

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1975

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The Major Events of the Day

International

The Saigon Government has decided to abandon the Central Highlands of South Vietnam because the region has become militarily indefensible, well-placed Western sources said. The decision, one of the most momentous of the Vietnam war, followed 14 days of sharp reverses. It was certain to have important political reverberations. [Page 1, Column 8.]

President Ford said that events in Southeast Asia tended to validate "the so-called domino theory" and that the continued existence of a non-Communist Government in Cambodia was vital to American security. Answering questions at a news conference at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., he said the military situation in Cambodia had become "very serious" and the North Vietnamese "have apparently launched a very substantial military effort against South Vietnam, the Paris peace accord." [1:5.]

Thailand's Premier Kukrit Pramoj said that his seven-party civilian coalition would seek the complete withdrawal of the 25,000 American troops and 350 aircraft from the country within a year. The statement, made after his coalition was confirmed by King Phumiphon Aduldej, also said the Government would seek to establish diplomatic relations with China and try to open talks with North Vietnam. The new Cabinet faces a confidence vote in the lower house of Parliament tomorrow. [1:7.]

The United States Embassy in Phnom Penh evacuating international relief agency personnel as battlefront news continued to be discouraging. The Embassy insisted that it was only a temporary measure "until the situation clarifies a bit," but Embassy personnel were packing and shipping household effects, and other countries were closing their embassies. [1:5.]

National

Upholding the Federal Government which had challenged the claim of 13 Atlantic States to seabed resources out as far as 100 miles offshore, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Government has exclusive rights to any oil and gas resources on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf beyond the three-mile limit. The ruling will

The Other News

International

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Declaring that he condemned any involvement by the Central Intelligence Agency in alleged assassination plots against foreign leaders, President Ford said he was "personally analyzing" such charges. He acknowledged that he had discussed the matter last week with Vice President Rockefeller, head of a Presidential commission investigating alleged domestic spying activities of the C.I.A. Mr. Ford made his remarks at a news conference at Notre Dame University. [1:2-3.]

A comprehensive energy bill that would gradually add 37 cents a gallon to the Federal gasoline tax by 1980, and provide cash rebates on the basis of using nine gallons a week was introduced by Representative Al Ullman, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The refunds would be paid to all residents of the United States 18 years of age and older, whether motorists or not. [14:3-5.]

Metropolitan

The country's first major strike by physicians hit 21 of the city's 91 voluntary and municipal hospitals. It was called by a union of 3,000 internes and resident physicians seeking a cut in their long hours. Medical services were apparently being maintained by senior attending physicians and incoming patients were sent, in some cases, to unaffected hospitals. [1:4.]

Sanford D. Garelick, former President of the City Council and former chief inspector of the city's police force, was appointed chief of the Transit Authority Police Department and pledged to make safety on the subways his "No. 1 priority." He replaced Robert H. Rapp, who was removed as the head of the transit police after the admitted to lying about payoffs to the Transit Authority and condoning falsification of sub-way-crime statistics. [1:5-6.]

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark announced that 348 city employees, including 130 policemen and 66 firemen, had been laid off indefinitely, and that the property-tax rate would rise from \$8.60 to \$10.15, the highest in the city's history. [39:3.]

Quotation of the Day

"We went out with a heavy heart"—Dr. Ramesh Tandon, a striking resident at the Hospital for Joint Diseases. [1:4.]

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CORRECTION
Randolph A. Hearst, father of the missing Patricia Hearst, was erroneously identified in Sunday's Week in Review section as the publisher of The San Francisco Chronicle.
Mr. Hearst is editor and publisher of The San Francisco Examiner.

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