

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

All but a few of the Americans who had been trapped in Vietnam when Saigon fell to the Communists on April 30, 1975, have finally left the country after more than a year of waiting. Yesterday, 49 United States citizens and dependents of Americans flew from Saigon to Bangkok in a flight arranged by the United Nations. It is believed that only four Americans are still left in Vietnam, but three are expected to leave within a week. Some who were on yesterday's flight did not want to leave. [Page 1, Column 8.]

United States experts maintain that Iran is now so dependent on American personnel that it could not go to war "without U.S. support on a day-to-day basis," according to a Senate study. The study concluded that the Iranian armed forces lacked the skills to operate the sophisticated military systems they have purchased unless increasing numbers of Americans went to Iran in a support capacity. [1:5.]

Encouraged by Chinese authorities who said that new earthquake shocks were expected close to Peking, foreign diplomatic missions began evacuating families of staff members. American officials said that the wives and children of staff members at the United States liaison mission would be flown to Tokyo, Hong Kong and other cities outside China. The 31 staff members, headed by Thomas S. Gates, would remain. [1:4.]

National

The authorities said that more than 50 people were killed by floods in northern Colorado when the Big Thompson River, swollen by overnight rain, washed out Rocky Mountain campgrounds filled with hikers and fishermen. Six to 10 inches of rain fell in the night, and the river crested at 10 to 15 feet, 10 times its normal depth. About 2,500 people were stranded by the floods. Army helicopters aided in the rescue. [1:1-2.]

The case against the three suspects taken into custody in the kidnapping of the schoolchildren in Chowchilla, Calif., is a strong one, authorities say. A high police official believes the case is "almost ironclad," but there are doubts, questions and contradictions when the motive for the kidnapping is discussed. Sheriff Edward Bates of Madera County, which includes Chowchilla, believes that the kidnapers may have had "some other motive" besides ransom. [1:3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I thought I was the last American in Saigon. I decided, well, if they kill me, O.K. But meanwhile, I would look for my wife."—Gerald Posner, 26-year-old postal worker from Brooklyn, commenting in Bangkok yesterday on having been trapped in Saigon when it fell to the Communists. [1:6.]

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