

News Summary and Index

NTimes

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1975

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The Major Events of the Day

International

Fears of a North Vietnamese attack on Saigon increased yesterday as Communist forces swept into South Vietnamese Government enclaves on the country's central coast. Western intelligence officials said there were six regular North Vietnamese divisions in Communist-held areas around the capital and that they had several hundred Soviet-made T-34 tanks and dozens of 130-mm. artillery pieces that can fire shells as far as 15 miles. It was reported that a Hanoi broadcast monitored in Tokyo said that the Vietnamese were ready to hold talks with a South Vietnamese government that excluded President Nguyen Van Thieu and that they would abide by the Paris agreements of 1973. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Thousands of refugees were milling about in the seaside city of Nha Trang amid reports that North Vietnamese forces were moving rapidly in its direction. American officials said the North Vietnamese were moving toward Nha Trang both down the coast from Binh Dinh Province and from the Central Highlands. Nha Trang is the last major city in Government hands along the coast north of Saigon. [1:6-7.]

President Lon Nol of Cambodia, about to depart from the country, went through a series of tearful farewells in Phnom Penh, including a final meeting with the United States Ambassador, John Gunther Dean. Sources at the presidential palace said that Marshal Lon Nol, was too overwrought to record a planned farewell address to the nation, which has learned of his plans only from foreign broadcasts. [1:5.]

Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger said that the United States would be "reluctant" to enter into any new arms commitments to Israel while the current reassessment of American policy in the Middle East was going on. The policy review was ordered by President Ford last week, and the State Department said that the ambassadors to Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan had been summoned home. [1:4.]

Portugal's leftist military government, in keeping with its decolonization policy, has been trying to give Macao back to China, but the Peking Government has said no, according to diplomatic officials in Washington. Macao has been Portuguese territory since 1887, but Macao has functioned as a

The Other News

International

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The State Attorney General's office refused to let Harry B. Helmsley, the real estate investor, continue the conversion of the Parkchester apartments in the Bronx into a condominium on the ground that an insufficient number of tenants was accepting the condominium plan. The conversion of about one quarter of the 12,000 apartments from rental status is not affected. [1:2-3.]

The Temporary State Commission on Living Costs and the Economy disbanded with a parting salvo at high Republican and Democratic figures, whom it charged with negligence or impropriety regarding the nursing-home industry. "The intolerable conditions in the nursing-home industry over the last 20 years would not have been possible without political influence and poor administration," Assemblyman Andrew J. Stein, the chair man, said. [1:2:3-8.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I think this supports what we have been saying, that the upward pressures on food prices will be easing."
—C. Kyle Randall, head of Agriculture Department's Crop Reporting Board, commenting on 2 per cent decline in farm prices in the month ended March 15. [1:1-1.]

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