson ordered the cessation of bombing without any public agreement by North Vietnam guaranteeing reciprocal military de-escalation by the North, a major point in the U.S. attitude to previous calls for an unconditional halt.

It is anticipated that fighting will continue in South Vietnam, but the United States has "reason to believe" that Hanoi will not take advantage of the demilitarized zone, between the North and South, and halt the bombardment of South Vietnamese cities.

Diplomatic observers said there appeared to be a large measure of "faith" in President Johnson's order calling off the bombings entirely.

In Paris United States negotiators were "hopeful" that the Saigon government would take part in the new phase of the Vietnam peace talks so that it could move on to substantive discussion on the future of South Vietnam.

On the Saturday after UN Day, the Austrian Contingent celebrated their National Day. We now publish a photo of Lt Gen A.E. Martola inspecting the Contingent at the Austrian Field Hospital; he also presented UN Medals.

The Force Commander was accompanied by left, Lt Col Leo Effenberger, Commanding AFH, and Lt Col Walter Umkehrer, 21/c AFH.

BRITISH CDS at HQ

Medal of the Royal Air Force Sir Charles Ellsworth, GCB, CBE, DSO, MVO, DFC, AFC, Chief of the Defence Staff, visited HQ UNFICYP on Tuesday 29 October. The CDS is at present on a world tour of British overseas bases. He was welcomed by Lt Gen A.E. Martola, Force Commander and inspected a Guard of Honour from DANCION Defence Platoon. (More pictures and story on page 6).

CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP FUNDS FROM ICELAND

The Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, Hannes Kjaransson, has informed the Secretary-General, U Thant, that the Icelandic Government has made a token contribution of $1,000 towards the cost of the Peacekeeping Operation in Cyprus.

TURKISH/GREEK CYPRIOut OFFICIALS AT RECEPTION

Greek Cypriot officials were among hundreds of guests who attended a reception in Nicosia's Turkish quarter last week, to mark the 45th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. This was the first time in almost five years that a meeting of this kind has taken place in Cyprus.

MEDAL AWARD AT WOLESLEY

Police Adviser, Chief Supt G. Davidson recently presented Chief Inspector Erik Eker, Police of the Danish Police with his UN Medal on completion of 12 months with the Force.

It is not unusual to see Sgt Alfred Dier of the Austrian Field Hospital with a string of cameras around his neck as was the case on Saturday, 26 October, 1968. The occasion was the visit of Gen Martola for the Austrian Day celebrations. Most of the hospital staff were on parade, hence Sgt Dier ended up photographing for all the staff with their cameras.
MÖNENLAISTA LUOVUTUSTA

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IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT KOPHINOU!

Kophinou Compound, The Royal Hampshire's nearest Company HQ to Nicosia, has been as busy as a fruit stall on the Appian Way, since Major John Morrish moved in with men of A Coy. There have been numerous visitors, ranging from the padre, Capt Tony Ageley, to Mrs Anne Duncan-Jones, BBC Talks producer, who did some recording on life at Kophinou. Incidentally the edited version should be broadcast on "Outlook" at 1600 hrs, on any day! Her presence caused delight and common interest, as opposed to alarm and anxiety, and no one was seen climbing over the fence after she had departed.

The most distinguished visitor of the week was the CDS, Air Marshal Sir Charles Ellsworth, who visited the Compound at 1000 hrs on Tues 29 Oct. The CDS was met at the helipad by Col D.B. Riddell-Webster, COMMITCO; and Lt Col W.B.E. May, Commanding Officer.

A Quarter Guard was inspected and the CDS added Pte Maurice Wilson how the weather compared with Salisbury Plain. Pte Wilson offered one of his famous smiles and commented favourably, despite the rather dull, cloudy morning.

After an Ops briefing, the CDS travelled by Landrover to Tongo OP, where Major Mignir gave a comprehensive briefing on the local situation. The climb up the hill was a warning of worse things to come in the winter as it proved a slippery drive after the previous night's rainstorms.

From Tongo, the CDS returned to the helipad and bade farewell.

CAROLS GALORE!

Paphos District was no so long ago, a hive of activity in the gathering of carols, that had been used in making gun, mortar and fodder. They might like to know how the carol economy fared.

By August 31, 1968 some 42,459 tons of carol were exported, 88,196 to UK. In the Maltese Industry 1,187 tons of water meters and 181 tons of mains heavy duty meters were exported to UK, by the end of September.

VIP VISIT

On Wednesday, 6 November, a helicopter visited Paphos. On board was Lieut. Gen. A.E. Martota, Force Commander and personalities from Headquarters. Next week Britcon News will cover their visit.

HEARD IN PASSING!

Humble bees are aerodynamically incapable of flying. The lift that they can generate with their wings is theoretically insufficient to lift their weight off the ground. They are unaware of this fact and continue flying. Please inform the next one that passes.

Lt Tom Price, introduces his Troop to the CDS. They were also at Kophinou, representing C Sqn 4/7 RDG from Zytas.

END OF A PARTNERSHIP

Cpl Tom Manning bold od zu to his pal Cpl Jim Power at Nicosia Airport. Both NCOs were serving at UN HQ until family circumstances dictated that Cpl Power be repatriated.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN DURING A SHORT FUNERAL SERVICE IN THE HANGAR AT HQ UNFICYP


FUNERAL - Lieut. Ronnie Byrne

A funeral, with full military honours, was held on Tuesday evening last at UN HQ for Lieut. Ronnie Byrne of the Irish Contingent serving with UNFICYP who died suddenly in Cyprus last week.

The body of Lieut. Byrne was brought to Nicosia following his death from natural causes at Xeros. Representatives from all contingents as well as senior staff officers from all branches of UN HQ were present at the funeral. The Force Commander Lieut. Gen. A.E. Martota conveyed his sympathy and was represented by Lt Col J. Connoisy. Wreaths were presented by the Force Commander and by the OC Officers and Other Ranks of the Various Contingents. Many Mass cards were given by brother officers and men of the 11 Inf Group.

The remains of Lieut. Byrne were flown to Ireland on Wednesday morning, 30th October, for burial. interment took place on Thursday 1st October in the United Nations Plot, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE OFFICERS MESS XEROS. MESS OFFICERS MESS XEROS are Cpl Michael Lacerv and Cpl William Glyn. Both are members of the same unit back home, i.e. F.A. Regt. and both of their families live in Mullingar.
A group of twenty journalists from the French Language section of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association visited the Canadian Contingent this week. Their primary interest was to speak with members of the Royal 22e Regiment, but they were also granted an audience with Archbishop Makarios and Doctor Kuchük.

The visiting party of Canadian Journalists visited the Canadian outposts during the tour in Cyprus last week. They are seen here at Saddle OP.

Picking oranges at any time is unusual for a Canadian, but when you pick them in November, it cuts the odds even more. Warrant Officer Marcel Lavigne of the Royal 22e Regiment is shown assisting a visiting Canadian journalist, Paul Telbot, to pick up the odds.

During a visit to Camp Maple Leaf, a group of Canadian Journalists watch the members of B coy. 3 Battalion Royal 22e Regiment go through a training exercise in street fighting.

Mr. Bernard Danis, a visiting Canadian journalist seems to be trying to convince the puppy at Saddle OP to have a look. With him is Private Jean Dube.