

# News Summary and Index

NYTimes

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## The Major Events of the Day

### International

The White House said President Nixon gave private assurances to Saigon in 1973 that the United States would react vigorously to a major Communist violation of the cease-fire agreement. The statement, in response to Senator Henry M. Jackson's charge of "secret agreements," said the private assurances had been substantially the same as what Mr. Nixon and others were saying in public. They lost validity, the White House said, because Congress imposed a ban on American combat activity in Indochina in August, 1973. Senator Jackson clearly felt the statement vindicated the charge he had made. [1:8.]

Communist forces tightened their grip on the approaches to Saigon, assaulting a provincial capital 36 miles to the northeast and temporarily cutting the main road to the Mekong Delta to the south. Investigation of the death of Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Hieu, deputy commander of the military region surrounding Saigon, continued with the official version holding that he shot himself by accident. [1:5-6.]

President Ford is considering contingency plans to evacuate thousands of South Vietnamese officials who have worked closely with the United States and military officers whose lives might be in jeopardy in a Communist take-over. The plans were reportedly discussed at a National Security Council meeting called to review foreign policy. Decisions on military and humanitarian aid and possible evacuation will figure in Mr. Ford's speech to Congress tonight. [1:7.]

Finance ministers from major non-Communist industrial nations agreed at a Paris conference that the worst of the world's recession was over and no further measures are needed to stimulate the start of recovery. They signed an agreement for a \$25-billion lending facility for industrial nations suffering from high oil prices. [1:5-6.]

The House of Commons voted 386 to 170 in favor of continued British membership in the Common Market, but Prime Minister Harold Wilson suffered a potentially damaging loss of support from nearly half his Labor party's members in the House. Opposition Conservatives supported Mr. Wilson's call for remaining in the market on the recently suggested terms. The Common Market issue will be decided by a national referendum in June. [1:8.]

### National

The Securities and Exchange Commission charged the United Brands Company with having paid a \$1.25-million bribe to Government officials of Honduras to get favorable tax treatment on banana shipments from that country. In a suit filed in Washington, the S.E.C. also accused the company of having paid \$750,000 in bribes to European officials. The suit followed a routine inquiry into the company's affairs after the suicide on Feb. 3 of its chairman and president, Eli M. Black. [1:1.]

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill to extend health insurance benefits to about 3 million unemployed workers, financing them by an 8 per cent special excise tax on the group health insurance paid by the employer. It rejected a version urged by organized labor to rely mainly on revenues. [1:4.]

The directors of the National Association of Broadcasters voted overwhelmingly to amend the Television Code, effective next September, to designate the hours from 7 to 9 P.M. as "family viewing time." Stations that show programs deemed unsuitable for children without special warning could have their code membership revoked. [1:5-7.]

### Metropolitan

Governor Carey said that his counsel, Judah Gribetz, would meet shortly with senior state judicial officials to discuss the alleged cover-up of possible crimes by law enforcement officers during and after the Attica prison revolt in 1971. He said they would determine if judicial-branch action was warranted to resolve charges brought by a member of the Attica prosecution team who resigned. [1:2-3.]

The Beame administration is filling federally financed jobs in the Office of Neighborhood Services with political patronage appointees rather than the long-term unemployed for whom the jobs are intended. Names referred by Democratic Councilmen, Assemblymen, State Senators, Borough Presidents and county leaders have been cleared through City Hall, according to officials within the office. An examination by a reporter of the names of 16 persons listed in the City Record for April 3 as hired to be neighborhood aides or their assistants showed that 11 had political connections. Some were district leaders. [1:1-2.]

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## Quotation of the Day

"If I have to choose between the death of wine cultivation and the death of the Common Market, I'd prefer the Common Market be busted."—Emmanuel Maffre-Baugé, president of the French Table Wine Association. [2:5.]

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## CORRECTION

A dispatch from Paris in The New York Times yesterday described Thor Rosenbaum as "treasurer, although temporarily inactive" of the World Jewish Congress. The congress says that Mr. Rosenbaum was replaced as treasurer of the organization in February by Solomon Kanee of Canada.