

Details of war ^{22 March 71} are withheld from our Paris negotiators

WASHINGTON — Our negotiators in Paris have been restricted to the most routine intelligence about the war they are supposed to be settling. This has led to some grumping inside the delegation over the difficulty of negotiating in the dark.

The Paris delegation receives only a routine intelligence digest dealing with the Vietnam war. The top-secret stuff—battle plans, position papers, contingency plans and policymaking documents — aren't sent to Paris.

The air strikes at missile sites, anti-aircraft emplacements and other tactical targets in North Vietnam in late November for example, caught Ambassador David K. E. Bruce completely by surprise. He received his first word of the attacks from the North Vietnamese.

Ambassador Bruce asked urgently for more details about the raids. He needed the background information to help him respond to the Communist charges. His request was forwarded by his military liaison man, Lieut. Gen. Julian Ewell, in a "Flash" message to the Pentagon.

Admiral Thomas Moorer, the Joint Chiefs chairman, sent back a detailed account of the raids from the Washington Post. The reply was regarded in Paris as an insulting message to Bruce that he should be

satisfied with what he reads in the newspapers.

POET'S NEW QUEST

Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, the unhappy hippie, has embarked upon the new role of investigative reporter in pursuit of evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency is supporting the opium racket in Laos.

Ginsberg, sandalled and balding, his long beard streaked with white hairs, has

Jack Anderson

even managed to interview the seclusive CIA director, Richard Helms, about the CIA's suspected opium smuggling.

Helms vigorously denied his agents are flying opium out of Laos. But Ginsberg has collected a thick packet of contrary evidence from ex-CIA men, State Department informants and classified U.N. documents.

The poet's theory is that the CIA has been compelled to help the opium farmers in the mountains of northern Laos in order to keep them fighting the Communists. The CIA has raised a 10,000-man army from these Meo tribesmen. Without their opium trade, they might require massive U.S. economic aid.

Informants have told Ginsberg that the renegade Chinese Nationalists in northern Laos and Thailand also make their living from opium. The CIA would like to keep these Chinese active, too, against the Communists.

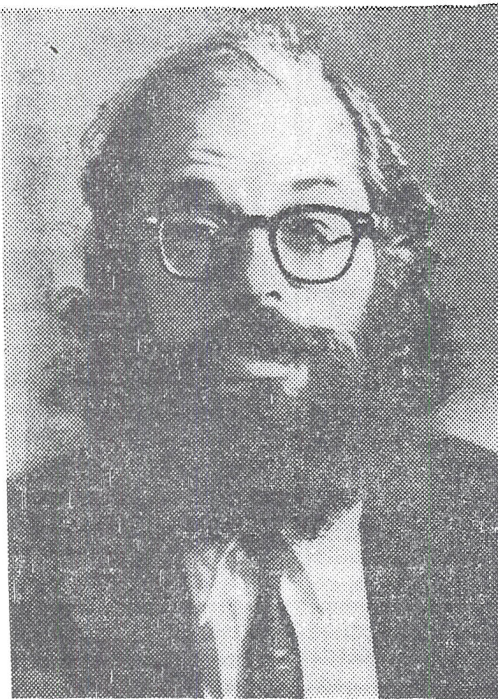
Poet's transformation

We discovered Ginsberg's transformation from poet to muckraker when he came to our office, clad in his hippie garb, seeking proof of his opium story. To our surprise, his detailed files and probing questions were thoroughly professional.

He asked us for a copy of a letter that has disappeared from the files of a Senate Government Operations subcommittee. The letter, written by a former CIA employe named S. M. Mustard, charges that South Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky once flew opium out of Laos.

The New York Times and Ramparts magazine, which are also working on the opium story, had called us about the letter. But Ginsberg came to our office and pressed in person for the missing evidence.

We dug a photostat of the letter, addressed to former Sen. Ernest Gruening, D-Alaska, out of our files. It told how Ky, during his missions as an Air Force colonel, "took advantage of this situation to fly opium from Laos to Saigon."



Reporter Allen Ginsberg
Digging for a CIA opium story