

# News Summary

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## International

President Ford would not tolerate another Arab oil embargo, he told a White House news conference, adding that his Administration's Middle East policies made the chances for another embargo "virtually nil." He said American diplomacy had won the confidence of both Israel and Arab countries, making the chances of their fighting less in 1973. The assessment reflected the view of the intelligence community concerning the effect of splits in the Arab world, the fighting in Lebanon, Israeli armed power and American influence. [Page 1, Column 6.]

Thailand still holds nearly two-thirds of more than 4,000 persons arrested since the Oct. 6 military coup on suspicion of being Communist subversives, the ruling junta disclosed. The new Government has decreed an extension of the period for detention without trial or charges to six months, from one month, as well as other measures tightening curbs on civil liberties. [1:2.]

A meeting in Damascus between President Hafez al-Assad and Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, indicated that the accommodation they worked out at the Riyadh meeting may have gone further than was previously assumed. There are signs that Syria may have abandoned its policy of heavy pressure on the Palestinians and is now seeking to strike a balance between them and the Christian forces in Lebanon. [2:3-4.]

The Geneva conference on Rhodesia next week faces differences between the white and black sides and also among black nationalist leaders that diplomats characterize as apparently irreconcilable. British officials are especially worried about the black rivalries they fear may paralyze the conference when it opens. [3:4-6.]

## National

A Mississippi ferry capsized after it

was hit by a Norwegian tanker shortly before daybreak near Luling, La. As the search continued there were 24 known dead, 18 reported survivors and as many as 50 more missing. Many of the victims were in cars and other vehicles that rolled into deep water when the ferry turned over. [1:1.]

A poll taken in Western Europe last summer by the United States Information Agency showed the reservoir of good will there toward the United States was at its lowest level since such polls began in 1954, according to a preliminary analysis. The poll was disclosed to The New York Times by sources interested in Jimmy Carter's election as President. The agency's research director called the findings incomplete and misleading, and said the official report would be published only after additional study. [1:6.]

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has compiled a massive internal report on allegations that top staff members have sought to stifle questions of reactor safety raised by its own technical experts. In addition, nine staff engineers charged in interviews that the agency had failed to act on some of these questions. The chairman of the commission denied that the agency had permitted the operation of unsafe reactors or had suppressed dissenting opinions of staff members. [18:1-2.]

Even after J. Edgar Hoover had ordered a halt to illegal break-ins by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there were repeated burglaries of the Greenwich Village apartment of a sister of a Weather Underground fugitive, according to sources familiar with the operation here. [15:1.]

## Metropolitan

The case against Patrick J. Cunningham, the Bronx County Democratic chairman under indictment on charges of selling judgeships, was discussed for the first time by Justice Leonard H.

Sandler of State Supreme Court. At a hearing on defense motions to dismiss the indictments, the Justice indicated he would dismiss one of them and had found the evidence in the two others extremely sparse. [1:5.]

Auto insurance is harder and harder to get in New York State, a brokers' group has reported, with most companies rejecting nine of 10 new applicants. A spokesman said insurance was almost impossible to obtain in the so-called voluntary market for residents of New York City's lowest-income areas. The state's Superintendent of Insurance said the rate increases granted last year had failed to increase business. The companies say they have an inadequate surplus against future claims. [1:2-3.]

The dispute over Lincoln Hospital, with which both Misericordia Hospital and Albert Einstein Medical College seek the affiliation contract, resulted in a compromise vote by the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation to have them share it. The award, a victory for in part by Jewish philanthropy, was denounced by the leaders of Misericordia, a Roman Catholic hospital operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. [1:3-5.]

The Federal Power Commission, which nearly tripled the price of recently discovered natural gas and also increased the price of gas from earlier sources on July 27, ordered a 25 percent reduction in the size of the increase. The action is expected to save consumers \$500 million a year, but the F.P.C. acknowledged that even after the reduction the additional cost to consumers would be about \$1.5 billion. [1:3-4.]

## Business/Finance

Iran's purchase of a 25.01 percent stake in the holding company that controls the entire Krupp industrial complex unofficially cost more than \$200 million and will pump about \$70 million of capital into the West German enterprise. It was the first foreign purchase of interest in the holding company and reflects a shift in West German opinion to welcome the advantage of such investments. [55: .]

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## Quotation of the Day

"He hit us and turned us over."—Blair Duhe, a survivor of the Mississippi River ferry that was capsized by a freighter. [1:1.]

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## CORRECTIONS

A quotation attributed to Senator George McGovern that appeared in a news analysis in The Times yesterday originated with John Chancellor of NBC News, whose remarks at a meeting in New York were cited by Senator McGovern in a later speech. The reference was to emptiness and pettiness in the 1976 political campaign.

The Continental Group's third-quarter earnings were improperly reported in The Times on Tuesday. The company earned \$40,175,000, which represented a 24 percent decline from the same period last year.