

# News Summary and Index

NYTimes

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1975 MAY 21 1975

## The Major Events of the Day

### International

Communist-led Pathet Lao troops occupied the central Laotian city of Savannakhet, where student demonstrators have been holding American aid officials and their dependents under house arrest. The Pathet Lao forces have now entered virtually all major towns in the southern area formerly under rightist control. The take-over in Savannakhet came without violence and with the rightist general commanding the region on hand to welcome the Pathet Lao commander. [Page 1, Column 1.]

Saigon still lacks a civilian government three weeks after the Communist take-over. Markets and shops are open but banks are still closed, international air schedules are not met and cable traffic is limited. There is talk of reunification with North Vietnam, perhaps within the year. [1:4-5.]

An international panel has unanimously recommended drastic changes in the United Nations structure for dealing with economic issues. The first major attempt at revision in United Nations history would seek increased collaboration between rich and poor countries. Instead of confrontations and voting showdowns in which developing third-world countries easily outnumber the industrial powers, there would be an intricate process of negotiating disputes to reach consensus. The new post of Director General for Development and International Economic Cooperation would rank second only to the Secretary General. [1:5-6.]

Secretary of State Kissinger and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko agreed in Vienna to try to cooperate on a framework for reconvening the Geneva conference on the Middle East, newsmen traveling with Mr. Kissinger were told. They also heard that the two diplomats would discuss details, probably in July somewhere in Europe. The newsmen were informed that the Palestine Liberation Organization must participate in the conference, in Mr. Gromyko's view, but that he was flexible on the timing of their role. Some progress was apparently made toward nuclear arms talks. [1:4.]

### National

The House Democratic leadership, facing solid Republican opposition and deep divisions among Democratic members, postponed indefinitely a House vote on legislation to raise the Federal gasoline tax and take other steps to conserve energy. It ap-

peared that a vote this week would have killed the measure. The delay raised the possibility that President Ford would no longer delay his plan to \$1 a barrel to the import fee. He may act before the House returns June 2 from the recess. [1:2-3.]

The House of Representatives in its first expression since the Vietnam war of its attitude on military policy voted 311-95 against an amendment requiring a reduction of 70,000 in the 416,500 troops stationed abroad, and 216-183 against a cut in new weapons programs. The new Congress with its 75 freshman Democrats had seemed more critical of the defense budget, but this attitude changed perceptibly after American policy in Indochina collapsed. [1:2-3.]

### Metropolitan

Mayor Beame, seeking to balance next year's budget without wholesale layoffs, proposed that city workers go on a four-day week or forgo a 6 per cent salary increase due July 1. Leaders of the five major municipal unions instantly rejected both proposals. Victor Gotbaum, chairman of the Municipal Labor Committee, said, "We will accept no other sacrifices than we've already made." Mr. Beame, after his hour-long meeting with the union heads, nonetheless asked his administrators to calculate the effect of a four-day or four-and-a-half-day week. [1:8.]

The Manhattan District Attorney's office was castigated yesterday for concealing evidence that might have exonerated a man who spent 14 months in jail awaiting trial in a double homicide case. In a nonjury trial, Acting Supreme Court Justice Peter J. McQuillan acquitted Lee Earl Johnson of killing two men in a car crash on Dec. 23, 1973. He condemned the prosecutors for concealing from the defense that two witnesses told them several days later of having seen another man emerge from the driver's seat and then flee from the car. Mr. Johnson was in. [1:5-6.]

The United States Department of Labor ordered Mayor Beame to dismiss seven municipal neighborhood workers paid with Federal money on the ground that they had been hired because of political ties to the Democratic party. Mr. Beame said he would comply. In a joint statement he said that the seven persons appeared to be qualified for the jobs but that the circumstances of their hiring taken as a whole violated Federal rules on political discrimination. [1:7.]

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## Quotation of the Day

"You can be sure we're not just hoping and praying. Of course, we're doing that too."—Governor Carey, discussing financial aid to New York City. [4:8.]

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