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The Major Events of the Day

International

Enemy forces trying to slip anti-aircraft guns into the outskirts of Saigon were foiled yesterday by alert air observers, the South Vietnamese command announced. The guns would have been trained on planes over Tansomhut Airport. Saigon sent troops to the area, which is covered with paddyfields, and brisk fighting lasted through the afternoon. The discovery of the guns came amid fresh concern over the possibility of a "second wave" of Vietcong assaults on the capital. A captured enemy document, indicating that such raids were planned this week or next, was reported to say, "We'll level Saigon to the ground." [Page 1, Column 8.]

Lieut. Col. Phan Van Khoe, Mayor of Hue, ordered that looters be shot on sight and announced that some Communist agents recently arrested would be executed within two days. [1:7.]

The Vietcong assaults have taken their toll of the pacification effort. There are indications in provinces stretching from the northern region to the Mekong Delta that the drive to wrest the countryside from the enemy has suffered a severe setback. [1:8.]

Qualified sources in the United Nations Secretariat reported that Secretary General Thant, seeing President Johnson today, would report assurances from Hanoi and Moscow that if the United States unconditionally halted bombing of North Vietnam, peace talks would begin about three weeks afterward. The two leaders are to meet at the White House this morning. [3:5.]

In Saigon, usually reliable sources said that Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky had submitted his resignation as chairman of the Emergency Recovery Committee, a powerful body established less than three weeks ago to handle the crisis caused by the Vietcong's Lunar New Year offensive. [7:1.]

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson said he would ask the Canadian House of Commons for a vote of confidence today to keep his Government in power after a narrow defeat Monday night on a crucial tax bill. [1:3-4.]

Israeli diplomats believe that peace talks with Cairo must come and that further bargaining over procedural matters through the

National

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Administration had "highly classified and unimpeachable" intelligence information establishing that the American destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy had come under North Vietnamese attack in the Gulf of Tonkin in August, 1964. [1:4; Text, P. 12.]

A move to shut off the Senate's month-long debate over civil rights fell seven votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority. Civil rights backers said they would modify an open housing proposal in the hope of attracting additional votes for a second close vote next Monday. [1:2-3.]

According to Democratic party leaders, James H. Rowe Jr., a Washington lawyer and friend of several Presidents, will be the chief political adviser to President Johnson in this year's election campaign. [1:5.]

An announcement is expected this week, probably today, that the Administration will slow further its controversial program to develop a supersonic airliner. [1:2.]

The House Ways and Means Committee approved portions of the President's tax program. It continued excise taxes on automobiles and telephones and accelerated corporate tax collections. [1:1.]

Metropolitan

After two and one-half hours of lively debate the Republican-controlled State Senate approved a bill to reduce the Medicaid program by about \$300-million a year, about \$100-million more than reductions proposed by Governor Rockefeller. [1:1.]

Leaders of the Legislature agreed to support a compromise bill that would allow a policeman to shoot to kill a fleeing person, if the policeman "reasonably believes" the person has committed a felony and is armed with a "firearm or deadly weapon," even if there is no attempt to use the weapon. [1:2-3.]

Assemblyman Bertram L. Podell, a Johnson Administration supporter, defeated Melvin Dubin in a special Congressional election in Brooklyn's 13th district. [1:6-7.]

In a drastic departure from tradition, the state police will move into the drive against narcotics traffic in New York City and other

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Quotation of the Day
"The American people don't any longer expect to pay \$400 for a Ford car. Why should they expect to continue paying 20-year-old prices for modern food?"
—Representative W. R. Foage of Texas. [96:1.]

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RIOTING IS TRACED TO KENNEDY DEATH

Mock Trial Is Told Slaying Triggered Overt Violence

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (AP) —The assassination of President John F. Kennedy was described today by a student of agitation and propaganda as one of the underlying causes of the urban riots of recent years.

Testifying at a three-day mock trial of international communism sponsored by anti-Communist groups, Edward S. Butler of New Orleans and Los Angeles said the slaying had triggered an appetite for overt violence in many "revolutionaries."

"It smashed the highest symbol of authority in the country," he said. "Revolutionaries all over the country looked up and said, 'We can get away with murder.'"

Mr. Butler, 33 years old, is executive vice president of the Information Council of the Americas, which he described as a private organization that keeps tabs on propaganda and agitation campaigns in the Western Hemisphere.

Although Mr. Butler said various Communist purposes had been served by the assassination he did not attempt to ascribe it to a Communist plot, nor did he mention any Communist connection with the riots in the cities.

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