

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

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The Major Events of the Day

International
The Soviet Union yesterday outlined its new five-year plan, with more modest hopes for economic growth and a return to the traditional reliance on heavy industry. It was apparent that Moscow had scrapped for the rest of this decade its previous efforts to redirect the economy in favor of the long-neglected consumer, but expenditures on agriculture will be increased by nearly one-third over the next five years. [Page 1, Column 8.]

A fire swept through a tent camp a few miles from Mecca, the holy city of Islam, three days ago killing 138 Moslems and injuring 151. The casualties were announced yesterday by the Saudi Interior Ministry, which had kept an official silence at first. The fire was said to have been started by a bottled-gas explosion. The camp had sheltered 52,000 people who were among two million Moslem pilgrims reported to have come from all parts of the Islamic world to celebrate a sacred festival. [1:7.]

France has agreed to help Egypt establish its own armaments industry, a big step in President Anwar el-Sadat's efforts to bring his country—for more than 16 years the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East—closer to the West. Almost all of Egypt's arms have been Soviet-made. The agreement was announced at the end of talks in Cairo between President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France and President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt. [1:7.]

China, it was announced in Peking and relayed to Hong Kong, has signed a multi-million-dollar contract with Britain's Rolls-Royce Company to build the powerful Rolls-Royce jet engines that have potential military use. Observers in Hong Kong say China has been unable to produce its own jet engines. The most advanced Chinese fighter planes are said to be of Russian origin, some of which were redesigned by the Chinese. According to reports from Peking, no limitations were put on the engine's use. [1:5-6.]

National
According to the latest Defense Department estimates, it will cost \$1.3 billion to fix defective wings on the C-5A cargo plane, which has been a symbol of Pentagon "cost overruns." The Air Force also plans to spend an additional \$200 million to correct other defects, such as fixing a rear cargo door that

has been troublesome, since the plane was put into use six years ago. Pentagon estimates of the repair bill were contained in a General Accounting Office report, made public by Senator William Proxmire, who disclosed the large cost overruns in the cargo plane program in Congressional hearings in 1968-69. [1:4.]

Since the beginning of the court-ordered busing for school desegregation 18 months ago, Boston's public schools have lost at least 17,750 white pupils, nearly a third of the total white enrollment. The departure of white students is expected to be a major factor in the rapidly growing and politically-charged national debate over whether busing is leading to "white flight." [1:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Some people—his neighbors and Arthur Miller, the playwright—doubt that Peter Reilly, who was then 18 years old, killed his mother, Barbara Gibbons, 51, in their home in Canaan, Conn., on Sept. 28, 1973. Mr. Reilly was convicted of the murder and sentenced to six to 16 years in prison. A friend of Mr. Miller's asked him to look into the case. A lawyer, whom Mr. Miller asked to represent Mr. Reilly, is seeking to have the verdict overturned and has petitioned for a new trial. The legal process has been slow. Meanwhile, Mr. Miller asked The New York Times to investigate the case. The first of two articles appears today. [1:1-2.]

Thousands of New Yorkers turned out to stroll along Fifth Avenue, which for the day was a pedestrian mall from 34th Street to 57th Street. That part of the avenue, decked out in Christmas finery and ringing with Christmas tunes, was a street festival filled with delighted children. Mayor Beame and Mrs. Beame were among the strollers, and the Mayor was greeted by many people with heartening words. [1:3.]

With the State Housing Finance Agency apparently saved from default for another month, efforts to reach a bipartisan accord on balancing the state budget stalled when Republicans charged that a banking syndicate had not come through with its part of the bargain. The syndicate agreed to help the state to raise the necessary cash to redeem the housing agency's notes that are due today, but it refused the state's request for a direct short-term loan for this purpose. [3:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The main task of the 10th five-year plan is consistent implementation of the Communist Party's course for raising the material and cultural standards of the people."—From the draft outline of the 10th five-year plan of the Soviet Union. [1:3.]

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