

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975

MAY 8 1975

The Major Events of the Day

International

The military committee ruling Saigon made its first public appearance. Gen. Tran Van Tra, its head, standing on the balcony of the presidential palace, addressed a rally of 30,000 persons and said it marked the emergence of the new authorities who have been returning the city's life to peacetime routine. The reopening of communications with the outside world coincided with the end of the first week since the city's surrender and the 21st anniversary of the Communist victory over the French at Dien Bien Phu. [Page 1, Column 1.]

President Ford told the Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Australia in separate interviews that the defeats in Cambodia and Vietnam had not weakened United States resolve to stand by allies and friends in Asia and elsewhere. Later he discussed ways of strengthening the Atlantic alliance with Prime Minister Harold Wilson of Britain. Similar meetings with other allied leaders will follow. [2:1.]

Two 9,000-ton West German freighters, trapped for eight years in the Suez Canal, sailed to the Mediterranean under their own power with German crews and Egyptian pilots. They are the first vessels of their size to clear the canal since it was closed in the 1967 war. International shipping is to resume June 5. [3:5-6.]

National

Federal Energy Administrator Frank G. Zarb announced that nine utilities in the Middle West had been notified that the Government intended to order them to substitute coal for oil or natural gas as boiler fuel. It was the delayed start of a program to conserve oil. Similar notices to several East-Coast utilities, none of them in New York City, were expected soon. [1:8.]

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California announced that Cesar Chavez, the farm workers' leader, and most farm business executives had agreed to support a compromise farm relations bill that is expected to pass the state Legislature. Key provisions include an agriculture labor relations board to supervise elections by secret ballot during the harvest peak, and a restriction of secondary boycotting. [1:7.]

Officials of public and private agencies assisting in the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees expressed confidence that despite

obstacles, including a shortage of sponsors and a hostile public attitude, the 150,000 newcomers would be absorbed into American society. Several took encouragement from President Ford's strong appeal to the nation to welcome them. [1:2.]

The House Judiciary subcommittee unanimously approved a bill authorizing "such sums as may be necessary" to pay for the transport and resettlement of 130,000 Indochina refugees in this country. The action came amid signs of a rapid shift from antagonism or indifference to a positive response to President Ford's appeal to welcome Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. It paves the way for swift action by the full committee and Congress on Mr. Ford's \$507-million request for aid. [1:3.]

The Defense Department announced that the bodies of two of the last marines killed in the Vietnam war were left behind in the confusion of the final evacuation from the Saigon area. Earlier it was reported they had been flown to a carrier, but it is now believed they were probably in a hospital near Tan Son Nhut airport. [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan

New York State has cleared the way for a \$2.5-billion Environmental Public Works Program to clean up its lakes, rivers and streams in the next five years. State officials say that 205 projects will employ at least 100,000 workers for six months or more. Governor Carrey has declined to discuss details, pending formal announcement, but will give it top priority. [1:5.]

Treasury Secretary William E. Simon has begun an urgent Federal review of options for emergency financial aid to New York City following his meeting with Mayor Beame, Governor Carrey and leading bankers. He said that he was concerned because of the "ripple effects" of the New York problem in financial markets, but that no decisions had been reached. The Treasury has no emergency aid funds available without special legislation, a request for which would pose major problems. [1:6-7.]

Nine men, including James Vincent Napoli and Pasquale Machrolo, leading organized crime figures, and a New Jersey police officer, were arrested and charged with operating the city's largest policy gambling operation. They were among 24 defendants in a Brooklyn Federal grand jury indictment following a four-year investigation. [1:6.]

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"America is no longer at war."—President Ford in a statement. [14:4.]

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