

U.S. Far Better Prepared For Limited Warfare Today Than In 1950

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If the war in Viet Nam explodes into "another Korea," how will it affect the American of military age? The housewife? The businessman?

Will there be another crash drive to assemble and equip enough men to do the fighting? Panic buying and hoarding? The imposition of controls on the economy?

In examining these questions, a striking fact emerges:

The United States is far better prepared for limited war today, in both the military and economic sectors, than it was on June 25, 1950, when the Korean War suddenly erupted.

Consequently, officials believe

there will be less clashing of arms, fewer dislocations, if Viet Nam forces the nation to the warm-stance required by the Korean War.

In the three years of that conflict—

—29,550 Americans were killed and 106,718 were listed as wounded or missing.

—The draft call was stepped up to 80,000 men per month.

—In six months, the cost of living jumped 8 per cent and the price index climbed 15 per cent.

—Congress gave President Harry S. Truman broad powers to impose controls on the economy.

—In December, 1950, he declared a state of national emergency.

—Wages and prices were frozen. Taxes were increased and some new ones were imposed.

—Consumer credit was tightened. The Federal Reserve Board hiked interest rates and the money supply tightened.

—At first, the stock market dropped. Within a week, it began to recover.

—Will these patterns reappear if the war in Viet Nam grows to Korean-size?

A task force of Associated Press reporters has interviewed government officials, military authorities, and financial observers on the outlook as America's military commitment in Viet Nam steadily increases. Those interviewed pointed to major differences in the mili-

itary and economic positions today and those of 1950.

When the Korean fighting began, the total number of men under arms in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps was 1,135,451.

Today, the United States has approximately 2.6 million men in the armed forces.

In 1950, the Army had 14 divisions on paper, plus parts of others. The Marines had two under-strength divisions.

Today, the United States has six well-trained, well-equipped divisions in this country, plus two partly ready armored divisions, and a full Marine division, plus portions of another.

By and large these are regular troops. While many in the

Army are draftees, there are none in the Air Force, Navy or Marines. By contrast at the outset of the Korean War, the only trained manpower available were veterans of World War II. They were recalled. But the majority who fought in Korea began as amateurs.

Today, the North Koreans attacked, there were two under-strength and under-trained divisions in Japan, the 24th and the 1st Cavalry. They were the only ones near the scene.

Today, about 75,000 Americans already are on the ground in Viet Nam.

All the ground forces in Korea, at the outset, were short of modern weapons — recoilless rifles, 4.2-inch mortars, tanks,

rocket-launchers, anti-aircraft weapons.

Today, all the ground force equipment is post-Korean War.

At the height of the Korean fighting, the United States had 250,000 men on the ground. Recently, on the basis of statements about Viet Nam by President Johnson and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, the armed forces maintain a tentative list of possible manpower requirements. It is currently—

—220,000 men, all to be drawn from the National Guard and Reserves.

A Pentagon official said, however, that even if Reserves are summoned it does not necessarily mean they will be sent immediately to Viet Nam.

He said they would be used in Viet Nam in 1966 by the departure of regular established troops to the Far East. Some needed specialties might be sent, he said. Later, some of the Reserves might be used to replace regulars rotated back to the United States.

But, he emphasized, the primary mission of Reserves would be to serve as a fire guard in case flames break out elsewhere in the world.

In the Korean period, defense spending jumped from \$12.2 billion in 1950 to \$48.3 billion in 1951. It hit the peak, \$62 billion, in 1952.

Defense spending now is around \$45 billion. The list is continued on Page 8, 1st Col.



By Staff Photographer Johnson

Cruising Council

Gov. John H. Reed, fourth from right, and members of the Executive Council discuss state business as they cruise toward Monhegan Island in the Sea and Shore Fisheries Department boat Guardian. Left to right are Denis A. Blais, Lewis-ton; William Jabine, Belfast; Nathan Cohen, East-

Johnson, In Strategy Talks, Moves Nearer To Callup

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Johnson held a four-hour strategy meeting on Viet Nam Thursday with his top advisers and moved toward the threshold of an expected callup of thousands of military reservists.

