

# News Summary and Index

## The Major Events of the Day

### International

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, warning that Soviet-American tensions might rise, said the Ford Administration would continue to use available military aid and diplomatic means to oppose the imposition of a Soviet-backed regime in Angola by force. At a Washington news conference he said the Senate vote against further secret financing in the Angolan civil war had "severely complicated" Administration efforts for a diplomatic solution. He said available means would be used to oppose Soviet "expansion," even if Soviet-American relations were set back. He pledged no American forces would go to Angola. [Page 1, Col. 1.]

Richard S. Welch, station chief in Athens of the Central Intelligence Agency, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen outside his suburban residence as he returned from an embassy Christmas party. Officially listed as a special assistant to the ambassador, he had recently been named as a C.I.A. representative and his address listed in a local English-language newspaper. Assigned six months ago to Athens, he had served in the early 1960's in Cyprus. [1:2-3.]

The last of the hostages seized at an oil ministers' meeting in Vienna on Sunday were released by their pro-Palestinian captors at the Algiers airport. The five men and a woman who staged the kidnapping rode into the city by car, apparently not under arrest. The Austrian government demanded their extradition, but the Associated Press said Algiers was considering political asylum since the hostages were unharmed. [4:1.]

### National

Among Democratic candidates for the Presidential nomination, Senator Birch Bayh rates as an orthodox political technician, hammering away at the theme that he can best woo back organized labor and its leaders. His campaign stresses that he can win, making it essential for him to do well in the early party primaries. So far, he has had neither stunning triumphs nor serious setbacks. He has been doing well with the party's liberal elements, who sometimes have demanded high ideological purity. [1:1-3.]

A labor arbitrator ruled that two baseball pitchers, Andy Messersmith and Dave McNally, were free agents, no longer bound by their contracts, and could sell their services to the highest bidder. The decision by

Peter M. Seitz was hailed by the Players' Association as a major erosion of the controversial "reserve system," which binds an athlete to his team until he is traded or retired. It was denounced by Bowie Kuhn, commissioner of baseball. A continued struggle is expected between players and club owners in collective bargaining and eventually in the courts. [1:7.]

### Metropolitan

Governor Carey dismissed Maurice H. Nadari as special state anticorruption prosecutor. He said he would appoint Robert M. Morgenthau, now the District Attorney for Manhattan, to take on this added duty and would seek legislation if necessary to permit him to hold both posts. He cited a "perceptible decline in public confidence" since Mr. Nadari's appointment on Sept. 19, 1972. He also mentioned personality clashes and adverse court decisions and rulings. [1:6-8.]

The moratorium on repayment of principal on \$1.6 billion in maturing short-term city notes enacted by the Legislature was upheld in State Supreme Court by Justice J. Harold Baer. His decision in effect approved an essential, if controversial, component of the complex plan that rescued the city from formal default. Lawyers for the Flushing National Bank, which had challenged the arrangement, said they would appeal. [1:5.]

A ruling by a State Public Service Commission examiner cut a 29.3 percent increase in electric rates requested by Consolidated Edison to 6.4 percent. If accepted by the full commission, as appeared likely, the average bill for 250 kilowatt hours would go up \$1.54 instead of the \$6.16 the company sought. The reduction now is the largest for any utility rate case on record in the state, and the request had been the largest in the company's history. [1:6-7.]

An art cache including 15 paintings by the late Mark Rothko and many other works by other leading artists and sculptors, purportedly owned by the Marlborough Galleries, has been found in a Toronto warehouse, according to the lawyer for the painter's daughter who has sued the gallery for mishandling his estate. He said that if the works valued at \$15 million to \$20 million are indeed owned or controlled by Marlborough, they could be seized as assets to satisfy the \$9.2 million in fines and damages assessed in Surrogate's Court. [1:2-3.]

## The Other News

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## Quotation of the Day

"Meaningful progress has been hampered, obviously, by clashes in personalities as well as by a recent series of adverse court decisions and rulings, causing a perceptible decline in public confidence in the investigation under way since 1972."—Governor Carey, in a statement announcing his intention to replace Maurice H. Nadari as the Special Prosecutor. [29:5.]

### Amusements and the Arts

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## CORRECTIONS

A Reuters dispatch in The New York Times Dec. 16, relating to a transfer of funds by the Swiss Credit Bank to New York, incorrectly mentioned the Mondial Commercial Corporation, which has principal offices in New York. The company involved is Mondial Commercial Ltd. of Liechtenstein.

In a dispatch from Washington in The Times yesterday, Robert L. Funnesh, a State Department spokesman, was quoted as saying that President Ford had sent a message to Israel expressing displeasure over leaks of confidential exchanges. Mr. Funnesh later corrected himself and said Mr. Ford had sent such a message.