

WORLD AFFAIRS —

European Tour

... Seen Aim. Pres. Ken-
... June 22 and flew to
... Germany to begin a 10-
... Western Europe. Administra-
... described his trip as a per-
... convince European leaders
... of the U.S. commitment to
... and of the need for healing
... within the NATO alli-

... accompanied by State
... Assistant State Secy. Robert
... George Bundy, his personal
... international security affairs,
... left Andrews Air
... Md. late June 22 on the
... Germany. He was to fly
... for a 3-day tour including
... the Kennedy family's former
... town. From Ireland he
... to England and then to Italy.
... news agency Tass an-
... 25 that Premier Khrush-
... to East Berlin to join
... Walter Ulbricht, the East
... of state and Communist
... on his 70th birthday June
... East German ADN news
... June 25 that Khrushchev
... Berlin June 28, only 48
... Mr. Kennedy's planned visit
... Khrushchev's sudden trip
... viewed as an attempt to
... political consequences of Mr.
... (See p. 145B1)

Landings Denied. The
... Council announced
... June 20 that an unspecified
... commandos had landed
... a non-U.S. "point in the
... and that "the war of libera-
... the Castro régime" had
... announcement indicated
... had taken place before
... 20. The U.S. State Depart-
... 21 denied the report and
... as "inaccurate and highly

... reports that as many as 500
... involved in the operation,
... Council sources June 20
... "only a few" men had landed.
... "objective," according to the
... was to reinforce rebels oper-
... with arms."
... "Communiqué Number One"
... the council said: "First re-
... from our sources state
... were made without diffi-
... with the cooperation of all the
... area"; "our commandos
... were armed"; they landed "at
... points" and "have penetrated
... territory." The communiqué was
... Fernández Badue, Council
... Commissioner of the In-
... Department."

... later June 20 heard
... "very urgent" messages
... ordering military and naval
... maintain permanent vigilance
... notice."
... of the council announcement,
... Department June 21 said it had
... exiles' claims "very care-
... had found nothing to sub-
... m. The department said that
... 50 infiltrators might have
... Cuba in the past 2 or 3 weeks.
... press officer Richard I. Phil-

lips asserted that "a disturbing aspect of [the council's] statement is that they deceive the hopes of the anti-Castro elements within Cuba." [See p. 184A1]

10 Cuban exiles had been detained by U.S. authorities in the Florida Keys June 12 after returning from a raid on Cuba June 11.

According to the raiders and other exile sources in Miami: The 10 men, members of an unidentified anti-Castro splinter group, had left a base in the Caribbean 5 days previously in a converted PT boat. The boat, armed with machine guns and 30-mm. cannon, blew up a sugar refinery at Arechabaldo, Matanzas Province June 11, and "many Castroite soldiers were killed." It exchanged gunfire with a pursuing Cuban patrol boat as it was heading for open seas. The patrol boat sank, but the exiles' boat also was hit and started to list. The raiders, forced to abandon their boat, swam to a small key near Cayo Blanco, off Matanzas, and fought briefly with a small force of Cuban soldiers stationed there. 2 soldiers were killed and 2 captured. The raiders then fled aboard a commandeered fishing schooner and landed in the Florida Keys village of Marathon June 12 with the 2 captured Cuban soldiers. One of the raiders, Evangelio Rufin Calaro, was taken to a Key West hospital with a bullet wound. The leader of the exile group was identified as Manuel Quiza Docal, said to be associated with Commando L, a splinter exile group. A crew member of the commandeered Cuban boat asked for U.S. asylum.

Premier Fidel Castro asserted in a speech June 11 that his forces had wiped out 14 rebel groups in Matanzas Province.

Maceo Resigns. Antonio Maceo resigned June 22 as Cuban Revolutionary Council president in protest against the council's disclosure of the reported June 20 commando landings on Cuba. The council June 24 elected Manuel Antonio de Varona as Maceo's successor.