A White House spokesman said the probable callup was one subject of the conference—the second in as many days Johnson has held with top advisers and military experts just back from Viet Nam.

A reserve callup is widely expected because of the increasing U. S. troop commitment to the anti-Communist war.

Johnson would not have to ask approval of Congress for calling reservists to duty, but House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, Mich., insisted Thursday the President seek such a mandate before doing so.

The President called still another White House meeting at 11:30 A.M. Friday.

Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers told reporters in reply to questions that the matter of a reserve callup was discussed at Thursday's session. He said he did not hear any mention while he was attending the meeting, of possible extension of tours of duty of servicemen.

This would require congressional approval.

Both extension of enlistments and tours of duty and increased draft calls have been reported as possible other measures that might be taken to supply the nation's fast-growing need for military manpower.

Moyers said after the meeting:

"A lot of deliberation is behind the group now, and the next stage involves what to do about these recommendations and deliberations."

American and South Vietnamese officials in Saigon have urged a big increase in American troop commitments.

At Thursday's session, Johnson closely questioned the defense secretary and the chief of each branch of the armed services on his assessment of the crisis and what they thought the future held.

"There was much discussion of our basic policy objectives in Southeast Asia and the international aspects of the situation in South Viet Nam," Moyers said.

"Conclusions and recommendations will be forthcoming after all the evidence, including all factors are carefully weighed."

There was some conjecture at the White House Johnson might want to mull over the crucial

decisions on troop requirements for several days before making a final announcement. But Moyers said there was no guarantee of a timetable.

The growing concern in Congress over Viet Nam struggle was underlined by Senate leader Everett M. Dirksen who suggested the House and Senate might delay adjournment if the situation remains volatile the rest of the summer.

"It is a terribly serious and dangerous situation in Viet Nam," the Illinois Republican said. "It is deteriorating every day. We are confronted by a real crisis. Whether Congress

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U.S. Jets Attack Commie Targets 850 Miles Apart

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP)—U.S. jets attacked Communist targets more than 850 miles apart in the Vietnamese war Thursday. One was a highway bridge only 41 miles from Red China's frontier, another a Viet Cong camp near the tip of South Viet Nam.

A military spokesman said three U.S. Air Force F105 Thunderbolts destroyed the bridge, 105 miles northwest of Hanoi, in the closest flight of American fighters to the Chinese border.

The nearest previously announced strike was an attack Monday on a section of railway tracks 199 miles northwest of Hanoi.

Far to the south, eight F100 Super Sabre jets bombed and strafed guerrilla installations east of Cau Mau, a government post on the Cau Mao peninsula. The spokesman said they destroyed 24 buildings and estimated to have killed 15 of the Viet Cong.

One of the F105s, Capt. Thales A. Derrick of Salt Lake City, Utah, said "over 50 per cent of the target was burning when we left."

He said these and other air attacks, patrols of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade cruised the jungle skirting their boundaries in Binh Hoa, 125 miles northeast of Saigon in a hunt for guerrillas who have harassed the brigade nightly since Sunday.

They straddled and shot at two or three Viet Cong camps, but all escaped. An officer commented: "They sure are hard to find."

A heavy three-hour contact was reported between a small Vietnamese government force and a guerrilla band in Kien Phong Province, adjoining the

Cambodia frontier about 80 miles northwest of Saigon. The government's casualties were described as light. Red losses were not determined.

Warships of the U.S. 7th Fleet were again punctuating patrol duties with occasional firing missions against Viet Cong near the South China Sea shore.

Briefing officers said the cruiser Oklahoma City was estimated to have killed 19 Viet Cong on the central coast Tuesday. They said the destroyer Dennis J. Buckley caused "significant damage" to Viet Cong facilities in non-combatment, totaling 370 rounds of five-inch shells Monday and Tuesday.

