

The Major Events of the Day

International

Questions about casualty reports and other matters related to the rescue of the freighter *Mayaguez* persisted despite new explanations from the White House and the Pentagon. The Pentagon again revised its count of casualties, except for the number of dead and missing, in the Marine assault to rescue the ship and its crew. The White House press secretary said President Ford had been "puzzled" and "frustrated" by his inability to obtain quick and accurate information about casualties. The spokesman insisted there was not any intention to hide bad news. [Page 1, Columns 2-3.]

The gravest crisis in relations between Thailand and the United States since World War II appeared to have been virtually resolved as a result of a highly conciliatory American note to the Thai Government regarding the use of a Thai base for the marine operation in the *Mayaguez* rescue. Nevertheless, several hundred demonstrators harassed members of the United States Embassy in Bangkok. [1:2-3.]

North Vietnam's fourth-ranking Politburo member, who for the last eight years secretly coordinated activities against Saigon, was reported to have emerged as the apparent political leader in South Vietnam following the Communist take-over. He is Pham Hung, and the prominence given his appearance at celebrations marking the Communist victory was regarded by the American intelligence community as a sign that Hanoi probably plans to direct developments in South Vietnam closely. [1:1.]

National

Authoritative sources said that the Rockefeller commission had learned of documents supporting the charge that the Central Intelligence Agency contracted with the Mafia in a 1961 plot to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba. [1:6-7.]

Federal agents, conducting a sweeping investigation in New Orleans and other ports are piecing together a picture of corruption in the handling, grading and weighing of grain that raises questions about the integrity of United States standards and the quality of grain shipments to to foreign buyers. Seven privately employed grain inspectors licensed by the Department of Agriculture have been indicted so far. [1:5.]

The White House said that President Ford

has decided to repeat his last year's veto of pioneering legislation to curtail environmental damage of strip mining for coal, which Congress has strongly supported. An effort in Congress to override the veto is expected this week. [1:4.]

In an abrupt reversal—indeed a 180-degree turn in mid-passage—the Supreme Court unanimously conceded that the maritime collision law, it has enforced since 1854 was unfair. The Justices said that financial responsibility for a collision at sea should be divided proportionately among two or more parties involved, depending on the relative degree of fault of each of them. Since 1854, the Court has maintained that two ships that collide must divide the resulting damage expense equally regardless of the degree of liability. [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

The city's financial condition worsened when three large banks and an investment concern declined to buy \$280-million in bond anticipation notes offered without bidding by Controller Harrison J. Goldin. "They told us there was no public market at this point," Mr. Goldin said after officials of the institutions—Morgan Guaranty Trust, National City and Chase Manhattan and Salomon Brothers, the investment concern—had notified the Controller of their decision. Mr. Goldin said the financiers were "prepared to explore with us alternative financing means." [1:8.]

A measure that would enable voters in New York State to register by mail got final approval in the Assembly. It was expected that it could have a significant effect on voter-turnout in underrepresented poor areas. Under the present law, applicants must appear in person at local election offices to be registered. This was said by some critics to be a deterrent to a free and full use of the voting franchise. [1:7-8.]

Congress opened an investigation in Bayonne into allegations that the Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Postal Service permitted widespread violations of construction projects in North Jersey. More than a dozen witnesses testified that the New Jersey trade unions and contractors by alleged violations discriminated against allowing contracts to go to New York companies that paid lower wages. [3:3-4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"We can't visit that kind of thing on the American people even if the objective is as noble as this one." — Frank G. Zarb, Federal energy chief, on strip mining bill that President Ford will veto. [26:1.]

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CORRECTIONS

In the Arts and Leisure Guide of The New York Times last Sunday, the Western Wind music concert this Friday at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 120 West 69th Street, was listed incorrectly as beginning at 9 P.M. The concert starts at 8.

A Washington dispatch in The Times yesterday incorrectly identified the new Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States as Adolfo Molina Orantes of Guatemala. Luis Zelaya Coronado of Guatemala was elected to the post—its occupant is the Secretary General's principal deputy—last week.