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U.S. Condolences Given in Bombing Error Toastmaster Heads U.S. Troop Reduction in Thailand Told by Premier

PHNOM PENH (UPI) — U.S. Ambassador Emory Swank yesterday presented American condolences and aid pledges totalling about \$150,000 for the mistaken American bombing of Neak Luong, which killed or wounded more than 400 persons Aug. 6.

"In war one learns to suffer, but it is especially disheartening to receive death and destruction from your friends," Swank said in prepared remarks.

Met with Soldiers
"On Aug. 6 Neak Luong suffered grievously at

American hands. Over 400 persons were killed or injured and a large portion of the town was destroyed due to the mistaken American bombing."

A total of at least 137 persons were killed and 263 wounded in the bombing — one of the worst bombing errors of the Indo-China war.

Swank, wearing a white suit, gravely shook hands with two limping soldiers, one of them on crutches, and a limping girl who attended the ceremony as representative of the people of Neak Luong.

A Cambodian army captain in the audience wept quietly.

Rebuilt Hospital

"What we are doing today is a gesture," Swank said in French to the wounded survivors. His remarks were translated into Cambodian for them by Foreign Minister Long Boret.

"We hope the war will

end and the Cambodian people can live in a just peace," Swank told them.

Swank and Long Boret inspected an operating table, stretchers, bandages, an oxygen tank, crutches and other medical equipment, part of a \$71,000 consignment brought in last week for Neak Luong.

In addition, Swank and Long Boret signed a \$25,000 agreement to rebuild the bombed hospital at Neak Luong. Swank said payments to victims and their families would total between \$41,700 and \$55,700.

"We desire to compensate, insofar as possible, the survivors," Swank said. "In addition to the official condolences my government has already expressed... I would like to offer my personal condolences and sympathy to the families of those killed and to those injured."

Toastmaster Heads U.S. Troop Reduction in Thailand Told by Premier

to Match Words in Talks Tonight
VAN NUYS — Toastmaster notables will participate in a speech "battle of the giants" at a meeting of Van Nuys Toastmasters Club 172 tonight at 7 at the Moongate Restaurant in Panorama City, according to Harry Schaubert, g. educational vice president.

Participants will include Ed Casper, past district governor of District 52; Ernie Norris, educational assistant governor of Area H; Pete Kittredge, Area H governor and Ralph Masdeo, past treasurer of Van Nuys 172.

There also will be the usual table topics session, in which all Toastmasters present participate. Visitors are welcome. Persons interested in further information about Toastmasters may call 349-8101 or 787-1540.

BANGKOK (UPI) — The United States may begin withdrawing some of its 45,000 troops stationed in Thailand by the end of this month, Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn said yesterday.

Thanom said at his weekly news conference he believed that talks with American Embassy and U.S. military officials concerning the troop reduction would resume tomorrow.

Asked when the first troops could be withdrawn, Thanom said, "I think by the end of this month."

Talks Delayed

He said the talks had been delayed by the absence from Bangkok of Lt. Gen. Kriangsak Cham-ananda, deputy chief of staff of the supreme command.

"The two parties will consider the troop reduction step by step," Thanom said.

The American troop pullout from Thailand became feasible with the Aug. 15 U.S. bomb halt over Cambodia. Most of the air strikes had been carried out from bases in Thailand.

Number to Remain

Thanom said the first units to depart would be those that came to Thailand from South Vietnam when the United States withdrew from that country in March under terms of the Jan. 27 Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

Along with the 45,000 servicemen — most of them Air Force personnel — stationed in Thailand, the United States maintains about 500 warplanes here including a fleet of B52 bombers.

Thanom conceded that the U.S. withdrawal would have "a great deal of impact" on the Thai economy. "They have spent a lot of money here," the

prime minister said of U.S. servicemen.

But Thanom said that "not all" the Americans would be pulled out. An undetermined number will remain under the security charter of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), he said.

"There will be no total withdrawal," Thanom said. "It (troop strength) will be reduced step by step in accordance with the situation in this region and the security of Thailand."

American forces are stationed at seven airbases across Thailand.

Trial Set on 'Blue Box' Charge Here

A 31-year-old Sherman Oaks man has pleaded not guilty to charges he possessed and attempted to use a multi-frequency generator device to place toll-free telephone calls.

John Woodward Hanson of 13108 Moorpark St. entered his plea Tuesday before Judge Edward Davernport, who scheduled trial for Thursday, Oct. 4, at 9 a.m. in Municipal Court in Van Nuys Division 101.

Hanson was arrested last Wednesday at his place of business, Candle-makers Corp., 16333 Raymer St., Van Nuys, by police armed with a search warrant, who reported seizing a multi-frequency device commonly known as a "blue box."

The arrest was made following an investigation by Pacific Telephone Co. authorities.

The warrant specified that police search for "any multi-frequency generator device and any other electronic device illegally attached to telephone company equipment."

The defendant is free on \$500 bail.

Bleak Mood Brings Skid In Stocks

NEW YORK (UPI) — Stocks continued to slide yesterday on the New York Stock Exchange under the weight of neglect, with investors still in a bleak mood over soaring interest rates, inflation, and an uncertain political climate.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average — setting its third 20-month low this week — skidded 5.94 to 831.90. Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fell 0.36 to 100.53, its lowest close of the year. The average price of a NYSE common share declined 15 cents.

Volume Down
Losers topped gainers, 872 to 432, among 1725 issues traded.

Trading was despirited, totaling 10,770,000 shares, compared with 11,480,000 traded Tuesday.

Polaroid led the actives, tumbling 11 1/2 to 110 1/2 on 168,100 shares, after a delayed opening. The stock was hit by heavy selling following word Oppenheimer & Co. had lowered its earnings estimate for both 1973 and 1974.

Annex Weaker
Panhandle Eastern Pipeline was second, up 1/4 to 27 1/4, on 127,000 shares, followed by Exxon, which lost 1 1/4 to 87 3/4 on 105,900 shares.

Prices on the American Stock Exchange weakened in slow trading. The Amex index was off 0.06 to 22.74. Volume totaled 1,550,000 shares, compared with 1,610,000 traded Tuesday.

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