

News Summary and Index

NYTimes TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1975 AUG 26 1975

The Major Events of the Day

International

Premier Vasco Gonçalves of Portugal continued to hold onto office and maneuver for support last night. Last Friday, President Francisco de Costa Gomes was understood to have told visitors that he would remove the Premier, against whom a majority of military and political forces are arrayed for what they view as his support of the Communist party. The President was working under a deadline from the Premier's opponents, who were thought to be ready for a coup if the deadline was stretched beyond today. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa and President Kenneth D. Kaunda of Zambia were exerting an extraordinary diplomatic effort to force Rhodesian leaders, black and white, to make progress toward a new constitutional formula for the racially divided country. This first face-to-face meeting of the black President and the white Prime Minister was an unexpectedly dramatic manifestation of the easing of southern African tensions that both have been seeking for a year. They are attending a meeting on the Rhodesian-Zambian border between Prime Minister Ian D. Smith and the African National Council. [1:4.]

The Greek Cabinet decided unanimously to spare the lives of the three men who led the military coup in 1967, former President George Papadopoulos, Nikolaos Makarezos and Stylianos Patakos, and commuted their death sentences to life imprisonment. The decision was made under growing opposition to clemency from political parties, the press and the public. Fifteen associates of the three men received prison terms. [1:5-7.]

National

Treasury Secretary William E. Simon chastised the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation for apparently not having been "forthright" with the Government about the bribes that the company has paid overseas. He told the Senate Banking Committee that the Emergency Loan Guarantee Board, which was set up to supervise Federal loan guarantees to Lockheed, and of which he is chairman, was "disturbed that the board had failed to detect" Lockheed's apparent longstanding practice of resorting to bribery to sell its products in foreign markets. Mr. Simon, under persistent questioning, refused to say that the board would stop guarantee-

ing loans to the company if Lockheed did not stop paying bribes. He said he would favor that position, but that he could not speak for the board. [1:1-2.]

President Ford plans to ask Congress soon for temporary authority to continue through next winter Federal controls over deliveries and prices of propane, the bottled gas widely used to heat rural homes, to protect small propane consumers from shortages and runaway prices. [1:7.]

The Mobil Oil Corporation's proposal for a gradual decontrol of domestic oil prices was dismissed yesterday by other major petroleum producers as unrealistic at this time. Mobil broke ranks with the big producers over the weekend when it publicly announced its opposition to President Ford's plan to remove controls Sunday. [1:6.]

In an address at a meeting of hardware merchants in Chicago, President Ford set forth three themes that represented a preview of the broad economic philosophy on which he will base his candidacy next year for a full term in the White House. He told the merchants attending the opening of the National Hardware Week Convention that he would "get the Federal Government out of your business, out of your pockets, and out of your hair." [1:5.]

Metropolitan

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Greater New York asked the State Insurance Department for permission to raise premiums for about 4 million of its hospitalization subscribers by an average of 23 per cent on Jan. 1. If granted, the increase, the fifth in the last five years, would raise the monthly cost of basic family-group coverage to \$36.40 from \$28.88. The plan also proposes premium increases of 11.1 per cent for surgical-medical coverage and 22 per cent for the coverage that supplements the basic Medical protection for persons over 65 years old. [1:3.]

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced an increase in fares, effective Monday, averaging 23 per cent on the Long Island Rail Road and 25 per cent on the Penn Central's Hudson and Harlem commuter lines. It also approved increases of 25 to 27 per cent on the Penn Central's New Haven line, subject to approval by the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. [1:2.]

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"It is now generally recognized that public transportation cannot be sustained solely by the fare box."
—David L. Yonich, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. [60:6.]

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