

News Summary and Index

NYTimes TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1976 MAR 16 1976

The Major Events of the Day

International

Two armored columns, apparently from the Lebanese Arab Army, headed today toward the heavily guarded mansion of President Suleiman Franjiah of Lebanon to back demands that he resign, but halted a few miles away. One of the columns was blocked by Syrian-backed guerrillas, increasing speculation that a political solution to Lebanon's tangled constitutional crisis might be near. It appeared that Syria, which helped bring about the cease-fire of Jan. 22 in the Lebanese civil war, was trying to work out an agreement under which Mr. Franjiah would quit. [Page 1, Col. 1.]

Israeli military authorities imposed a total curfew in Ramallah on the West Bank of the Jordan River after another day of violent street demonstrations and protests against the continued Israeli occupation of the area. The total and indefinite curfew was an extreme measure that the West Bank military government normally reserves only for the most explosive situations. [1:3-4.]

The Central Intelligence Agency estimates that Israel has 10 to 20 nuclear weapons "available for use," according to an agency official quoted by a science writer in Washington. The estimate is well over previous American judgments of Israel's nuclear strength, both in quantity and in state of readiness. [1:2.]

A tax-fraud case against Ingmar Bergman, the Swedish movie director, has caused a wave of self-examination in Sweden, a debate over police powers and bitter accusations that the bureaucracy is hounding the nation's foremost artist. Mr. Bergman's career is in disarray. His current projects, including two new films and an opera production, have been canceled. [1:1-2.]

National

The Congressional Budget Office warned that, if the budget policies advocated by the Ford Administration were followed, the economic recovery might slow next year to the point where there would be no further decline in unemployment. If that happened, it would leave unemployment at a level of 7 percent or more and, in addition, the inflation rate would hardly be changed, the budget office estimated. [1:6-7.]

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Metropolitan
A \$10.78 billion budget, restoring \$229 million in local assistance funds that Governor Carey had sought to cut and heavily reducing spending for drug abuse, mental hygiene, transportation and corrections, was submitted by Republican and Democratic leaders to members of the Legislature. Of all the state's local-assistance programs that Mr. Carey proposed, trimming to achieve a balanced budget, the legislative leaders left only welfare and Medicaid cuts relatively intact. [1:8.]

Felix G. Rohatyn, the chief of Governor Carey's new economic recovery program, said that he was convinced that blighted areas of the city would have to be torn down wholesale and treated as virgin industrial-development land, as has been done in the suburbs and in the South. He said this was only one of a number of unusual ideas that, in the city's desperate situation, he and his aides would study. [1:6-7.]

Ramsey Clark, who was defeated by Senator Jacob K. Javits, a Republican, two years ago, announced that he would again seek the Democratic nomination, this time to oppose New York's other Senator, James L. Buckley, a Conservative-Republican. He said that Senator Buckley's record was "anticonsumer, anti-labor and anti-poor." That will be the basis of his campaign. [1:8.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Take a 30-block area, clear it, blackout it, and develop an industrial park with the whole package of tax, employment, financing incentives already in place."
—Felix G. Rohatyn, chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, describing one method of ending the city's economic deterioration. [1:6.]

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