

STATINTL

THE PERISCOPE

AHEAD OF THE NEWS

A Four-Barreled Blast for LBJ

LBJ's worries over criticism of his handling of Santo Domingo are just beginning. Four of his sternest critics are writing books on the subject. One, by Tad Szulc of The New York Times, is finished. The others, by Barnard Collier of The New York Herald Tribune, Dan Kurzman of The Washington Post, and Jules Dubois of The Chicago Tribune, are in mid-draft.

Bipartisan Precedent

Here is why the Administration is showing no concern over Republican threats to abandon support of LBJ's Vietnam policy if he tries to negotiate with Hanoi. It is keeping a solid rebuttal in reserve. Dwight Eisenhower, Democratic leaders point out, settled the Korean War by dealing with the Communists. With a precedent like that, Administration strategists doubt that the GOP can gain any political ground by attacking negotiations with North Vietnam.

Peking's "Bomb"

U.S. Intelligence experts now feel "reasonably" sure that Red China's second atomic test "device" was dropped from an airplane. The Chinese, they say, probably used a Tu-4, a Soviet-designed bomber similar to the U.S. B-29.

Vietnam Video

Unsolicited help for solving South Vietnam's problems keeps coming in. "Amazed" to find no TV on his recent tour of Saigon, Michigan's GOP Rep. Charles Chamberlain wants the U.S. Information Agency to give him "a comprehensive report on the estimated costs and the arguments for and against creating television communications" in Vietnam.

The Dalai Lama Goes to War

Moscow has a new weapon for its propaganda war against Peking. The Soviets have compiled a list of Tibetan treasures they say the Chinese looted and plan to sell. The plunder includes a seven-century-old collection of gifts to the Dalai Lama, venerated by many Buddhists as a divinity. Novosti, a semi-official Soviet news agency, will circulate the list in India and other Asian—and Buddhist—countries.

Official Escalation

The fighting in Vietnam has now officially gone beyond guerrilla warfare. The Pentagon's working definition of a guerrilla war limits it to one fought by small units (up to 4,000 men). Now that the U.S. has moved in an entire Marine division, the operation technically becomes a "limited conventional war."

Spy vs. Counterspy

It's back to the laboratory for Soviet spymasters. Until recently, Western intelligence has been unable to process the film used by Russian agents for secret photographs. A Swedish chemist, however, solved the problem, and his process helped develop captured film that led to the espionage conviction of Swedish double agent Col. Stig Wennerström.