

## WAR IN ASIA

### Guarding the River

Bangkok was barely awake when the marines landed. Wearing canvas-covered helmets and fatigues, burdened with rifles and full field packs, men of the 3rd Battalion, 9th U.S. Marines, walked ashore from two U.S. transports. There were no crowds, no bands, no girls with flowers. It was all business. Asked what he thought of his assignment, Battalion Commander Lieut. Colonel Harold Adams answered curtly: "When the President tells us to go some place, we go."

The marines were in Thailand not only by presidential order but at the invitation of the government of Premier Sarit Thanarat—the first time in 600 years that the Thais have asked foreigners in to help them defend their soil. Said a Thai Cabinet minister: "Persons with old-fashioned ideas may not like having foreign troops in Thailand, but in these times a country has to depend on collective security."

Piling into Thai army trucks, the marines sped through streets where saffron-robed Buddhist monks wandered with begging bowls, and past *klongs* (canals) filled with naked children swimming happily among pink and white lotuses. At Don Muang airport on the city's outskirts, the morning temperature had already reached 95°. U.S. transport planes, flown in from Japan, swiftly airlifted the marines to Udon in northeastern Thailand, only 40 miles from the Mekong River and Vientiane, capital of Laos.

**Laos: Strange Calm.** Across the river, Vientiane seemed under siege. Rockets hissed skyward above the muddy water. A throng of young men in black and red war paint charged drunkenly through the explosions and drifting smoke. But for all the smell of gunpowder and the rockets' red glare, Vientiane was not being stormed by the Communist Pathet Lao. Its cheerful citizens were simply celebrating the annual Bang Fai festival, com-

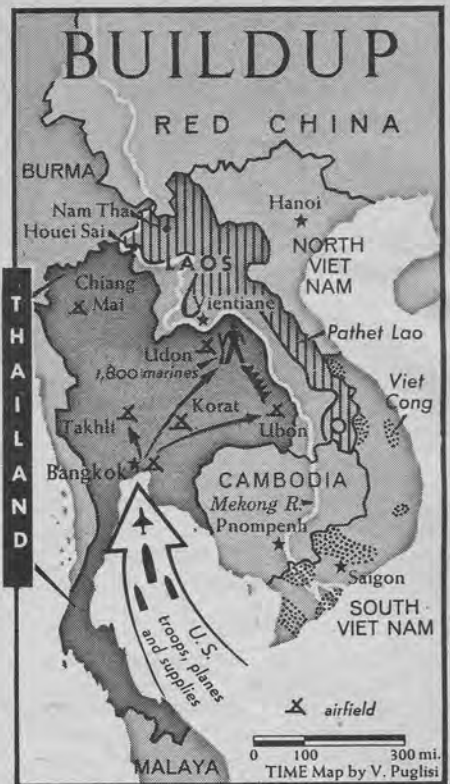
memorating the birth, death and spiritual enlightenment of Buddha.

The Marine detachments had been rushed to Thailand to help protect the vital left bank of the Mekong River from the Communist menace. Yet the Reds, since their overwhelming victory at Nam Tha two weeks ago, have been strangely quiet. The Laotian river town of Houei Sai, evacuated in panic after the fall of Nam Tha, was reoccupied by 300 skittish Royal Laotian Army troops. If anything, the Pathet Lao had retreated, not advanced. With Soviet Russia giving at least verbal agreement to the U.S. policy of creating a neutral Laos, it was apparently time once again to bring together the three idiosyncratic princes who lead the different Laotian factions.

Red Prince Souphanouvong agreed to a new conference. Prince Boun Oum, leader of the anti-Communist forces, was back in Vientiane, but as usual left the talking to his tough Defense Minister, Phoumi Nosavan. In Paris, Neutralist Prince Souvanna Phouma packed his bags to return home after receiving a message in which the Vientiane government declared its willingness to settle "the national drama by the rapid formation of a coalition government." Negotiations have been stalled for months because of Phoumi Nosavan's reluctance to surrender the vital ministries of Defense and Interior to the Communists. He was now willing to "discuss" giving those portfolios to Souvanna, in return for a promise that all major Cabinet decisions be unanimous.

**Thailand: Going Concern.** Meanwhile, the U.S. continued its watchful buildup across the border in Thailand. Two squadrons of jet fighters touched down at Thai airbases; 1,000 reinforcements are en route from Hawaii to join with a battle group of the 27th Infantry ("Wolfhound") Regiment stationed 40 miles west of Korat.

The U.S. is mainly relying on Thailand as its firmest ally in Southeast Asia; unlike most other countries in the area,



Thailand is a going concern. Under Premier Sarit, the government has built up gold and foreign exchange reserves totaling \$451 million, has a hard currency based on the *baht* (worth about 5¢), a steadily rising export trade. More than \$700 million in U.S. aid has gone into roads, bridges and hydroelectric power. Sarit sensibly spends as much on education as on defense, but his 100,000-man army is well regarded by U.S. military men, and Thai troops fought competently during the Korean war. Thailand has relatively few home-grown Communists, and most have been jailed or executed.

A nationalist, patriot and public puritan (he has banned the twist in Thailand), Sarit long opposed Washington's



"TWO-HAT" HARKINS



MARINES ARRIVING IN BANGKOK

In time for Bang Fai—and in time to make a stand.

similar restraints, such as a capital gains tax, to employers. Labor unrest mounted so sharply that strikes cost British industry more man-hours (more than 4,000,000) in the first quarter of 1962 than in all of 1961 or 1960. Biggest test for the government came last month, when dock workers at Britain's 25 ports demanded a considerably fattened pay package. The dockers are members of the country's biggest and most militant union, the Transport and General Workers, whose battling, left-wing General Secretary Frank Cousins proclaimed that the Pay Pause was a case of "capitalism showing its teeth against us."

