

News Summary and Index

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1975

MYTIMES The Major Events of the Day APR 5 1975

International

An American Air Force transport taking 243 Vietnamese orphans to refuge in the United States crashed and burned shortly after take-off from Saigon yesterday. More than 100 of the children and at least 25 of the adults accompanying them were believed to have been killed. The Galaxy C-5A jet, the world's biggest plane, apparently suffered a loss of pressure that blew out its rear door after take off. [Page 1, Column 8.]

A vast southward movement of North Vietnamese troops was reported in Saigon as Communist units carried out probing actions along South Vietnamese Government defense lines in an arc around Saigon. A military spokesman announced that the Government had re-established contact with three coastal cities which had previously been reported abandoned to the Communists without a fight. [1:6-7.]

Four United States Navy aircraft carriers are standing by in the Western Pacific to evacuate American citizens and some South Vietnamese, but President Ford has not issued orders for the carriers to proceed to Vietnamese waters, Administration officials said. The carriers and two-thirds of a Marine division based on Okinawa make up the evacuation forces, the officials said. [1:5.]

President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam named a new Premier to head a "government of war and national union" and said it intended to defend the country's remaining territory against the Communists. Speaking over television and radio, he called upon the United States "to meet its commitments to South Vietnam." The new Premier is Nguyen Ba Can, speaker of the lower house of Parliament. [1:7.]

Portugal's armed forces virtually imposed a constitution on the country, with all essential power in the hands of their governing body, the High Council of the Revolution, exclusively a military body of 28 officers. A draft of the constitution was accepted by all the major political parties campaigning for the election of a constituent assembly. [1:2.]

National

The national unemployment rate rose substantially in March to 8.7 per cent of the labor force and the number of "discouraged workers"—those who have stopped looking for work—reached a record figure of 1.1

million, the Labor Department said. The number of the unemployed was the highest since 1940 and the rate was highest since 1941. The March figures also showed the smallest monthly loss of jobs since last September. This may indicate "a weakening of the forces of recession," according to the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, who emphasized, nevertheless, that "the unemployment situation is extremely serious." [1:1.]

President Ford, responding to the official announcement that the unemployment rate is now 8.7 per cent of the nation's labor force, said that he would recommend a further extension of unemployment benefits. He said that when Congress returns from its Easter recess, he would propose legislation that would extend the benefits under two emergency programs. [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan
Commuters driving their cars between New York and New Jersey each day will soon probably have to pay higher bridge and tunnel tolls unless they participate in car pools. William J. Roman, chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey told a legislative panel in Manhattan, "I frankly expect a restructuring of our tolls to be authorized in the near future, designed to discourage the one-passenger use of automobiles for commuting purposes." Under the new system, the reduced rate for automobiles that cuts round-trip tolls from \$1 to 50¢ would be withheld unless there were three people in the car. [1:4.]

Democrats in the State Legislature are urging the establishment of a state-operated bank, which would compete with commercial banks and which would take over the estimated total of \$3-billion in state government accounts in in commercial banks. The bank would be a profit-seeking venture as well as government "yardstick" measuring the performance of commercial banks. [1:2-3.]

Ten major Manhattan subway stations were evacuated and hundreds of thousands of riders were delayed for an hour in the evening homeward rush by spurious bomb threats of an alleged bank-extortionist who had detonated a jar packed with gunpowder when he was arrested earlier in the day at Herald Square and 34th Street. He had told authorities that time bombs were set to go off in the stations at 6 P.M. He was identified as Edward Williams, 26 years old, of Paterson, N. J. [1:2.]

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"The American people as well as the American Congress must see now that they have got to do something for the people of South Vietnam to keep from earning the label of traitors."—President Thieu. [1:7.]

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