

New Algerian Crackdown Ordered; Administration Considers Terrorist Gunmen Continue Murders Laotian Defense Policy

ALGIERS (AP) — France's top official in Algeria launched a new crackdown on the European Secret Army yesterday but terrorist gunmen continued blazing away at Moslems.

Despite the roundup of some of the busiest secret army killers, 18 or more Moslems — including 7 women — had been shot dead on Algiers' streets by nightfall. Fourteen persons had been wounded.

Four Europeans — three of them youths in their early 20's — disappeared, apparently kidnapped by Moslems.

IN ADDITION, a Jewish merchant was shot dead by Moslems who raced through the European workers' quarter of Abab El Oued in a car, firing guns out the windows.

In angry tones, French High Commissioner Christian Fouchet broadened crackdown measures, announced the capture of two secret army commando units and said up to 1,500 plainclothesmen recruited from Moslem rebel army ranks and armed with

shoot-to-kill orders soon will be roaming Algiers.

ONE CAPTURED eight-man commando band, including the chief of secret army commandos in central Algiers, admitted more than 200 attacks and the booby-trapping of an automobile, Fouchet said. The gang also was responsible for machine-gunning and bombing two groups of police and a villa housing "barbouzes" the bearded ones, a special plainclothes force, he said.

Another band of 18, including a Moslem, was rounded up at Bouria, 100 miles east of Algiers, he announced.

One of yesterday's attacks was on the same downtown street where police hauled in every male over 18 years of age for questioning Thursday. Two Moslems in a truck were wounded by machine-gun bullets.

The shooting set off a mob action of 200 Moslems who swooped out of their Casbah quarter, beat up one European badly and sent others fleeing in terror. In another incident a police arm-

balance carrying two secret army prisoners was fired upon. The prisoners were liberated and a policeman wounded.

The secret army, which is fighting to prevent Algerian independence, is gambling that it can undermine Gen. Charles de Gaulle's cease-fire with Algerian nationalists by provoking the Moslems into bloody retaliation.

FOUCHET, from his barricaded headquarters at Kocher Noir outside Algiers, announced a string of arrests and deportations and orders to beef up police forces following the slaying Thursday of 55 persons, nearly all of them Moslems.

He said he was seeking authority to draft European youths of 19 and over into military service. Youths are responsible for a huge share of the terrorists attacks.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Kennedy administration was said yesterday to be conducting a full-dress review of its policies toward Laos, ignited by the collapse of royal Lao army defenses under Communist attack.

HIGH OFFICIALS said the review is a sweeping one and includes the possibility of sending in some U.S. or Allied forces in the event other means fail to restore some stability in the strategic little South-east Asian kingdom.

The U.S. position is that it would still like to see the restoration of a cease-fire and the formation of a coalition neutral government under Prince Souvanna Phouma.

But the possibility is now being weighed that the Communist forces would not agree to a restoration of the cease-fire but would continue their campaign to sweep over the remaining one-third of

the country still held by the royal government.

The gloom in Washington heightened as reports from Vientiane told of the rout of the royal Lao forces after the fall of Nam Tha last Sunday.

Kennedy set up an appointment this morning with Secretary Rusk, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The latter two have just visited Viet Nam, and presumably were briefed on the current situation in neighboring Laos.

STATE DEPARTMENT press officer Lincoln White said communications with the town of Nam Tha, are not good. He did not immediately confirm the loss of that town and its airport to Communist forces.

"The reports at best are sketchy," White said. "They do indicate there has been no effective defense against the Pathet Lao and Communist North Viet Nam troops."

"THE ROYAL Lao soldiers are making their way across the Mekong River into Thailand."

White recalled that Gen. Phoumi Nosavan, the strong man of the royal government and minister of defense and interior, has said that despite the events in northern Laos he is willing to continue talks looking toward the formation of a government of national union.

White emphasized that the creation of such a neutral government can be fulfilled only by restoring and maintaining a cease-fire.

Johnson Family Returns to U.S. Disillusioned With Soviet Utopia

BOSTON (AP) — The disillusioned David Johnson family came home yesterday from a 10-day visit to the Soviet Union, which Johnson said he found "no Utopia—far from it."

Johnson, 32, a former Philadelphia railroad worker said he went to the Soviet Union "for one thousand and one reasons, and as it turns out, all were incorrect—tragically."

HE SAID HE also had "one thousand and one reasons" for coming home, but it would take a Britannica encyclopedia to describe it.

Johnson flew to New York from London with his family and came by air to Boston where he and his family were met by Mrs. Johnson's mother and sister. They drove the Johnsons and their twin sons, Cole and Lindsey, 4, by automobile to Manchester, N.H.

THEY BOARDED a Soviet ship in London April 23 for Leningrad, but by last Monday they were back in London, reporting disillusion.

Johnson said for one thing he had hoped to get hospital care for

one of the children ailing with a heart condition.

But he said a look at one hospital changed his mind on that score. "It was unsanitary, obviously dirty," he said.

Carpenter's Space Ride Postponed Until May 19

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The orbital flight of astronaut Malcolm Scott Carpenter was delayed yesterday two days to May 19 because of problems with the capsule's automatic control system.

Any lengthy delay of Carpenter's flight would put it in conflict with a series of high-altitude nuclear tests planned by the United States in the Pacific in June and July.

Project Mercury officials do not want to subject the astronaut to radiation created by these blasts.

Break Reported in Estes Case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate investigators were reported yesterday to have discovered secret witnesses who may decipher entries in the cash books of Billie Sol Estes showing a \$235,000 payoff to a mysterious "Washington project."

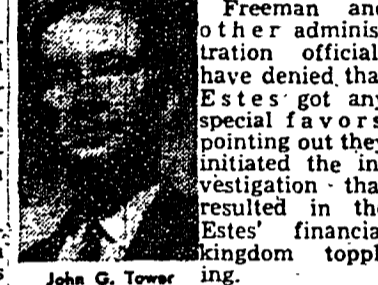
An informed source, who refused to be quoted by name, said the Senate investigating subcommittee has found some former employes willing to talk about the indicted West Texas financier's finances but did not identify them by name.

THE 37-YEAR-OLD Estes' financial empire has crumbled in recent months. He already is under indictment for fraud.

A Texas court of inquiry has turned up evidence that Estes profited hugely on government grain storage, manipulation of cotton acreage allotments, fertilizer sales and other aspects of the farm program.

Sen. John G. Tower, R-Tex., said at a news conference that he has evidence indicating the Estes scandal "may make Teapot Dome look like a Sunday school picnic."

He said he is confident the Department of Agriculture received complaints as early as last June that the Pecos, Tex., financier was profiting from favored treatment by that department.



John G. Tower

Freeman and other administration officials have denied that Estes got any special favors, pointing out they initiated the investigation that resulted in the Estes' financial kingdom toppling.

However, Tower predicted there would be great political repercussions as a result of the affair and in this connection compared it with Teapot Dome, the government oil lease scandal of 40 years ago that touched the Cabinet of President Warring G. Harding.

"I think the department dragged its feet on this thing," Tower said, adding that Freeman "practically admitted it" at a news conference Monday.

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