Last week, threatened with the first major, nationwide dock strike in 36 years, Labor Minister John Hare backed down and approved a settlement that, with fringe benefits, amounted to a thumping 9% increase for some 105,000 workers. The government, which was still defying public opinion by resisting a 2.5% pay raise for the nation's nurses (many earn only \$20 weekly), was lambasted on all sides. Cried the *Sunday Telegraph*: "This is weakness that will not be readily forgotten or forgiven."

By week's end, openly rebellious Conservative backbenchers were charging that pay inequities were directly responsible for the Tories' sweeping electoral setbacks over the past six months. Smarting from their defeats, many demanded that Prime Minister Harold Macmillan fire Party Chairman Iain Macleod—even though it was he who mapped the strategy that swept the Conservatives back into office in 1959 with the slogan: "You Never Had It So Good." For Harold Macmillan, it had seldom looked so bad.

## SPAIN

### The Succession

After the last toasts were gulped and the last *paso dobles* played in Athens, Prince Juan Carlos of Spain and his new wife, the former Princess Sophie of Greece, went aboard the yacht *Eros*, put at their service by Shipping Tycoon Stavros Niarchos, and sailed away on a long honeymoon. But when the honeymoon is over, what will the prince do? More than any event in years, the royal wedding revived speculation about the future of the Spanish monarchy—and about the man who will succeed Francisco Franco.

On the grounds of age alone, Dictator Franco, 60, could hardly delay his decision much longer; moreover, with workers restive enough to defy his sternest no-strike decrees, it was time that Spain's 30 million people were given some inkling of what lies ahead when the Franco era ends. The monarchy seemed certain to return—at least for a while—but would Franco bring back from exile the Pretender Don Juan, 48, or would he give the nod to Don Juan's son, Juan Carlos?

Don Juan has rarely been in Franco's good graces since their first bitter quarrel in 1936. But the continued estrangement is largely Don Juan's own fault; he has passed up many opportunities to heal old

wounds. He even irked Franco over Juan Carlos' engagement. Instead of consulting the touchy dictator in advance, he merely telephoned the Caudillo a few hours before the public announcement. Franco took the call aboard his yacht *Azor*, laid down the receiver after hearing the news, paced the deck, then returned to bicker icily over details, finally hung up without offering a word of congratulation.

Don Juan is tougher and more intelligent than his amiable son, who does not seem eager for the throne, but Juan Carlos might be chosen simply because he is not controversial. Last week some saw significance in Franco's gift to Juan Carlos and his bride of the glittering little palace of Zarzuela, near Franco's own Pardo palace, for their Madrid residence. But even if Juan Carlos actually chooses to



JUAN CARLOS & BRIDE  
The honeymoon must end.

live there, he will not necessarily have a role in Spain's affairs. His studies are finished; he could not very well hobnob with Franco's family, say the Monarchists, nor with dignity occupy his time by attending the capital's glittering socialite parties.

Meanwhile, to future kings and present commoners alike, Spain's troublesome strikes were a clear sign of change. By last week the disorders in the Asturias coal fields had pretty well run themselves out, but not before the regime was forced to offer 50% wage increases that were welcome to the miners, although less than they had asked. Elsewhere, the strike was still spreading. It was clear that the ferment had made a deep impression on Franco and his top aides; when even Spain's leading Roman Catholic magazine came out in favor of the strikers, the government hinted that it might legalize non-political strikes, a major break in the 24-year prohibition on labor protests.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Road to Tyranny

With increasingly totalitarian methods, the white leaders of South Africa are building a southern redoubt for a last-ditch stand against black nationalism on their bottom tip of the continent. Last week the government of Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd proposed new legislation that will snuff out basic freedoms of all South Africans, black and white.

Prime motive of the bill is to prevent the spread of such incidents as the wave of arson and bombings that broke out last December. In the future, announced Justice Minister Johannes Vorster, death can be the punishment for cases of proven "sabotage." And what is sabotage? It can be a strike by workers in the fuel, food, power or sanitary fields; the painting of political slogans on walls; possession of a firearm or explosives without a license; simple trespass; a speech. Apart from sabotage, the law will give Vorster power to prohibit anyone from "performing any act" whatever, ban gatherings of any type at his own discretion, place any person under perpetual house arrest, and prohibit newspapers from reporting their protests. Gone will be such traditional legal safeguards as the pretrial examination to establish charges or the onus on the state to prove guilt.

Said Author Alan Paton (*Cry, the Beloved Country*), a vociferous critic of the regime: "What will be next? To make lists of disapproved persons? To confiscate a yellow star? Why not? It's a logical next step."

## IVORY COAST

### A Friend in Town

In the U.S. this week, for the regulation Washington round of banquets and Manhattan ticker-tape parade, is Ivory Coast's debonair President Félix Houphouët-Boigny, 56, an African nationalist whose credo is refreshingly different from the views of many other black African leaders. Colonialism, he believes, did much good in Africa, and the white man, as well as democracy, is essential to the continent's future. Said he as he got off the boat: "I am filled with emotion to arrive in this most solid democracy in the world."

What makes Houphouët-Boigny's beliefs important is his position as undisputed boss of the strongest, fastest growing and most influential of all the nations in Africa's former French Community, a fragmented empire that dominates the continent's huge western shoulder.

**Skyscrapers in the Sun.** He presides over one of the hottest (average temperature: 90°) lands on earth, a steaming, lush thicket the size of New Mexico. Although much of Ivory Coast (pop. 3,500,000) consists of juju and squalid villages, it is moving ahead at a breathtaking pace. Its harbor at Abidjan, the capital, handles the world's third largest coffee crop, the fourth biggest cocoa output. Behind the docks is a booming city