

The Major Events of the Day—Section 1

International

The United States told Israel on Friday that it had no plans to sell military arms to either Egypt or Syria, according to State Department officials. They said that Secretary of State Kissinger gave the assurances in a meeting at the State Department with Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador. Mr. Dinitz told Mr. Kissinger of growing apprehension in the Israeli press about the decision by the United States to negotiate the sale of a nuclear power reactor to Egypt, and the announcement that a team of American military officers was going to Egypt at the invitation of the Defense Ministry. Mr. Kissinger, his aides said, asserted that no sale of arms was contemplated to either Egypt or Syria, and that no military mission that had anything to do with arms is going to Egypt. [1:8.]

Israel's air strikes against Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon are viewed by officials in Cairo as a systematic effort to disrupt the negotiating process for peace that was begun by Secretary of State Kissinger and dramatized by President Nixon. President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt appealed to President Nixon in an urgent personal message to use American influence to stop the air strikes and the Cairo papers reported that Mr. Nixon had answered immediately. But the nature of the reply was not disclosed. Many Arab diplomats are convinced that Israel is seriously planning an invasion of southern Lebanon by her ground forces. The possibility of such an invasion is also taken seriously by some Western diplomats. [1:7.]

While the United States is gradually reducing its commitments in Asia, it is rapidly expanding its interests as it seeks a new role in the region. The themes that justified the American position in Asia for two decades appear to have been played out in the aftermath of the Vietnam war. But, if American intentions and assumptions are obscure now, American power is not. On the contrary, the solidity of the American presence—as seen in 10 Asian nations—makes a striking contrast to the tentativeness of American attitudes. [1:5-7.]

National

Evidence gathered for the Senate Watergate committee indicates that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell by-passed the Justice Department's Antitrust Division four years ago in giving the Howard R. Hughes organization approval to purchase a Las Vegas casino-hotel. The committee's staff said in a report that Mr. Mitchell's decision was without analysis by or of the knowledge of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. It was, the report said, "a classic case of Governmental decision-making for friends" of the Nixon Administration. The report also said that negotiations with Mr. Mitchell regarding the proposed purchase of the Dunes Hotel were conducted by Richard G. Danner of the Hughes organization, who

QUOTATION OF THE DAY: "To be told that you have to be worried about noise levels of brand new, safe, sanitary housing in Harlem, when hundreds of thousands live in slums, is patently ridiculous."—Edward J. Logue, president of the New York State Urban Development Corporation, commenting on a Federal finding that city slums are too noisy to permit new subsidized housing there. (34:4-8.)

delivered \$100,000 in Hughes funds to Charles G. Rebozo, President Nixon's close friend. [1:5-6.]

The issue of impeachment and alleged inaction in Washington on domestic programs were the principal topics at the opening of the 42d annual convention of the United States Conference of Mayors in San Diego, which is meeting jointly with its sister organization, the National League of Cities. Many members were divided on whether the convention should go on record for impeachment. Mayor Roy B. Martin Jr. of Norfolk, Va., president of the mayors conference, and other municipal officials urged Congress to move quickly on impeachment proceedings. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

Strategists in the Democratic legislative campaign believe the party will win control of the New York State Assembly next fall, and they even insist that they have a fair chance of unseating the Republican majority leaders, Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea and Senator Warren M. Anderson. The careful, busy hometown campaigns that have been conducted for several months by Mr. Duryea in Montauk, L. I., and by Senator Anderson in Binghamton indicate that the Republicans expect a difficult time. [1:1-3.]

Governor Wilson's unexpected veto of a bill that would have provided for the random selection of grand jurors has sharpened a long-standing debate about the role of grand juries, and has drawn sharp criticism from many segments of the legal profession. "The bill would have brought New York State practice into the 20th century," said William J. Gallagher, head of the criminal defense division of the Legal Aid Society. "Its rejection is a severe setback to improvement of the criminal justice system in the state," he added. [1:1-3.]

Some New York City slums are so noisy and crowded that environmentalists in the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington have declared them unsuitable for new Government-subsidized housing. State and city officials in New York contend, nevertheless, that new housing would be a vast improvement over what exists and charge that the Federal position in the growing controversy has led to costly delays of up to 20 months in construction and occupancy. [34:4-8.]

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