



# The Ocean Post

S. S. ROBERTSON FEBRUARY 12th 1977 CAPTAIN J. A. HEDGECOCK

## DOMESTIC NEWS

**WASHINGTON** : The Commerce Department said Friday that consumers in the United States cut spending 2 percent in January, when deep snow and freezing weather stalled the Eastern part of the Nation. In a separate report, the Labor Department said wholesale prices rose 0.5 per cent in January, in a continuation of the inflationary pace of recent months. The effect of the weather on consumer buying was emphasized by the fact that retail sales increased in January of 1975 when it was near the end of the recession, when 7.9 per cent of the work force was unemployed and industrial production was falling. The January decrease in retail sales followed a 3.9 per cent increase in December that interpreted as an encouraging sign that the economic slowdown had ended. The wholesale figure does not include the full impact of a frigid winter. The January increase was the lowest in five months and prices were only 4.9 per cent higher than a year ago which is moderate compared to the rampant inflation of recent years.

**WASHINGTON** : President Carter Friday promised families of American missing in action, he will send a delegation to Vietnam for the fullest possible accomplish M.I.A.'s in Southeast Asia, the White House said.

**WASHINGTON** : Jack Eckerd resigned Friday as head of the General Service Administration because of what the White House termed an honest misunderstanding with President Carter, who this week had asked the wealthy Republican to stay on. Eckerd and Carter differed over appointment of the second ranking man in the agency.

**WASHINGTON** : Secretary of State Cyrus Vance Friday gave the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a two hour private preview of his forthcoming Middle East peace mission and won unanimous well wishes from the members.

**WASHINGTON** : Four investigator of the House Assassinations Committee were refused access Friday to FBI files, on orders of chairman Henry Gonzalez who Thursday night fired the Committee's chief counsel and staff director. But the counsel was retained on the job by the Committee's other 11 members in a major battle with Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat.

**WASHINGTON** : The Federal Energy Administration reported Friday, a 60 per cent increase during the past year in the number of Americans with their thermostats turned down to save fuel.

**WASHINGTON** : American antiwar groups made public Friday a letter from a United Nations observer who said there has been no violation of human rights in his country and no bloodbath.

**DETROIT** : A career serviceman said Friday he had turned in all the medals he and his brother earned in three wars, as protest against President Carter's pardon for draft evaders.

**BOSTON** : The Boston Globe said Friday that according to a British intelligence report in 1973, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev was saying detente was a Russian design to shift the balance of power in Western Europe to the Soviet Union.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**MADRID** : Police Friday freed two highranking government officials held by leftwing urban guerrillas as hostages for the release of political prisoners. The government also said, police have made important arrests. Sources close to the Government said, police assaulted two building and that an ensured shootout resulted in injuries. The two officials freed were Antonio Maria de Orioly Urquije, who is the president of the council of state and General Emilio Villacusa Quilis who is former army chief of staff and present head of military justice. The antifascist resistance group October 1, a guerrilla group known as "Grapo" claimed responsibility for the kidnappings and demanded the release of Spain's 171 political prisoners. It said 15 of them should be flown to Algiers.

**CAIRO** : U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said Friday Israel has rejected any compromise or participation in any form of the PLO at renewed Middle East peace talks, and it was now up to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

**BEIRUT** : Tanks of the Arab peacemaking force bombarded Palestinian guerrillas Friday in the second day of heavy fighting in the capital.

**CAIRO** : The Interior Minister said Friday 99.24 per cent of the voters endorsed President Anwar Sadat's decree law to wage a political war against communism, which he said would finish them off in Egypt.

**THE VALLEY ANGUSLA** : A British warship steamed into Anguilla harbor Friday in a show of force to prevent further riots such as the one led by ousted Prime Minister Ronald Wedderburn at the inauguration of his successor.

**NEW DELHI** : President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed of India died Friday morning of a heart attack at the age of 71. The death left the world's second most populous nation in mourning and silenced campaigning for next month's election.

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