

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

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The Major Events of the Day

International

On their first day back from the Easter recess, Senate Democrats yesterday rebuffed what they took to be suggestions from President Ford that Congress could be held responsible for the deteriorating situation in Southeast Asia. Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, opened the session with a conciliatory speech and said that there was enough blame to go around. Nevertheless, several senior Democrats used harsh language to rebut Mr. Ford and to emphasize their opposition to further military aid for South Vietnam and Cambodia. [Page 1, Column 8.]

President Ford ended his Easter vacation in Palm Springs, Calif., with an address, on his way to Washington, to a meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas, in which he urged Americans not to give in to self-doubt or "paralysis of will-power." Mr. Ford and his Administration were anticipating difficult days ahead in sustaining national, foreign and domestic policies. [1:7.]

Phnom Penh's defense perimeter shrank again as insurgents overran some outposts four miles north of Pochentong Airport and attacked the airport with rockets and artillery shells. But the American airlift of food, fuel and ammunition that is keeping the Government alive continued. [1:6.]

North Vietnamese gunners shelled at least 10 district capitals in the Mekong Delta, with most of the fire concentrated on targets within 35 miles of Saigon, including an attack on a fuel depot at Nha Be, six miles from the capital. Some infantry clashes were reported in the thickly settled delta which is South Vietnam's principal rice growing area. [1:5.]

An informal conference in Washington organized by a Congressman in the hope of speeding the airlift of South Vietnamese children was jarred by charges of elitism and racism. A Vietnamese woman who said she had been involved in refugee aid accused many of the 250 people at the meeting of being on a "guilt trip" for supporting the airlift and argued that the babies should be given American-financed foster care in Vietnam instead. Several blacks in the predominantly white meeting challenged the notion that half black, half Vietnamese children would be better off in the United States than in Indochina. [1:4:1-8.]

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"There are some who see nothing but a grim future of depression at home and disintegration abroad. I reject that scenario."—President Ford. [1:7.]

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