

Cloudy
High in upper 70s.
Low in 40s. S winds,
becoming NW, 15-20
mph. Rain: 60%.
Map, data 2-A.

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50 CENTS A COPY

Fierce battle is reported on Vietnam border

Landrey column, 2-A; analysis, 24-A; impact on U.S., 25-A; Patterson column, 2-D

An American reporter describes life at the front, 21-A

By KEYES BEECH
Los Angeles Times

BANGKOK, Thailand — The biggest and bloodiest battle of the week-old Chinese invasion of Vietnam was under way Saturday on Vietnam's northern border, with a second, equally bloody encounter about to begin.
Fierce fighting raged for Lang Son, 75 miles northeast of Hanoi and 12 miles south of the border, which sits

astride a classic invasion route from China to the south. Chinese commanders have thrown at least three divisions into the battle and have said that the Vietnamese were bringing up reinforcements.

The other major battle was shaping up at Lao Cai on the Red River about 180 miles northwest of Hanoi. A railway and communications center with a population of about 50,000, Lao Cai fell to the Chinese early last week.

LAO CAI WAS the first of four provincial capitals to be captured by the Chinese, mainly because it sits on the border. Vietnamese forces were reported to be counterattacking at Lao Cai, which lies in a narrow valley flanked by mountains on both sides of the Red River. (United Press International reported Saturday that the Vietnamese already had retaken Lao Cai.)

Military analysts here said the odds are heavily in fa-

vor of the invading Chinese who now have committed an estimated 250,000 troops to the task of punishing the Vietnamese for their military seizure last month of Cambodia, a Chinese ally.

But two members of the U.S. Congress who returned to Bangkok Saturday after touring the battle zone as guests of the Hanoi government, said the outnumbered Vietnamese are "supremely confident" of their ability to resist the Chinese invasion.

The two were Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman, D-N.Y., and Billy Lee Evans, D-Cal., members of a House subcommittee. See CHINA, 21-A

It's still not certain how it happened, the Nuclear War of 1985...

... Only after some months could anyone begin to sort out the tangled chain of events that led accidentally, but many survivors believe inexorably, from political confrontation to a nuclear exchange between the superpowers. An international investigating team could determine only that officials of both nations felt they were acting under extraordinary pressure in the overheated atmosphere of a prolonged but murky crisis. The crisis had intensified quickly over a period of a few weeks, allowing both time to prepare themselves for war. At the last minute the leadership of the two powers was removed to safe sites, but there was not enough time to evacuate the civilian population of either nation. When "hotlines" communications terminated after acrimonious accusations on both sides, each believed it had only 30 minutes or less to decide whether to fire its stationary land-based missiles before they were destroyed in their silos. Thus, investigators concluded, both the United States and Soviet leaders gave the orders almost simultaneously to fire their missiles...

By NAN RANDALL
and WILLIAM KINCADE
Special to The St. Petersburg Times
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A second sun dawned Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1985.

A mile and a half across at its center, it burst, not rose, above MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

World War III had started, and Tampa and St. Petersburg were prime targets.

The blast's immediate effects were devastating.

Twenty-eight thousand people — 98 percent of those within 2½ miles of MacDill — were killed. Most of the remaining 2 percent eventually died from injuries.

Brick buildings 3 miles from MacDill collapsed from the shock wave, and 50 percent of those in that area were killed and 40 percent injured.

THIRTY PERCENT of the population between 2½ and 5 miles from MacDill — 6,000 persons — were killed, and 30 percent were injured. Many of those injured would eventually die.

In downtown St. Petersburg and Tampa, winds of hurricane force swept through the streets, ripping windows and doors from buildings and driving splinters and debris through objects and people.

Davis Islands were hit with 130-mile-per-hour winds, and the shock wave from the blast crumpled frame dwellings and cracked masonry buildings.

Nine miles away — an area including parts of Snell Isle and Shore Acres — kindling ignited and bare skin suffered second-degree burns from heat radiation.

THOSE WHO survived the MacDill blast now had to contend with radioactive debris.

Fallout began descending on Tampa 15 minutes after the strike. Propelled by the blast, it grew in intensity for several hours.

The 15-mph easterly winds carried the fallout in an elliptical pattern over hundreds of miles.

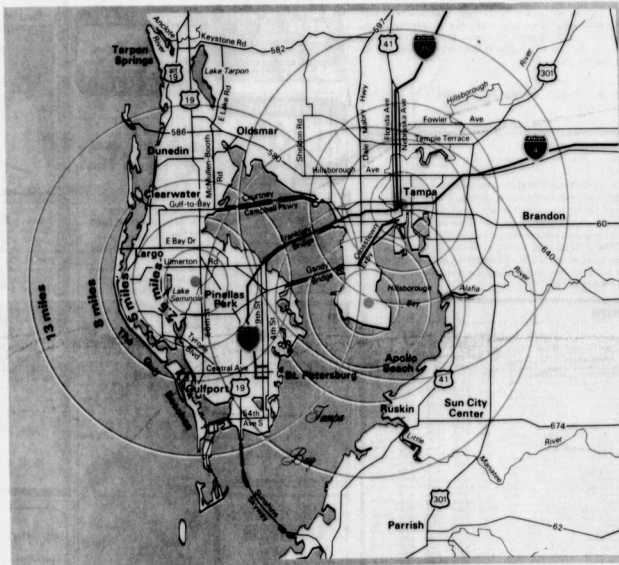
In just 25 minutes, those outside shelter up to 25 miles downwind from the blast received a lethal dose of radiation. Anyone outside a shelter 45 miles downwind absorbed a lethal dose in three hours.

