

# Royal Troops Fail in Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—Western diplomats here were plunged into despair yesterday by the evacuation—without a major fight—of royal paratroopers dropped near Muong Kassy nine days ago.

The Westerners had hoped for a decisive push by royal

# Astronaut Acclaimed In Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — The man who orbited around the world flew into Moscow's warmest embrace yesterday for acclaim as the Soviet Union's greatest postwar hero.

He was cheered by millions, hugged and kissed by Premier Khrushchev, hailed as a new Columbus, and decorated with the highest Soviet honors at a Kremlin reception matching the splendors of the czars.

The adulation for Maj. Yuri A. Gagarin went on from noon until nearly midnight. It was an outpouring of affection such as probably no son of Russia ever has seen in a single day's celebration.

The 27-year-old flier, swept in a week from obscurity to the history book, took it calmly and smilingly, assuring the Soviet people that he was ready to undertake new flights deeper into space.

Khrushchev told the elite of Soviet leaders and scientists in the Kremlin Palace that Gagarin's flight into space has given the Soviet Union "a colossal superiority" over the West.

To the thousands massed earlier in Red Square, the premier said that the name of Gagarin—unknown to most Russians and the world until three days ago—will live forever among mankind's immortals.

Khrushchev toasted him. President Leonid Brezhnev pinned on him the Order of Hero of the Soviet Union, the nation's highest.

The three highspot ceremonies of the day took place at the airport, Red Square and the Kremlin reception.

# Postal Rate Hike Requested by Day

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just like his predecessor, Postmaster General J. Edward Day asked Congress yesterday to increase postal rates and wipe out the postal deficit.

For most Americans the increase would mean sticking a five-cent stamp instead of a four-cent stamp on their envelopes.

In total, the increased rates would bring in \$741 million a year. Former Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield requested similar increases in the past several years, but Congress took no action.

# Book on Gagarin Published

MOSCOW (AP) — A book about Yuri A. Gagarin went on sale in Moscow Friday.

# Stevenson Asks Belgian Exodus

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson declared yesterday a Belgian exodus would speed a solution to the Congo crisis, but he rejected proposals setting a deadline and threatening penalties.

The U.S. chief delegate expressed support in the General Assembly for a mildly worded Asian-African resolution urging quick reconvening of the Congolese Parliament to determine the future political structure of the divided country.

After hearing Stevenson, the assembly adjourned until Saturday for a vote on rival Congo resolutions before it.

Stevenson suggested a federal form of government, similar to that in the United States, would be the best for the Congo.

He said the sooner Belgium withdraws extraneous personnel from the Congo "the sooner the task of reconciliation can go ahead."

He referred to Belgian military and semimilitary personnel and political advisers whose withdrawal had been demanded in previous Security Council resolutions.

He mentioned recent assurances from Belgium that it would comply with council resolutions and declared that imposition of a 21-day deadline.

forces before an expected ceasefire is negotiated with pro-Communist Pathet Lao rebel leaders.

The evacuation wrote off as a failure one of the most spectacular operations of the civil war — the April 5 air drop interpreted by Westerners as a warning to the Pathet Lao that government forces still were powerful despite a succession of defeats.

Young American civilian pilots flying U.S.-made helicopters plucked the red-bereted paratroopers from a valley northwest of Muong Kassy Thursday and took them to the royal capital of Luang Prabang.

The paratroopers had been dropped near the north-south highway between Luang Prabang and the administrative capital of Vientiane to counter paratroopers the Pathet Lao had thrown into the fight April 3 for royal military headquarters at Vang Vieng.

Government officials claimed their paratroopers had accomplished their mission of halting the rebel drive southward. But earlier this week Moscow radio reported the government paratroopers were encircled.

It was reliably reported in Vientiane that the evacuation finally was forced by the failure of Gen. Boun Leuth, government commander in chief based in Luang Prabang, to commit infantry from the north to support the paratroopers and outflank Pathet Lao units.


# Eichmann Plans To Seek Aid

JERUSALEM (AP) — Adolf Eichmann's defense attorney told a panel of Israeli judges yesterday he will seek German legal protection for the onetime Nazi officer accused of directing the wartime massacre of millions of Jews. The West German government took a dim view of the idea.

Immediately after Servatius' announcement, court adjourned to consider his arguments against trying Eichmann in Israel. The judges will rule after the trial resumes Monday.

A West German government official said that any effort by Servatius to obtain West German legal protection for Eichmann would be fought.

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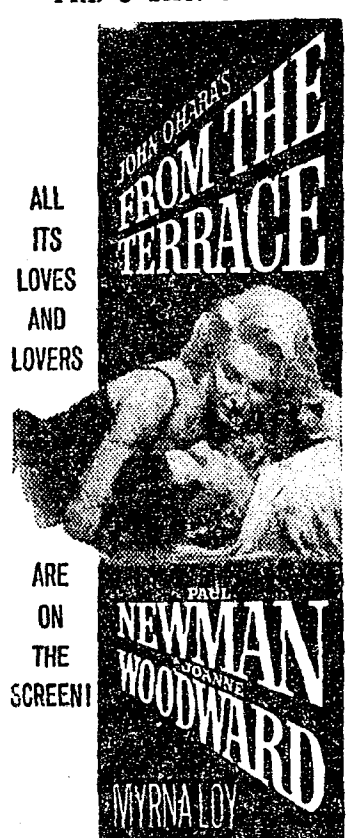
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