

May Replace Westmoreland

Abrams Says Viet Cong Capable

WASHINGTON (AP) — Army Gen. Creighton W. Abrams left for Vietnam Wednesday night saying the enemy "has the capability to conduct offensive operations whenever he feels the time is right."

Abrams, top deputy to Gen. William C. Westmoreland and rated the most likely to replace him as war commander in July, spoke briefly with newsmen as he completed a two-day secrecy-cloaked round of talks with President Johnson and other top leaders.

Asked whether Johnson indicated he would succeed Westmoreland, the 53-year-old Abrams replied tersely:

"The White House speaks for itself."

EARLIER the White House press secretary had said there had been no discussion about Abrams' future during several talks the four-star general had with Johnson, the National Security Council and senior military and civilian leaders.

In the planeside interview,

Abrams said that although the Communists have the ability to launch new offensives, "I don't know about" the magnitude of such ability.

Military and civilian officials have been forecasting that the enemy will attempt another thrust like the Tet offensive which rocked American and Vietnamese forces and dealt with some leaders have acknowledged were serious psychological and other setbacks.

HOWEVER, Abrams denied that the American and allied troops had lost the initiative in the war.

Asked what he foresees as the course of the war in the months ahead, Abrams rapped out:

"I look for more fighting."

He refused to comment on the possibility that there will be any change of basic U. S. war strategy as the result of some high-level studies which have been under way since the Tet offensive broke in late January.

Critics have been mounting an increasing attack on U.S. strategy, chiefly the "search and destroy" sweeps basic to Westmore-

land's war of attrition against main force Communist units.

ASKED how many more U.S. troops are needed in Vietnam and how many he expected to get, Abrams responded—not with a comment on U.S. troop numbers—but by saying he had been here to report on the performance of the South Vietnamese armed forces and plans to improve their equipment.

The planeside interview was the only occasion during Abrams' brief visit in which a newsman

had an opportunity to question him.

His arrival Monday night was kept secret and the administration acknowledged he was here only after word began to circulate around Washington, and Abrams was seen briefly.

At the White House talks, Abrams spoke particularly about plans for modernizing and expanding the manpower and equipment of South Vietnam's army, presidential press secretary George Christian reported.

Nixon To Issue Viet Statement Saturday

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — Richard M. Nixon said Wednesday he will issue a statement on Vietnam Sunday and discuss the United States engaging in "diplomacy at the highest level" with the Soviet Union.

Nixon told newsmen the statement, to be prepared for radio

broadcast, "will cover the problem of military recommendations that have been made and problems of pacification of South Vietnam."

But, the former vice president added, it will be "primarily directed toward the problem of diplomacy at the highest level involving the Soviet Union."

He declined to elaborate. Nixon made his comment on the statement in Madison after a newsman asked him about reports he had been "refining his comments on Vietnam."

"OVER A PERIOD of time, I've probably been the administration's most consistent critic," Nixon said. "This speech will be along those lines. It will also give direction."

Nixon huddled privately in Madison with Gov. Warren P. Knowles, then launched a final drive for votes in Wisconsin's April 2 presidential primary.

Nixon told Knowles he was the first of 26 Republican governors he plans to call on prior to the GOP national convention in Miami Beach.

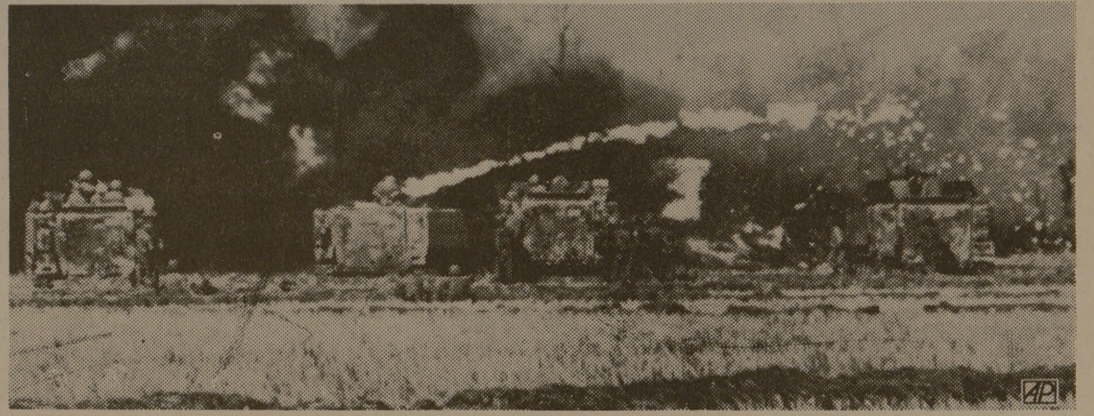
BEFORE THE withdrawal of Michigan Gov. George Romney from the Republican contest, Nixon had planned on concentrating heavily on Wisconsin after the New Hampshire primary.

However, with only token opposition on the GOP ballot from California Gov. Ronald Reagan and former Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen, he has made only three sorties into the state since March 12.

But with Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy touring the Republican heartlands in a frank bid for crossover votes in his confrontation with President Johnson on the Democratic side, GOP leaders are mounting a drive to keep Republican totals up.

