

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

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The Major Events of the Day

International

The Cambodian military Government asked for an immediate cease-fire from the insurgents attacking Phnom Penh from all sides and said it would turn over power to them. Reports from Peking hours later said Prince Sihanouk, nominal leader of the insurgents, rejected the bid. There was speculation that the insurgents were too close to military victory to accept anything less than total surrender. The proposal had asked for a transfer of power under United Nations and Red Cross supervision with an assurance of no reprisals. [Page 1, Columns 1-8.]

South Vietnam troops continued to fight at Xuan Loc, 38 miles northeast of Saigon, under heavy Communist shelling, but Government units on the town's approaches were falling back along with crowds of refugees. Fire from Communist artillery continued to disrupt fighter-bomber traffic at the Bien Hoa air base, closer to the capital. The Government forces' position at the port of Phan Rang was reported near collapse. Saigon's over-all position appeared worse than at any time since the loss of the central part of the country. [1:3.]

President Ford, replying to questions at the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, contrasted what he called the failure of the United States to keep its commitments to Saigon with the support of Moscow and Peking for Hanoi. He said this had led to "this present tragic situation." He said he was convinced that the South Vietnamese could stabilize the military situation today if Congress gave the military aid he requested. An aide said later that the Paris peace accords of 1973 placed a ceiling on arms to both sides but did not bind the United States to provide any. [1:4.]

Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, the Army Chief of Staff, told a Senate committee that one of the evacuation plans under consideration would be the establishment of a corridor from Saigon to the sea to evacuate tens of thousands of Vietnamese. Pentagon officials suggested that under hostile conditions, protection of the corridor would require at least one Marine division and air power from Navy carriers. [1:5-6.]

The representative in Paris of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government called for immediate and permanent withdrawal of American troops from what he called

25,000 American military personnel disguised as civilians. He said no obstacle would be placed in their path. But he would not be drawn out on the safety of foreigners who stayed in areas that came under Vietcong control and he accused the Ford Administration of advancing evacuation plans only as a pretext for renewed military intervention. He called statements that the lives of 200,000 South Vietnamese would be endangered "a pure fabrication" and a "calumny." [1:7.]

Aleksandr N. Shepelin was removed from the Soviet Union's ruling Politburo "at his own request," according to the press agency Tass. The initial reaction in Moscow was that this strengthened the hand of Leonid I. Brezhnev as party leader by removing a younger rival. The Central Committee meeting that took the action also scheduled the next party's Congress to meet on Feb. 24, 1976. [1:5-6.]

National

The Securities and Exchange Commission filed a suit in Washington accusing the Northrop Corporation of maintaining a secret fund for political and other purposes, at least some of them illegal, amounting to \$30 million. The company immediately announced that it had agreed to a settlement. This is the largest fund any company has been accused of maintaining. Northrop had previously admitted an illegal \$1.2-million fund. [1:1-2.]

The Supreme Court ruled that states may exempt some violators from compliance with air pollution requirements without Federal approval as long as they achieve and maintain national standards for atmospheric quality. Reversing a lower court decision by a 7-to-1 vote, the justices held that a state could grant an individual exemption without clearance from the Environmental Protection Agency. E.P.A. officials said later they thought this would apply only to relatively small plants. [2:9-1.]

Metropolitan

The influential Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association has approved a city plan for a special real estate tax in lower Manhattan to pay for such amenities as pedestrian malls and park areas and to raise funds to plan new improvements. The special assessment would yield \$3-million to \$4-million yearly. Mayor Beame welcomed this as a "vital step in the area's future." [1:1-1]

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"We feel completely abandoned."—Premier Long Boret of Cambodia. [1:8.]

Quotation of the Day

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CORRECTION

An article in The New York Times yesterday incorrectly reported the dividend rate on shares of Reynolds Securities, Inc., after a 3-for-2 stock split. The stock will carry an annual dividend rate of 40 cents plus one-third of any earnings above 40 cents a share.