

The Major Events of the Day

International
Fierce fighting broke out on at least four fronts in the Ethiopian province of Eritrea yesterday as Ethiopian forces used fighter-bombers, armored vehicles, artillery and troops in attacks on villages and roads held by Eritrean secessionist guerrillas. The attacks followed several days of troop build-ups in Eritrea. [Page 1, Column 4.]

The collapse of the Soviet-American trade agreement raised questions in Moscow about the ability of the Ford Administration to honor commitments in more complicated areas, a senior Soviet official said at a news conference in Washington. Vladimir S. Alkhimov, the Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, sought to put pressure on the United States to revise the trade bill that linked any trade benefits for the Soviet Union to a liberalized Soviet emigration policy. [1:5-6.]

Voting 22 to 1, with nine abstentions, the 32-member United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, accused Israel of violating the "basic norms of international law" in the territories she occupies, and adopted two resolutions of censure against Israel over her actions in the occupied Arab territories. Only the United States voted against both. [1:7.]

National
John N. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, who were among President Nixon's closest advisers, were each sentenced to serve two and a half to eight years in prison for their roles in the Water-gate cover-up. Robert C. Marjarian, former Assistant Attorney General under Mr. Mitchell, was sentenced to serve 10 months to three years. [1:8.]

The Justice Department disclosed that a secretary to the Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, and a Texas lawyer, had been indicted by a Federal grand jury on charges of fraudulently representing themselves as influence peddlers. The six-count indictment charged that Pauline B. Givvin, the secretary, and Joe Ben Champion, the lawyer, had falsely claimed to have had influence with Mr. Albert and had told clients that, in return for fees, they would use their good offices with Mr. Albert to have him arrange for the dropping of criminal charges faced by the clients. [1:8.]

The Labor Department reported that consumer prices in January continued to be less inflationary. The Consumer Price Index, after adjustment for normal seasonal changes in some prices, rose by six-tenths of 1 per cent last month, a little less than the seven-tenths increase in December, but the smallest increase since last April. Prices of clothing, automobiles, beef and sugar declined, but costs of medical care and utilities, and prices of some foods, mainly cereals, bakery products, fruits and vegetables were higher. [1:1.]

By making optional some equipment that is now standard in nine of its small cars, the General Motors Corporation announced that it would reduce the prices of those cars by \$104 to \$313. This step by General Motors, the auto industry's price leader, puts pressure on the rest of the car manufacturers to lower their small-car prices. [1:2-3.] Meanwhile, the Ford Motor Company reported that the number of its laid-off workers would total 67,100 next week. This is 38.3 per cent of Ford's hourly work force. [3:8.]

Metropolitan
Inflation in the New York-Northeast New Jersey area showed some moderation in January, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices of consumer goods and services in the region rose last month by 0.2 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis. Actual prices remained unchanged in January, but normally, prices would drop at this time of the year. In the previous eight months, there were consecutive increases amounting to 7.2 per cent. [1:2-3.]

Seventy-two nursing-home patients recently removed from substandard nursing homes in New York City required hospital care, according to officials at four city hospitals where the patients were taken. They were only a few of the 900 nursing-home patients who, since mid-December, have been sent to hospitals after nine nursing homes here decided to close rather than face hearings by the State Health Department on violations of the "life safety code." [1:4-6.]

City officials reaffirmed their intention to go ahead with plans for the \$200-million New York City Convention and Exposition Center on the Hudson River. The head of the city Planning Commission, speaking for Mayor Beame, said he saw no reason for delay on the basis of an environmental-impact report prepared for the Army Corps of Engineers. [1:6.]

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Quotation of the Day
"The Administration was not able to honor its commitment."—Vladimir S. Alkhimov, a Soviet official, questioning ability of the United States to honor pacts after collapse of Soviet-American trade accord. [1:5.]

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CORRECTION

The prices of hamantashen at Gerlet's Bake Shop, 53 Hester Street, were incorrectly given yesterday in an article in The New York Times. Gerlet's charges 45 cents apiece for the large hamantashen and \$3 a pound for the small.