

News Summary and Index

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974

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The Major Events of the Day

International
Al Fatah, the largest and most moderate of the Palestinian resistance organizations, said in Baghdad that it was responsible for the commando operation in Nahariya in northern Israel. Because Fatah has never before openly claimed such responsibility, the announcement was seen as a sign that like the more radical Palestinian groups, it will openly maintain pressure by armed attacks on Israel. [1:5.]

President Nixon, on arriving in Brussels to confer with Western European leaders before heading for his summit meeting in Moscow with Leonid I. Brezhnev, hailed the anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He said he expected the Brussels meeting would give new purpose to an organization which he praised as indispensable in the maintenance of European peace since 1949. [1:5.]

The United States recalled its ambassador from the Sudan because of that country's "virtual release of confessed murderers" of two senior American diplomats and one Belgian in 1973. The State Department said the Sudanese authorities had violated a promise to punish the eight guerrillas severely. The terrorists were flown from Khartoum to Cairo. Top United States officials in Washington privately expressed anger. [1:2-3.]

The Soviet Union has sent its chief negotiator of border issues with China to Peking in an effort to revive the long-stalled talks. Leonid F. Ilyichev, a deputy foreign minister, resumed his role after being absent from the talks for about 11 months. Chinese sources said the move was a Soviet initiative and that they had agreed to receive him. It is timed to the eve of President Nixon's visit here. [16:3-4.]

The Commerce Department announced that the United States export surplus of April had changed to a trade deficit of \$777-million in May, second highest on record. It said this was due to a possibly temporary decline in agricultural exports while imports continued to grow. Oil imports were unchanged from April but cost almost four times as in May, 1973. [59:8.]

National
The House Judiciary Committee voted to make public as soon as possible virtually all the evidence assembled for its investigation

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The last pieces of a famous 126-year-old facade were stolen in daylight from a lower Manhattan loft. Most of the cast-iron sections, which once adorned a building at 97 Murray Street, had been stolen earlier. The panels were designed by James Bogardus for easy removal and reassembling. [1:4.]

The Federal Government has sharply relaxed its pressure on New York City to meet national clean-air standards. The Environmental Protection Agency said the city could take into account the action of Congress in allowing car makers at least until 1977 to meet the exhaust standards originally set for 1975. Measures such as requiring truck deliveries at night and banning cruising midtown Manhattan taxicabs will become less urgent. [1:2.]

The City Planning Commission is starting a new concept of "mini-plans" for neighborhoods, tailored to individual needs. It contrasts with the citywide master plan approach, drawn up six years ago but shelved by the commission last year. John F. Zuccocci, who became chairman in February, 1973, explained that there was clearly a need for more attention to local desires. [1:6-7.]

Quotation of the Day

"Someone has stolen one of my buildings."—Mrs. Beverly Moss Spatt, chairman of the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission, in disclosing the theft of a 126-year-old cast-iron facade. [1:5.]

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