

The Major Events of the Day

International
 Britain's Conservative party decisively elected Margaret Thatcher as leader, succeeding Edward Heath, who resigned after losing to her in an earlier round of the contest. She started her bid last year as an outside challenger from the party's right wing. Asked after the vote how much she would shake up the party, she promised "a blend of continuity and change." [Page 1, Col. 5.]

The British Government announced that it would set up a network of centers in Northern Ireland to maintain contact with Irish Republican Army units to safeguard and monitor the current cease-fire. It was the most formal structure for this purpose that Britain has ever accepted. If the cease-fire holds, the British Army's presence will become less obtrusive, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland indicated. [1:1-2.]

Secretary of State Kissinger ended his first full day of discussions with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem with the comment that he remained optimistic on the prospects of a new interim agreement between Israel and Egypt. He emphasized that he was not attempting actual negotiations on this trip, which takes him to Cairo today and back to Jerusalem tomorrow. [1:3.]

The health ministers of the nine Common Market countries agreed in Brussels to let the approximately 400,000 physicians in the member countries practice wherever they want within the European community. The accord, which Denmark has not yet ratified, pending formation of her new government, gives 18 months for each member country to change administrative rules to let foreign doctors practice. It was the first such agreement for any profession. [1:1-2.]

National
 President Ford announced the release of up to \$2-billion in impounded highway funds to help stimulate the sagging economy. Addressing a joint session of the Kansas Legislature in Topeka, he said he had made the decision on the recommendation of a number of state governors who assured him the money would be spent by June 30 on pending projects including mass transit. White House officials estimated that the money, with lesser amounts of matching state funds, would lead to 125,000 new jobs. [1:8.]

The National Academy of Sciences made public a major study, "Mineral Resources and the Environment," warning that the world faces shortages, the first perhaps only a few years away, in materials that are vital to modern industrial civilization. The report said it was essentially impossible for domestic oil supplies to replace foreign supplies in the next decade. The chairman of the study panel, Dr. Brian J. Skinner of Yale, told reporters that all government estimates of total American oil and gas resources have been over-optimistic. [1:7.]

At the first Federal hearing on environmental impact of off shore oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf, Governor Byrne of New Jersey threatened to sue the Department of Interior unless it postponed its call for oil companies to name areas they would like to lease. He said the department had promised to take no action pending a Supreme Court decision in a 1969 Federal case involving Maine and 11 other Atlantic coastal states. [1:7-8.]

Metropolitan
 Ken McFeeley, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, toured station houses to rally votes for the plan to save the jobs of more than 500 rookies and recruits. He stirred responses of support from a rank and file that had been overwhelmingly opposed to the proposal. He also won a pledge from leaders of the sergeants' and captains' associations to work a day at no pay by their members if that would help save the jobs. He promised to resign from his office "before I let one cop get laid off and before I ask you to give up one other thing" in bargaining with the city. [1:6-7.]

The backlog of undisposed felony cases rose sharply in the city last year despite a decline in indictments and despite measures to improve productivity in State Supreme Court. Justice Richard J. Bartlett, the state-wide administrative judge, predicted it would take three or four years to get the calendar down to the point of giving trials within six months of indictment. [1:4.]

A convocation of Roman Catholics and Reform Jews met first in St. Patrick's Cathedral and then in Temple Emanu-El to discuss problems that have strained their relations, including Israel, abortion, and shared efforts against poverty, corruption and injustice. Rabbi Ronald B. Sobel of the temple spoke from the cathedral's high pulpit—the first rabbi to do so—and Cardinal Cooke called the dialogue "an encouraging beginning" between the two groups. [1:2-5.]

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Quotation of the Day

"To me it is like a dream—that the next name in the lists after Harold Macmillan, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Edward Heath, is Margaret Thatcher."—Mrs. Thatcher, after winning Conservative leadership. [1:5.]

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