

News Summary and Index

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1975

NYTimes The Major Events of the Day APR 3 1975

International

South Vietnam reported the abandonment to Communist forces of three coastal enclaves—Tuy Hoa, Nha Trang—and the huge military base of Cam Ranh—and the inland resort city of Da Lat. Fighting was reported in all provinces ringing Saigon. The Government armed forces appeared to be falling apart. The South Vietnamese Senate overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for a government of national union to end the war. It seemed unlikely to bring about any change since it has no legal force without President Nguyen Van Thieu's approval. Premier Tran Thien Kiem said in a brief broadcast address that the Government was determined to defend what remained and eventually recover areas recently lost. [Page 1, Columns 5-8.]

In Paris, leaders of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government called for an uprising against the Saigon Government of President Thieu and a negotiated end to the fighting. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, the Vietcong Foreign Minister, said her group was ready to talk immediately with a new Saigon government replacing the administration of Mr. Thieu. [1:5.]

Saigon is on the brink of chaos, full of fear and rumor as some foreigners ship out their acquisitions and others prepare to stay to the end. A young war widow with two small children trembled as she said, "Where is there to go after Saigon? What is there to do? Wait, wait, wait." [1:6-7.]

Secretary General Waldheim said in an interview in Rome that the issue of Vietnamese refugees was a very controversial political problem that the United Nations should avoid. He said he was maintaining contact through the Vietcong liaison office in Geneva and with North Vietnam through private channels in Paris. He indicated he believed any public appeal by him to the Communist authorities to let refugees leave would be "counterproductive." [1:6-8.]

The United States Embassy in Phnom Penh announced that it would begin evacuating its diplomatic and military personnel today as well as members of other allied missions in the Cambodian capital. Robert V. Keeley, deputy chief of mission, denied that the fall of Neak Luong or the departure of Cambodia's President, Marshal Lon Nol, had played a decisive role in bringing about the evacuation announcement. [1:7.]

National

The prosecutor in his bribery trial of John B. Connally, former Secretary of the Treasury, told the jury there was documentary evidence proving he solicited and got a \$10,000 payoff for helping the dairy industry. He said the money "left a trail of footprints." Edward Bennett Williams, the chief defense attorney, said he would prove that the chief prosecution witness, Jake Jacobsen, was an inveterate perjurer who embezzled the funds. [1:2-3.]

Administration officials close to President Ford said he was so undecided before signing the antirecession tax-cut bill that he had a second speech prepared in case he vetoed it. Insiders said that only two of his high-ranking advisers strongly urged a veto—Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and William E. Simon, Secretary of the Treasury. So did several conservative Republican members of Congress. But most of his advisers counseled signing the bill to get the quick tax cut and also for long-range political considerations. [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan

Standard & Poor's, one of two leading credit-rating agencies, suspended its "A" rating of New York City bonds—an action seen as a severe setback in the city's battle to remain solvent. It is expected to erode further investors' confidence in city securities and to raise interest rates and worsen the prospects for the next major note sale. Mayor Beame said that the action was "unwarranted." The rating agency said it was hopeful that the suspicion would be quickly ended and the city's rating restored. [1:1.]

The Consolidated Edison Company asked the State Public Service Commission for the largest increase in the electric rate in that body's history—21.7 per cent. The company said it regretted having to file this request, but said deferring it would result in progressive deterioration of electric service and reliability in New York City and Westchester County. [1:4.]

The city's Commissioner of Employment said that because of accelerated hiring for federally financed public-service jobs for city agencies, there would be 20,000 formerly jobless persons at work by April 30. This would be double the number of persons who were employed under the program at the end of March. [1:1.]

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Quotation of the Day

"There is a war going on and one side has occupied a part of the territory and does not want to cooperate and this creates a political problem. It is not in the interest of the United Nations to get involved in this political aspect."—Secretary General Waldheim, speaking of South Vietnam. [1:6.]

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