

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1975 MAY 1 1975

The Major Events of the Day

Vietnam

Communist troops of North Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam poured into Saigon as a century of Western influence came to an end. Scores of North Vietnam tanks, armored vehicles and Chinese-built trucks rolled to the presidential palace. Gen Duong Van Minh, who as president of the former non-Communist Government of South Vietnam had broadcast his administration's surrender, was taken later to a microphone by North Vietnamese soldiers for another appeal to all Saigon troops to lay down their arms. The station then gave victory broadcasts and went silent. [Page 1, Col. 4-8.]

Nguyen Tien Hung, Saigon's former Minister of Planning, made public in Washington the texts of letters to his government in 1972-73 from President Nixon promising "swift and severe retaliatory action" in which the United States would "respond with full force" if North Vietnam violated the Paris cease-fire accords. President Ford formally refused to give Congress the texts, on the grounds of diplomatic confidentiality. [1:7-8.]

South Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government issued a statement in Paris halting its "victory of historic significance" and the failure of American "aggression." A spokesman said the Communists controlled Saigon, where the situation was "stabilized and becoming normal." The Communists said their victory had been "supported and staunchly helped by their brothers in the North" and that the new government's goals included "progress toward peaceful reunification of Vietnam." [1:7.]

United States Navy ships were picking up thousands of refugees fleeing South Vietnam in small boats. Secretary of State Kissinger raised the total number the United States may have to resettle to 70,000, and said that Congress would soon be asked for funds. Assistant Secretary Philip C. Habib said \$500-million might be required over the next year. [1:4-6.]

International

Officials on the Thai side of the Cambodian border said the first of over 600 foreigners that the Cambodian Communists are releasing from Phnom Penh could cross the border early today. French Embassy officials in

Bangkok said that they had no firm word about the number or identity of the first group. There were reports of repeated delays of the truck convoy. [1:6-8.]

National

The White House again prodded Congress to enact comprehensive energy legislation by announcing that President Ford, while again deferring an increase in the fee on imported crude oil, was moving to phase out all crude oil price controls in two years. The White House left open the possibility that Mr. Ford might stretch this period to three and a half or four years if Congress wrote such a provision into an otherwise acceptable energy bill. [1:1-2.]

The five-month slide in the prices of farm commodities ended with a 4 per cent rise in the month ended April 15. An Agriculture Department economist noted that the increase was focused largely in areas where it would be most quickly reflected at the retail counter. He said that the department had expected a second-quarter increase in livestock prices and that it still expected retail prices to rise less sharply this quarter than in the first quarter. [1:3.]

Amtrak, the country's semiautomated rail passenger system, is marking its fourth birthday somewhat unhappily as embarrasing mishaps and breakdowns have embroiled it with the Interstate Commerce Commission over the quality of its service. Disgruntled riders have been appearing at I.C.C. hearings, and Amtrak officials charge the commission with seeking to divert attention from its own critics. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

A New Jersey Superior Court judge ordered Brookdale Community College to reinstate a journalism professor and ruled that the college president and six trustees each pay her \$10,000 in punitive damages. The teacher, Patricia Endress, was awarded a total of \$104,000 in damages and lawyers' fees. Judge Merritt Lane said punitive damages were "absolutely necessary to impress people in authority that an employer's rights cannot be infringed." Her dismissal followed publication of her unsigned editorial in the weekly student newspaper criticizing the college's award of an equipment contract to a company headed by a nephew of the chairman of the college's trustees. [1:3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I did it because the people would have been killed, and I'm proud of it."—President Ford, as quoted by his press secretary, on his use of American troops to rescue South Vietnamese civilians. [15:3.]

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