It would have been tragedy enough had MacDill been the only target worth hitting in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area. But it was not.

SIX HOURS later two other Bay Area sites were blasted with 1-megaton warheads. They were the defense electronic plants north of St. Petersburg near Ulmertown Road (where firms such as GE and Honeywell were located) and the commercial and transportation center of Tampa where I-75, I-275 and I-4 intersect.

No part of St. Petersburg or Tampa escaped the fury of the second strikes.

The circles of death, injury and destruction caused by the first blast were repeated with the new strikes overlapping each other and intensifying the



Source: Defense Civil Preparedness Agency. St. Petersburg Times — FRANK PETERS

effects. (See map, this page).

Every structure was leveled and nearly everyone killed within a 2½-mile radius of the explosions. Water mains burst and radio towers collapsed, impeding firefighting and communications. Secondary fires merged into a single uncontrollable moving conflagration.

In immediate casualties, Pinellas County suffered about 90,000 killed and 150,000 injured. Hillsborough suffered over 150,000 killed.

The end of the world?

Did World War III bring the end of the world? No. The end of life as we knew it? At least for the time being.

"All studies of the matter in the United States appear to agree on two major points. After a large-scale nuclear (war) resulting in heavy radioactive fallout, most animal species, including the human race, will survive in the Southern Hemisphere if not the Northern, and the environment, including the oceans and atmosphere, will return to a close approximation of its pre-attack condition within a period ranging from a decade to a quarter of a century," a congressional Joint Committee on Defense Production report concluded.

"The question, therefore, is not

whether there will be survival *per se* but what level of survival citizens and their leaders consider to be the minimal acceptable," the report stated.

Tampa-St. Petersburg a target?

How did St. Petersburg and Tampa end up on a Soviet strategist's hit list? Had there been any pre-attack warning of the strategic significance of the area? After all, our strategists seemed to be in agreement that targets for thermonuclear weapons would be either prominent military installations or major economic and population centers or both.

The answer is that there had been plenty of warning, and that the Tampa-St. Petersburg area qualified on both counts of target importance.

The Census Bureau had predicted that two-thirds of the nation's economic capacity and population would be concentrated in 71 urban areas by 1985. It was, and Tampa-St. Petersburg was one of those areas.

The light defense industry, mostly in electronics, which Pinellas County had attracted to the industrial parks north of the city, was a major target (Story, 20-A).

See DOOMSDAY, 20-A

DOOMSDAY I

■ The chances of a nuclear war breaking out are almost too small to calculate. But many experts can and do think about such a war and its consequences. Of all the assumptions, predictions and fears about a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union, one that has been popularly accepted is that there would be no life after such a war. But nowhere in the mountains of material written about nuclear war is there evidence to back up that assumption. Indeed, if there is any commonly accepted assumption among theorists, scientists and government officials, it is that life — although vastly changed at first — will go on. William Haseltine Knack, executive director of the Arms Control Association, and writer Nan Randall have written what that life might be like in such a period. This, again, is not a prediction of nuclear war. Rather, it is a sober examination of the effects of nuclear war, particularly on the Suncoast, in the unlikely event that one does occur. Starting today is the first of four parts on life after Doomsday. ■

In the event of war, likely targets in the Tampa Bay area are MacDill AFB in Tampa, the conjunction of I-75, I-275 and I-4 in Tampa and the defense-electronics plants located north of St. Petersburg. Damage from hits on those areas would spread for miles. Two and a half miles from each blast 98 percent of the people would die. Thirty percent would die and another 30 percent would be injured 5 miles from the blast. Twenty-five percent would be injured 5 miles from the blast. Fires would spread out nearly 13 miles. These are the projected effects from a 1-megaton warhead.

The risk from the effects of a nuclear war are higher in the St. Petersburg-Tampa area than any other area in the state, according to the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA). In 1973 the DCPA decided to categorize high risk areas in the United States. Areas shaded red are considered at high risk from direct weapons effects (blast, heat, initial radiation). Those shaded green are at high risk from longer-term radioactive fallout. Brown indicates high risk from both direct weapons effects and longer-term fallout. This map is taken from Page 26 of High Risk Areas, the result of the DCPA study. The agency said the designations were based on potential target value. DCPA used four criteria in assigning risk values to target areas. They are, in order of priority: the presence of military installations; industrial, transportation and logistics facilities that support the military; basic industries, and population concentrations over 50,000.



Source: Defense Civil Preparedness Agency. St. Petersburg Times — FRANK PETERS

Ex-Rep. Eilberg sentenced to 5 years probation, fined

By LEE LINDER
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Former U.S. Rep. Joshua Eilberg pleaded guilty Saturday in a surprise plea bargaining deal at his conflict-of-interest trial.

The plea makes him ineligible to hold federal public office.

U.S. District Judge Raymond Broderick sentenced the former congressman to pay a \$10,000 fine within 30 days and to serve five years probation. Under the terms of the probation, Eilberg must do six hours of volunteer work weekly to benefit the community.

See EILBERG, 21-A

inside

Special in today's Times

An alleged tradition of vote-buying comes to light in Liberty County, 1-B

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Also inside is a special section called Know Your Candidates and a tabloid on spring gardening.

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