

News Summary

NYTimes

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International

Syrian troops almost completely encircled the predominantly Moslem western section of Beirut after pushing through Palestinian positions east and south of the city. House-to-house fighting was reported in Bhamdun, 12 miles east of Beirut, and a Syrian armored column reached Abra, only four miles from Saida, the last Palestinian supply port. [Page A1, Column 1.]

Despite gloomy predictions of a deadlock at the Geneva conference on Rhodesia, American officials believe that an agreement on temporary government for the white-ruled country will be reached before the end of the year. Secretary of State Kissinger believes that after the deadlock the Americans and British will be able to produce a compromise acceptable to both black and white Rhodesians. [A3:3-5.]

Strongly worded appeals have been broadcast by China's provinces for party unity as Chinese leaders continued their silence about the reported arrests of leftist leaders. The provinces have also broadcast warnings against tampering with Chairman Mao's words. Rumors of arrests continued to spread in Peking, several embassies reporting that as many as 52 leftist officials were under arrest. [A3:1-2.]

National

No criminal acts were found by the Watergate special prosecutor's investigation into President Ford's alleged misuse of political contributions from maritime unions. In a statement issued by an aide, the prosecutor, Charles F. Ruff, said that reviews of the records of the unions and those of Republican committees in Michigan, as well as Mr. Ford's personal finances and tax returns for the years 1967 through 1972, showed no violation of law and that the matter was closed. [A1:6.]

President Ford attacked Jimmy Carter

during a televised news conference for "slandering the good name of the United States" by saying the country was not strong and had lost international respect. Mr. Ford also admitted he had made a mistake in saying during the second debate that the Soviet Union did not dominate Eastern Europe. Mr. Ford also stressed the differences between himself and Mr. Carter on government spending and tax policy. [A1:5.]

Jimmy Carter has regained the lead he held over President Ford, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll, by making Mr. Ford's record the focus of the most recent segment of the campaign. Mr. Carter's emphasis on the President's conduct of foreign policy and his handling of the economy have swung the independent voters to his side, according to the poll. [A1:3-4.]

Swine flu vaccinations have either been already resumed by states that suspended the programs or are expected to be resumed as soon as investigations into the deaths of elderly persons who received the shots are completed. Government health officials said that the investigation so far has produced no evidence to link the vaccine with the deaths. [A1:4.]

The Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded to two American medical researchers, Baruch S. Blumberg of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and D. Carleton Gajdusek of the National Institute for Neurological Diseases, for their discoveries about the origin and spread of infectious diseases. The Swedish Royal Academy of Science announced that the Economics Prize would go to Milton Friedman of the University of Chicago. [A1:4.]

Metropolitan

A Federal Court of Appeals reversed a lower-court decision granting an injunction against the sale of leases for offshore oil drilling on the East Coast.

The sale had gone on under a stay granted by the appeals court pending a hearing on an environmental dispute. The higher court said in its decision that there was doubt that the opponents of drilling could win if they pressed for a trial. [A1:2.]

The New York Yankees defeated the Kansas City Royals in the fifth and final game of the American League playoffs. The Yankees will now face the Cincinnati Reds, in the World Series. [A1:1-2.]

To meet its deficit, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation said it would speed the collection of current bills and would make both layoffs and service cuts beginning Jan. 1. However, officials of the Emergency Financial Control Board reacted with skepticism to the plan. [A8:4-6.]

New York State may face a \$229 million budget gap at the end of the fiscal year next March, state budget officials said. Peter C. Goldmark, the State Budget Director, said the gap was a problem but not a crisis and he warned against premature conclusions about such things as a budget-balancing tax increase. [A7:1-6.]

Business/Finance

Tough new import controls were reportedly under study by the British Government after it reported that the trade deficit rose \$118 million last month. At the same time, the miners' union threatened a strike, and the pound fell to only a fraction above its record low. [D1:3.]

A \$1.2 billion sale of its Peabody Coal Company was announced by the Kennecott Copper Company, which had been under a 1971 Federal Trade Commission order to divest itself of Peabody. The company announced that a group of companies headed by the Newmont Mining Corporation had bought Peabody. [D1:2-4.]

Stock prices resumed their downward trend as the Dow Jones industrial average lost 12.38 points to close at 935.92. [D1:6.] Interest rates on short-term Government and Federal agency securities declined to their lowest levels in four years. [D9:2.] Commodity futures fell heavily on the Chicago market, led by soybeans. [D12:6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I'm especially pleased that someone from Philadelphia won. It's appropriate in the Bicentennial year and makes up in part for the Phillies not making it to the World Series."—Dr. Baruch S. Blumberg, on hearing that he won one of this year's two Nobel Prizes. [A13:2.]

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CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, an article in The Times Wednesday incorrectly reported that Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, the black psychologist, was opposed to the Democratic Senatorial candidate, Daniel P. Moynihan, because of the latter's writings on the black family. Dr. Clark does not take issue with Mr. Moynihan's studies of black families.