A statement by the council's 9 remaining members said: The council would "ratify and confirm the June 20 announcement of the disembarkation into Cuba of some commando units"; the June 20 announcement was issued by de Varona "at the petition of the commandos" and many days after the operation (although the announcement had indicated that the operation had taken place June 20); the council disclaimed responsibility for "any exaggerated interpretations of said announcement." [See p. 145B1]

UK, France Warned. Premier Castro warned Britain and France June 18 not to permit their Caribbean islands to be used by Cuban exiles for raids on Cuba. In a speech at the Matanzas port of Cardenas, Castro declared that Cuba was capable of fighting the rebels "wherever they may be." "If the available means of combat should not be sufficient, we have all the right to obtain other, additional means of combat to fulfill with success these missions," Castro said.

According to Castro, the Cuban exiles had approached French Pres. Charles de Gaulle "for the loan of some French islands" in the Caribbean. [See p. 125F1]

Trade Ban Urged. The exile Cuban Revolutionary Unity Movement in Miami appealed to non-Communist nations June 7 to end maritime trade with Cuba. It hinted that it would use "violence" to halt such dealings. Reporting on shipping trade with Cuba, the movement said "the profits obtained in this type of traffic rest on a mountain of dead and upon massive sufferings of the people of Cuba." The report said that of the 163 vessels of 14 nations that had entered Cuban ports between Nov. 1962 and April, the largest number (48) was from Britain. [See p. 12B2]

FACTS ON FILE

World News Digest With Index
Published Weekly



Vol. XXIII, No. 1182 June 20-26, 1963

Headline News

- Kennedy began European tour.
- UK announced breakdown in efforts to secure Laos truce.
- Administration's civil rights program introduced in Congress.
- Judicial inquiry appointed to probe Profumo scandal.
- Eshkol became premier of Israel.
- Greek, Italian cabinet crises resolved.
- Cardinal Montini elected Pope Paul VI.

Laos

Truce Efforts Fail. The British Foreign Office conceded June 21 that Britain had been unable to reach an agreement with the USSR on framing a new appeal to Pathet Lao, neutralist and rightist factions to halt hostilities in northern Laos.

The Foreign Office published the full text of all messages on the Laotian crisis since June 6 to counteract what it regarded as an edited, one-sided version of the correspondence published by the USSR earlier June 21. The British cited the USSR's June 13 appeal to all nations that had participated in the 1962 Geneva conference on Laos to "assist in the elimination of tensions in Laos." This plea had been coupled with the charge (based on messages received May 18 and 21 from Deputy Premier Souphanouvong, Pathet Lao leader) that the Laotian situation had deteriorated because of a "renewal of military actions" by troops of Gen. Phoumi Nosavan, rightwing deputy premier, and because of U.S. arms shipments. The British pointed out that the Soviet version of the correspondence did not include neutralist Premier Souvanna Phouma's June 6 and 11 statements refuting Souphanouvong's charges. [See pp. 205D3-206F2]

Fighting Spreads. Hostilities were spreading from the Plaine des Jarres in northern Laos to southern and central Laos. Rightist forces, led by Gen. Phoumi Nosavan, were becoming more heavily involved.

Pathet Lao troops were repulsed June 12-13 in an attack against a rightist garrison about 8 miles east of Attapeu, 350 miles south of the plain. The Laotian Defense Ministry reported June 13 that 32 Pathet Lao soldiers and a rightist company commander were killed. The Defense Ministry reported June 17 that the Pathet Lao had resumed shelling Attapeu after other Pathet Lao forces, joined by North Vietnamese, had severed the road linking the village with Haut Sekong. Attapeu's defenses were shelled by Pathet Lao mortars June 20.

A rightwing communiqué June 18 said that Pathet Lao units June 15 had captured a neutralist outpost near Nhommarath, 30 miles from the Thailand border.

REFERENCES in brackets give location of background information in this & preceding volumes