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'Not Supposed To Be Here'

U.S. Military Men In, Out of Vietnam

By ROBERT KAYLOR

SAIGON (UPI) — Small groups of American airmen in faded green fatigues, jungle boots and baseball caps are back in South Vietnam, leaving the country only briefly every four days to comply with the letter, if not the spirit, of the Vietnam ceasefire agreement.

The airmen are reorganizing a supply system for critical spare parts that has lapsed into chaos in the two years since American GIs left. U.S. government ground rules forbid military visitors from being in Vietnam more than four days, but there is a Catch-22 end-run around the rules.

EACH FOURTH day a big C141 transport jet flies the men to the Philippines, then brings them back in the morning, an overnight hop of 2,000 miles.

"I guess we're not supposed to be here," shrugged a sergeant at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airfield as his company waited for a flight out. "Well, we are. We're here for 60 days to try to help the VNAF (Vietnamese Air Force) straighten itself out."

American sources in Saigon denied the airmen's presence violated the Paris agreement.

"THEY ARE logistics specialists who come and go on an administrative basis to help with the aid program set up under the provisions of the Paris agreement.

"This is no more of a ceasefire violation than the provision which requires us to fulfill our obligations. There have been several teams such as this coming in and there will be more," he said.

The unpublicized presence of the airmen, of questionable legality at best, underlines how South Vietnam still depends on U.S. military supplies and technical know-how.

THE UNITED States provides all of South Vietnam's military needs, from items that cost thousands of dollars to 35-cent washers needed to keep helicopters flying. Recent figures showed the economically strapped Saigon government had about \$175 million of its own, far

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Fighting Goes On

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian soldier fires into the air during an assault on Khmer Rouge positions along Highway 7, north of here. Small clashes were reported in

the area north of the capital as government forces attempted to push insurgents from the Tonle Sap River region.

—AP Wirephoto

Lawmakers, A-Scientists Meet at Oak Ridge

N-Plants Safe, Legislators Assured

By LARRY DAUGTREY

Tennessean Staff Correspondent

OAK RIDGE — Tennessee legislators were assured repeatedly by atomic scientists here yesterday that nuclear power plants are safe, and represent the nation's best short-term energy source.

The legislators were urged

to refrain from passing restrictive legislation on nuclear development, including the sort of nuclear moratorium being pushed by environmentalists in other states.

MORE THAN 100 of the 132 members of the legislature came here yesterday for a day-long briefing, tour and general red carpet treat-

ment at the massive federal government nuclear facilities, now transformed from bomb-making to research on peacetime uses of atomic energy.

The lawmakers were bombarded with so many facts and opinions from so many scientists that some were complaining of mental fatigue at the end of the day.

But the one dominant message came through from the scientists: they believe that nuclear electrical generating plants, such as the one planned by TVA at Hartsdale, are safe.

ALTHOUGH representatives of several environmental groups also attended the

day's activities, they were not given an opportunity to present their case against nuclear power.

Most legislators said at the end of the day they were less concerned about safety aspects of nuclear power plants than before. But several said they also want to hear the environmental viewpoint when the legislature reconvenes in Nashville later this month.

The briefing session was sponsored by an Oak Ridge industrial development group and staffed by high-level officials of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

MOST OF THE discussion centered on the sort of conventional nuclear power plant planned at Hartsdale. There were only occasional mentions of the much more controversial breeder reactor planned on the Clinch River near here.

The breeder reactor, which has even nuclear sophisticates in this town nervous, produces more nuclear fuel than it uses. But it operates on plutonium, not uranium, and plutonium is highly toxic and has a virtually indefinite life-span.

Scientists told the legislators the breeder reactor is needed because all known supplies of nuclear fuel will be exhausted by the year 2040.

THROUGHOUT THE day, safety factors were widely discussed, but the possibility

of nuclear accidents from power reactors was downplayed.

Gordon G. Fee, a safety expert here, said the nuclear industry's "so far unblemished safety record" cannot last indefinitely.

"The impact of such an event (accident), when it occurs, will be of a nature that can be handled and not the frightful catastrophe which some have depicted," he said.

FEE LIKENED THE probability of a nuclear accident to the chances of a motorist on the interstate highway simultaneously having a blowout, losing a tire, having the steering col-

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NASHVILLE attorney

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Jake Butcher
Biggest offer yet?

Knoxville Hamilton Bank Stock Center of Dogfight

By STEVE KORPAN

A full-scale battle between two Tennessee multimillionaires is being waged for control of Hamilton National Bank of Knoxville, the largest bank in East Tennessee.

The latest move in the financial fight came yesterday when Jake Butcher, an Anderson County banker and runnerup for last year's Tennessee Democratic gubernatorial nomination, ran a full-page advertisement in the Knoxville newspaper offering to buy 10,000 shares of the bank's common stock at \$300 per share in cash.

LAST WEEKEND, Dean Moses, head of Transcon Investment and Financial Ltd., Inc., in Memphis, said to have assets of approximately \$126 million, announced he had purchased 46% of the bank's stock and was trying to buy more than 50%.

The struggle for majority stock control has driven the price of the stock up from last year's high of about \$275 to the current \$300 level and it could rise even more. The bank listed assets last Dec. 31 at \$384,110,922.71.

Butcher acquired 419 shares last October at \$299 a share, the highest paid to date, Butcher's attorney in Knoxville, G. W. Ridenour Jr., said last night.

IN A STATEMENT, released last night in Memphis by his attorney, Jim Reeves, Moses said:

"Dean Moses, Memphis citizen and businessman, who presently owns or controls approximately 46% of the outstanding shares of stock of the Hamilton National Bank of Knoxville, said yesterday he has instructed his attorneys to immediately examine the propriety of filing a formal

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Before... After...



UPI photo by Ken Parrish

Nicks Elected Regents Chief, Vows TSU Support

By FRANK SUTHERLAND

Tennessean Education News Editor

Dr. Roy Nicks was elected chancellor of the State Board of Regents yesterday moments after he gave his full commitment to the improvement of Tennessee State University.

Nicks, chancellor of the University of Tennessee-Nashville, was elected by

acclamation for the \$45,000 a year job.

ABOUT A DOZEN faculty members from Tennessee State University attended the meeting, thinking the proposal concerning a merger between UT-Nashville and Tennessee State would be discussed. The subject was never

brought up, however.

TSU President Fred Humphries said the matter will be on the next agenda of the board, adding that he will petition to discuss it if it is not scheduled by regent officials.

JUST BEFORE the board voted on Nicks, Humphries asked to be recognized and

said he thought it was important for Nicks to state his position regarding the UTN-TSU controversy.

Humphries said that "not the best of circumstances" existed while Nicks was UTN chancellor. Humphries added he had "no doubt that he (Nicks) can pledge his loyalty."

Nicks said he is "fully aware" of the circumstances and said he "will work for all institutions and in particular in Nashville, Tennessee State University."

NICKS SAID he will strongly back the plan submitted

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