

THE PERISCOPE

ORDERS FROM HANOI

Hanoi has issued new orders to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam, ruling out indefinitely any major offensive. (A major action had been feared when the monsoon rains end this fall.) The latest directive from COSVN (Hanoi's Central Office for South Vietnam) orders concentration on political goals and complains that some Viet Cong cadres have failed to get the message that the strategy is now to de-emphasize military action. The COSVN added a stern note that there would be no economic aid from Hanoi and that Communist programs in the south must be self-supporting. U.S. intelligence interprets this as a sign that Moscow and Peking have cut their aid to North Vietnam and that Hanoi is husbanding its resources to rebuild its own economy.

THE WATERGATE BURGLARS TALK

The four Miami men convicted in the Watergate break-in have given Senate investigators important "corroborative" details about other missions concocted by their leaders, E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy. One involved a cloak-and-dagger plan to choke off heroin smuggling from Panama bases. Manuel Artime, a veteran of the 1961 Cuban Bay of Pigs operation like the imprisoned quartet, has stated that Hunt asked him to recruit a team for such a caper, to take place after the 1972 election.

THOSE FRIENDLY FOUR-STAR SKIES

The Senate's one-man anti-aircraft force, Wisconsin's William Proxmire, is priming some new flak for the Air Force, with Gen. Jack Catton as his main target. A special report to the senator by the General Accounting Office shows that Catton, head of the Air Force Logistics Command, spent \$700,000 to refurbish his personal jet, a C-135 transport. With his wife's help, he included such touches as color-coordinated carpets, a racing stripe, a trash compactor, a freezer, a stereo, plus sleeping quarters. The Air Force promises new rules for future redecorating.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE . . .

Rose Mary Woods, President Nixon's personal secretary since 1951, has a new title, Executive Assistant, and White House insiders read it as one more sign of the end of the H.R. Haldeman era. Early in his reign, the former White House chief of staff tried to have Miss Woods shunted to the nonexistent job of "chief archivist" of the nonexistent Nixon library. Miss Woods's direct

access to the President provided one of the few "conduits" to the Oval Office that was free of Haldeman's jealously guarded control. She used it to stave off the transfer.

THE INVISIBLE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Spiro Agnew is setting a new record for nonperformance as the Senate's presiding officer—the only regular duty assigned to him by the Constitution. So far this session, he has wielded the Senate gavel for two hours and 26 minutes out of 667 hours and twenty minutes the Senate has been sitting.

SUPERMARKET STORM SIGNALS

The big supermarket operators are so concerned about soaring prices and shrinking stocks during the coming months that they plan a private powwow to explore ways and means to prevent panic or even riots in their stores. Heads of twenty of the largest food chains will meet to hear economists, public-opinion pollsters and other experts tell them in detail what shortages to expect and what the reaction of their customers may be.

PRINCE SIHANOUK'S PHANTOM CABLE

The cable that Prince Norodom Sihanouk sent to Sen. Mike Mansfield, setting forth his peace proposals for Cambodia, has yet to reach the Montana Democrat's office, despite its worldwide press circulation. (The text was released in Peking.) The senator's staff never saw it; queries to the cable companies uncovered no trace of it. Mansfield finally issued a statement approving the prince's ideas as "reported in the press."

THE DEMOCRATS LINE UP

With Kentucky's GOP Sen. Marlow Cook still on the fence about running for another term next year, the state's Democrats are starting to line up for the race. One new and potent entry is 39-year-old John Young Brown, who made millions as owner of the Kentucky Fried Chicken operation. Democratic Gov. Wendell Ford is also showing interest in Cook's seat.

THE TERRORISTS' ARSENAL

In an effort to add to their arsenal, Arab terrorists are shopping for a shoulder-fired, heat-seeking anti-aircraft missile like the American Redeye. They recently failed in a bid to acquire the Russian-built Strela, which was used with deadly effect against low-flying aircraft in Vietnam.