

# News Summary and Index

NTimes

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## The Major Events of the Day

### International

President Ford declared yesterday in a nationally televised news conference in San Diego that neither friends nor adversaries of the United States should interpret the military losses in South Vietnam as a sign that American commitments will not be honored anywhere in the world. He said he did not expect the fall of the Saigon Government. He made a series of appearances in the conservative city of San Diego to show that he was doing all he could both to save the Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu and provide assistance for the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the advancing Communist forces. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Senior Japanese officials said that they were disturbed and divided by the failure of the United States to help South Vietnam and Cambodia in their crises. They said that Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would seek a reaffirmation of the United States commitment to defend Japan, including a pledge to maintain the "nuclear umbrella" when he confers with Secretary of State Kissinger in Washington next week. [1:1.]

Little military action was reported in South Vietnam, but tension increased in Saigon over the fate of the remaining territory in Government hands. Military authorities in Saigon took steps to prevent disorder and panic in the city and changed the curfew to 9 P.M. from 10 P.M. Combat policemen in camouflage uniforms patrolled the streets in large squads. [1:6-7.]

The leaderless remaining members of six South Vietnamese divisions from the northern two-thirds of the country straggled ashore at the small port of Vung Tau, 37 miles from Saigon, and with them panic, disorder and demoralization was brought closer to the capital city. [1:7-8.]

The first South Vietnamese children to be evacuated in the current crisis and flown to the United States for adoption by American families arrived in San Francisco. There were 52 of them, and their papers identified them as "orphan boy" and "orphan girl." They were on their way to various states and their adoptive parents. [1:2-5.]

### National

At his news conference in San Diego, President Ford said that he was appealing to members of Congress "to stop coming to the White House with one spending bill after

another." He warned of a possible resurgence of "double-digit inflation," and asked Congress to put the new budget control law into effect a year early so it could impose on itself a spending ceiling in the forthcoming fiscal year. [1:5.]

The Labor Department provided another sign of abating inflation with the announcement that the Government's wholesale price index declined in March for the fourth consecutive month. The over-all index, seasonally adjusted, declined six-tenths of 1 percent as agricultural prices fell sharply, more than offsetting a small rise in industrial goods. [1:4.]

✓ Jake Jacobsen, a former dairy industry lawyer, testified that he gave John B. Connally, who was Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon Administration, a \$10,000 gratuity in 1971 and later participated with him to cover up the payment. Mr. Jacobsen is the Government's principal witness in Mr. Connally's bribery trial in Washington. [1:2.]

### Metropolitan

Governor Carey, at a meeting in his midtown office with Mayor Beame, said that the state "would advance money from various areas of the state budget" to ease the city's critical April cash-flow predicament. State Controller Arthur Levitt later explained how this would be done. The state's help makes unnecessary the city's plan to borrow \$450-million, gives it time to seek more Federal cash assistance and saves it \$36-million in interest. [1:1.]

Moody's Investors Service gave a ringing endorsement to New York City's credit status and said it would stand by its "A" rating of city bonds—a day after its competitor, Standard & Poor's, "suspended" its "A" rating on the bonds. The announcement was received joyfully by Mayor Beame and Controller Harrison J. Goldin. Both said they hoped the announcement would reassure the investing public. [1:2-3.]

The Puerto Rican nationalists who took full responsibility for the four latest midtown bombings and as well as last January's fatal Frances Tavern annex explosion issued a communiqué that threatened continued "revolutionary violence" against corporations "at the heart of Yanki imperialism." They demanded independence for Puerto Rico and release of five nationalists serving prison sentences. [1:4-3-6.]

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## Quotation of the Day

"We will stand by our allies and I specifically warn any adversary they should not, under any circumstances, feel that the tragedy of Vietnam is an indication that the American people have lost their will or their desire to stand up for freedom any place in the world." — President Ford at his news conference. [1:8.]

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## CORRECTION

In the obituary in The New York Times on March 22 of A. Weston Smith Jr., a financial writer, it was incorrectly implied that he was the author of "Public Relations Handbook" in 1950 and 1962. Mr. Smith was a contributor to those books.