

# News Summary

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## International

Major changes in attitude toward the export of nuclear materials were announced by France. Although a communiqué released by the Government gave no specifics, it did indicate a willingness by the French to cooperate with the United States in seeking to prevent the use of nuclear materials and equipment for the construction of weapons. [Page 1, Column 6.]

Three Palestinians seized five hostages in the Syrian Embassy in Rome, seriously wounding one of them. The three, who were protesting Syria's intervention in Lebanon, surrendered after two hours when, according to a Syrian official, they realized the Ambassador was not in the embassy. A similar raid was reported against the Syrian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, but the attackers there were intercepted by police guards. [1:3.]

A storm of protest has arisen in South Africa over a threat by the Government to prosecute eight white rugby players for joining black players in a match. Opponents of the country's apartheid policies fear the move will worsen the relations between the Government and the country's blacks. The country's new sports policy does not allow blacks and whites to play on the same team except in international competition. [1:4-5.]

The ban on the sale of some sophisticated American military equipment to Israel has been lifted by President Ford, and he has ordered a speed-up in the delivery of other equipment already ordered by the Israelis. The decision was made and given to the Israelis on Saturday, but Mr. Ford used a visit by the Israeli Foreign Minister to discuss the move before the press. [1:4-5.]

The hiring of unqualified persons for United Nations posts was charged by the United States, whose representative in the budget committee said Secretary General Kurt Waldheim had yielded to pressure from some countries

that wanted posts for its citizens. The criticism was seen as noteworthy because Mr. Waldheim is nearing the end of his term. [3:2-3.]

## National

Federal spending has fallen below what the Government planned for this year and economists are beginning to believe that this may be one of the main causes of the weakening of the economic recovery. The Government's own experts do not know why it cannot spend its money faster and they are estimating that the "shortfall" could amount to 8 percent of the budget during the July-September quarter. [1:1-2.]

Proposing massive cuts in state aid to localities, Gov. David H. Pryor of Arkansas told the legislature that he wanted to return control of finances to local officials who are closest to the people. Mr. Pryor said he would ask the legislature to hold increases for state spending for education to a minimum. The Governor said his plan would give local citizens the final decision about local services. [18:1.]

Jimmy Carter marched in a Columbus Day parade in Chicago, but he was often lost from view in the midst of politicians; security agents, policemen and reporters as the parade, organized by Mayor Daley, moved down State Street. [20:1-3.] While President Ford participated in Columbus Day ceremonies in Washington, a group of his political counselors accused Jimmy Carter of overly aggressive behavior in the campaign. [20:4.]

## Metropolitan

Thousands marched up Fifth Avenue in the annual Columbus Day parade. Included in the march were Stephen Ford, the President's son, and Senator Mondale, the Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate. Some local Democrats complained that the Secret Service had de-

layed the entry of their party's group into the parade, and others said the sponsors had given the President's son a better position up front. [1:3-5.]

Opening its 92d season, the Metropolitan Opera presented "Il Trovatore" to an audience of celebrated people, including many politicians. The opera faces a money problem, needing to raise \$12.7 million this year, or \$4 million more than last year. And, to make this season different, it has a triumvirate in charge—John Dexter, the director of production; Anthony A. Bliss, the executive director and money raiser; and James Levine, the new music director of the opera. [1:1-3.]

Differences over the definition of disability have forced New York State and its localities to keep 11,600 people on the state's own home-relief rolls without Federal aid. The extra cost, half paid by the state and half by New York City and upstate counties, is running at \$31.4 million a year, along with Medicaid costs of \$5.8 million, according to the State Commissioner of Social Services. [1:1-2.]

## Business/Finance

The almost 75-point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average over the last three weeks has left Wall Street searching for the reasons. Most analysts believe that the recent spate of bad economic news is directly related to the slump, while others say that the indecisiveness of the Presidential election polls brought a strong emotional tone to the market. Still others said the Dow Jones has overstated the drop, just as it does a market rise. [49:4.]

Steel production dropped to its lowest levels since early January in the week ending Saturday, the American Iron and Steel Institute reported. Industry analysts appeared to be concerned over the decline in production, and one noted that the Ford Motor Company strike was a factor. [49:5-6.]

Stock prices continued their downward trend, with the Dow Jones industrial average losing 11.56 points to close at 940.82. [47:6.] Credit prices remained stable in very slow trading in the few markets that were open. [51:5-6.] Commodity prices declined in Chicago, led by a drop in soybean futures. [58:5.]

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## Quotation of the Day

"Columbus was smart. He discovered America right before Election Day."—Manhattan Surrogate S. Samuel DiFalco, one of the host of politicians at the Columbus Day parade. [33:3.]

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