

News Summary and Index

NYTimes THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1975 JUL 17 1975

The Major Events of the Day

International
 The Soviet and American spacecraft Soyuz and Apollo shifted smoothly into new orbits in preparation for their link-up shortly after midday today. The Soviet astronauts corrected the television camera malfunction that had prevented their being viewed during take-off. The American team successfully retraced a docking probe that could have interfered with preparations for the meeting. [Page 1, Column 8.]

The Soviet Union has agreed to buy 2 million metric tons of wheat—about 73 million bushels—from Cook Industries, Inc., the company told the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The department said this was probably the first of a number of sales to the Soviet Union, where the spring wheat has suffered from drought. The sale would amount to 18 per cent of the department's latest estimate of the net increase of this year's United States wheat crop over last year's record figure. [1:6-7.]

Secretary of State Kissinger said in Milwaukee that the "extremely unfortunate" Egyptian threat not to renew the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping force in Sinai would complicate the American efforts to achieve a new Egyptian-Israeli agreement. He seemed exasperated by Egypt's move, which, he said, had surprised the United States. [1:1.]

Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel said that Egypt's move could jeopardize negotiations on a new Sinai accord and threaten the status of the existing disengagement agreement. He said in Parliament that those interested in continuing the negotiations in an appropriate atmosphere should refrain from any move increasing tension. [1:2-3.]

Canada's Minister for Energy, Mines and Resources, Donald S. Macdonald, announced that exports of natural gas to the United States would be reduced because of an impending shortage that will also restrict Canadian users. He said the cutbacks would be taken in consultation with Washington so that American consumers dependent on Canadian supplies would be protected as far as possible. [1:7.]

National
 The Defense Department has concluded that the Navy has understated the long-term cost of the F-18, which was to be its "low-cost fighter" for the 1980's, by at least \$1.6-

billion. The finding would make it necessary either to raise Navy budgets, which are already running \$2-billion short in the projected costs of its five-year shipbuilding program, or to scrap the F-18 program and develop a lower-cost plane. [1:2-3.]

Payments by the Exxon Corporation's Italian affiliate to Italian political parties to get specific legislative benefits from the Italian Government were disclosed in a 1972 report by auditors within Exxon that was made public at a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on multinational corporations. The payments, approved by higher Exxon officials, were tied by amount to corporate objectives such as the interest-free use of excise taxes collected in Italy. [1:6-7.]

Metropolitan
 The Municipal Assistance Corporation has been told by its underwriting banks that they will be unable under present circumstances to sell its next \$1-billion bond issue to meet city expenses in August, corporation sources said. It has appealed to Mayor Beame for "drastic actions"—possibly a freeze on all city wages—as the only way it will be able to issue the bonds. The way freeze idea was raised Monday evening when Mayor Beame met with Felix G. Rohatyn, a director of M.A.C. When Mayor Beame rejected it as impractical, one source said, Mr. Rohatyn asked him to come to a meeting of all the directors scheduled for today. A corporation source called it a crisis situation, taking the city back to where it stood in May and June unless the municipal government acted decisively. [1:5.]

Mayor Beame reversed one of the city's traditional bookkeeping "gimmicks" with the announcement that the long-delayed raises for 23,000 policemen would be paid with \$31-million from last year's expense budget rather than with borrowings from the current capital budget. He explained that he wanted to avoid borrowing where possible. Controller Harrison J. Goldin said he was delighted at the change. The Mayor said the move would not free the \$31-million for other capital budget expenses. He also said through a spokesman that he would not twist arms to persuade the increasingly reluctant City Council to support \$32-million restore jobs of 2,100 laid-off workers. [1:4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Raising ticket costs is going to make Broadway a prairie."—Max Arons, president of Musicians Local 802, commenting on Mayor Beame's proposed 3 per cent tax on entertainment admissions. [1:6:2.]

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