In discussing the air raids, the spokesman acknowledged it is difficult to determine the effectiveness.

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Conferees Agree On Compromise For \$7.5-Billion Housing Measure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate-House conferees agreed Thursday on terms of a compromise \$7.5-billion omnibus housing bill which includes a controversial new program of rent subsidies for low-income families.

The rent subsidy program would cost \$350 million. Congress members predict it may

be two to three years before completion of the main volume of rent-subsidized housing units by nonprofit and other groups.

Sen. John Sparkman, D-Ala., who presided at the conference, said the compromise bill probably will be submitted to the Senate on Monday and to the House on Tuesday.

The measure embraces federal renewal, and many other programs.

Although staff reporters had not yet added up the new dollar totals, they told reporters they expect it will be just about the same as the \$7.5-billion total the Senate had approved. The

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Prayer For Today

O God, we are distressed when television, radio and newspapers tell us of terrible things happening to people — warfare, famine, flood, fire, airplane and motor-car accidents, and many other tragic events. There is so little we can do for the victims and their families; but we can sympathize with them and help to soothe them through the Red Cross and other agencies. Guide us in this; through Jesus Christ, Amen.

—Lyndon B. Phair, Tallahassee, Fla., retired Methodist editor

LBJ Bids Agencies Get Set For Drought Emergency

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Johnson ordered federal agencies Thursday to prepare for emergency measures if the drought in the northeastern United States grows worse.

"The President is anticipating that the drought could get worse," said White House press secretary Bill D. Moyers, "and is asking all of the appropriate agencies of the government to

do everything possible to prepare for these needs."

In the meantime, Moyers said, Johnson is anxious that the government do everything it can to help local governments meet their water supply responsibilities.

The Federal Water Resources Council reported to Johnson steps, largely technical, to be taken.

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News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Cloudy with scattered showers today. Fair and continued warm Saturday. Complete report on Page 4.

BOOST IN STATE TAXES TAKEN BIG BITE FROM ANTICIPATED SAVINGS BROUGHT ABOUT FROM SLASH IN FEDERAL EXCISE TAXES. Page 3.

KEYNOTE of Huber's philosophy seasons religious thought of the world. Page 8.

INSURANCE TO PAY DOCTOR'S BILL is most dramatic benefit of new Social Security law. Back Page.

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They'd Like A Drink

These limp, thirsty sunflowers in a Westbrook garden droop forlornly as the drought that has stricken most of Maine continues. Shallow-rooted plants and major crops such as blueberries and strawberries have been hardest hit by lack of rain.

Drought Is No Threat To Major State Crops

By RONALD H. KNIGHT, Staff Reporter

Most of Maine's major crops are in no immediate danger despite an abnormally dry spring and summer, farmers and state officials said Thursday.

Aroostook County's potato and sugar beet crops got "temporary relief at a critical time" early this week with an inch and one-half of rain, said Dean Libby of Maine's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The vital potato crop "looks encouraging," said Dean Libby. He added that the sugar beets "made a tremendous response to the water and are growing rapidly."

Substantially more rain is needed, however, between now and harvest time in late September and early October to assure good yields, he said.

The overall water situation in Maine is "critical," said Dean Libby, since the accumulating effect of three years of below-normal rain has lowered water tables and in some areas

dried up small streams and farm ponds.

Hardest hit are the shallow-rooted crops such as blueberries and strawberries, especially along the parched coast.

The U.S. Weather Bureau in Portland says the rain fall total here since April is 6.89 inches below normal.

In Central Maine, farmers are warily optimistic about blueberry and apple crops — if they get rain "and plenty of it," in the words of George Chick, a local grower of blueberry agriculture and part owner of the Chick apple orchard at Steammouth.

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Movie of the Week
Susan Hayward
Robert Mitchum
star in
"THE LUSTY MEN"
9:30 P.M.
Channel 13

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