REPUBLICAN State Chairman Ody J. Fish sent a letter to all of his party's county chairmen Tuesday, directing them to wage a telephone campaign "to get out the Republican vote and to have it vote Republican next Tuesday."

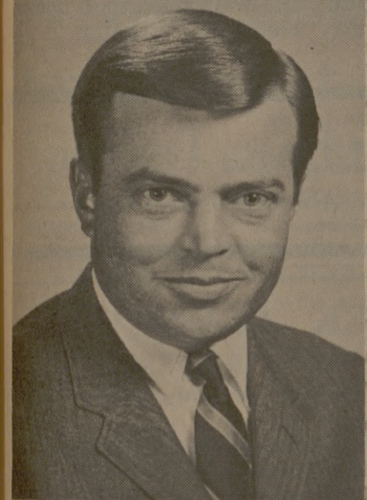
Stassen told newsmen Thursday that a poll taken in six state cities the past two days showed him running ahead of Nixon for the first time, 51 per cent to 40 per cent.



USE FLAME THROWER AGAINST VIET CONG
Flames from a flame-thrower atop an American armored personnel carrier spurt toward a village located some 15 miles west of Saigon. It was suspected of harboring Viet Cong guerrillas. The American force, part of operation "Quyet Thang," was on a sweep when guerrillas were seen entering the village. (AP Wirephoto)



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JOE BUSER

Buser Named Rudder Aide

Joe Buser was named special assistant to the president of Texas A&M Wednesday.

The 30-year-old journalist has been assistant executive director of A&M's Association of Former Students since 1966.

A&M President Earl Rudder said the new staff member would assist him with university programs involving relations with high schools and junior colleges and other special projects.

"Buser has served Texas A&M with distinction as a student and a member of the professional staff," Rudder said.

A 1959 graduate of A&M, Buser joined the university staff in 1962 as publications editor. He earned a national prize from the American College Public Relations Association in 1963.

During his three-year Air Force tour he was officer-in-charge of an Armed Forces Radio and Television station in Newfoundland and directed base public relations.

Chosen for inclusion in the 1968 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America," Buser has directed mail campaigns for the alumni group, coordinated national programs and edited the Texas Aggie.

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CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

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Not only are there weird critters roaming the Texas ranges, there's going to be a new kind of roundup with radio tracking equipment, tranquilizer guns — and even electronic computers.

This Texas-styled Dakitari is being planned by Texas A&M University's Wildlife Science Department to study the "exotics," those African, Indian and Asian animals which have been imported by ranchers.

Dr. James Teer, associate professor of wildlife science, noted Texas ranchers have experimented with many different types of animals here since the 1920's. He said some six varieties have flourished into herds and are being used in sport hunting programs.

"THEY INCLUDE the Nilgai antelope, Axis deer and Black Buck antelope from India, the Sika deer from the Orient, the Barbary Sheep or Aoudad from North Africa and the Mouflon sheep from Mediterranean regions," Teer said.

"There is very little sound biological information available about these animals," he explained. "We know virtually nothing about food habits, reproductive capacity, relationships to native game, potential for sport hunting or value as food."

Using part of \$1.4 million grant by the Caesar Kleberg Foundation to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Teer and Ernest Ables, an assistant professor and radio tracking specialist, have set up projects to study the Nilgai antelope, Axis deer and Black Buck antelope.

"WE WILL BE trying to get the goods on their life and times—their natural history, yield, competition with other animals, impact on the native biota—every

aspect of their ecology and biology," Teer said.

The transmitters will beep signals so the animal's position can be triangulated. Activity in relation to weather, time of day, season, size of range, vegetation, water, etc. will be plotted on detailed maps, he added.

Much of the work of plotting the animal movements in time and space will be done by a computer, the assistant professor noted.

"I've done it by hand and, believe me, it takes a while," he observed.

Airplanes and helicopters also will be used for broad surveys of herd activities.

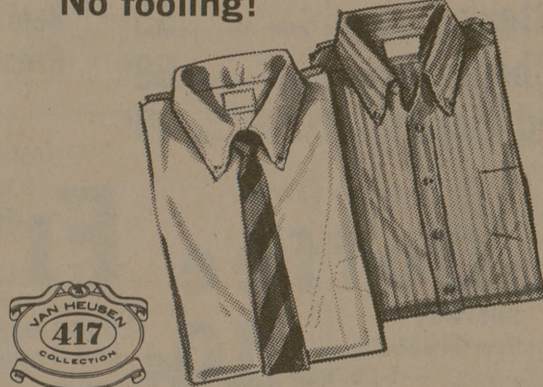
Ramsey Speaks To Social Club

The A&M Women's Social Club will present "Foods with a Flair," featuring Gerald Ramsey, director of food service at SMU, at 3 p.m. Friday in the MSC ballroom.

Ramsey is the author of "Morning, Noon and Night," a complete menu cookbook for all occasions. The program will feature color slides of table settings and floral arrangements he has created for parties.

In 1966, Ramsey was selected by the State Department to help the Jordan government in a feeding program for its national schools, under sponsorship of the Agency for International Development, Food for Peace program.

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