

News Summary

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International

The sale to China of a computer system with both military and industrial capability has been approved by President Ford. High Administration officials said that, in approving the sale, Mr. Ford was waiving established safeguards on the advice of Secretary of State Kissinger as a gesture to China's new leaders. Some officials had objected to the sale on the ground that the computer can be used to make calculations on nuclear tests. [Page A1, Column 6.]

The conference on Rhodesia that may offer the last chance for agreement on a peaceful transfer of power from the country's 270,000 whites to its six million blacks opened in Geneva's Palais des Nations. The opening was delayed more than 2½ hours after intensive efforts by Ivor Richard of Britain averted a possible boycott by two major black nationalist groups that demanded that Britain take a more aggressive role in the negotiations. [A1:4-5.]

Widespread allegations that Korean intelligence agents and other Koreans have been harassing and coercing and violating the civil rights of Korean aliens residing in the United States and of Korean-Americans are being investigated, Federal authorities disclosed. Officials said that the investigation is separate from the inquiry into alleged South Korean efforts to bribe members of Congress. [A1:3.]

National

President Ford, campaigning in Indiana and Ohio, pledged to make a new Federal income tax cut "the Number One priority in the next Ford Administration." Mr. Ford, who met large and friendly crowds, said that the basic issue of the campaign was economic policy. Jimmy Carter's sharp drop in voter surveys, the President said, was the result of his reliance on a formula of more promises, more programs and more spending. [A1:1.]

The possibility of tax cuts was suggested by Jimmy Carter if he is elected, but then he indicated it should not be interpreted as a firm pledge. The Democratic Presidential candidate campaigned in Pittsburgh and Erie, Pa., and in Cleveland and then made his second visit in two days to eNw York. [A1:2.]

Jimmy Carter's campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination was sometimes called "brilliant," but his fall campaign against President Ford has been less sure-footed and his standing in the polls has dropped precipitously. Mr. Carter's slippage has been attributed to many factors, including what some regard as intemperate attacks on Mr. Ford and in distractions that diverted attention from his major themes and that at times were frivolous and made him appear to be losing control of events. [A1:1-2.]

More money on campaign television advertising has been spent by the President Ford Committee, than for any previous national candidate and more will be spent. By Oct. 18, the campaign had cost \$9.9 million, and a campaign official estimated that the eventual total would be \$12 million. [A19:3.]

John D. Ehrlichman, one of the Nixon administration's most powerful advisers, entered a Federal prison camp in Arizona, even though appeals are pending. He will serve at least 30 months and no more than eight years for his roles in the White House "plumbers" operations and the Watergate cover-up. [1:4.]

Metropolitan

Criminal fraud charges may result from an alleged move by New York City's municipal hospitals to admit Medicaid patients only to increase the flow of Federal and state Medicaid reimbursement funds. The warning was made by Stephen Berger, executive director of the State Emergency Financial Control Board. Any such practice was denied by Dr. John L. S. Holloman Jr., presi-

dent of the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation. [A1:6.]

The New York State senatorial campaign, which began on a low key, has increasingly become a hard-fought contest involving bitter charges. Daniel P. Moynihan, the Democratic-Liberal challenger, charged that the record of Senator James L. Buckley was "so consistently uncaring, so inconsistently arrogant toward us that if it did not exist it would be impossible to invest it." [B6:2-3.] Senator Buckley, campaigning hard in Harlem, won pledges of support amid expressions of coolness of traditionally Democratic black voters to Mr. Moynihan. [B6:1.]

The State Board of Regents urged New York City to extend tuition assistance to undergraduates at the City University whose families earned no more than \$14,000 a year. The recommendation was made to help the city retain middle-class families who might otherwise move following the university's recent dropping of its free-tuition policy. [B14:4-6.]

Business/Finance

The trend of lower interest rates continued as the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Company of Chicago said it would trim its prime lending rate to 6½ percent from 6¾ percent, effective at once. Continental is the nation's seventh largest bank with assets of more than \$22 billion. There were no immediate followers, and officials of several large New York banks said they would resist a new cut in prime rates. [D1:6.]

The nation's trade balance fell again last month as imports exceeded exports by \$778.9 million, the Commerce Department announced. The deficit, widened from \$757.7 million in August, brought the total trade imbalance for 1976 to \$3.4 billion. [D1:3.]

Stock prices eased after two sessions of active advances. The Dow Jones industrial average, reflecting narrow changes throughout the trading, dipped 3.49 points to close at 952.63. [D1:4-5.] The credit markets, in a lackluster day, moved up and down in narrow ranges several times and closed with small gains. [D2:3.] In commodity markets, gold and cocoa beans rose sharply in price. [D12:4-6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I urge all concerned not to let this opportunity slip."—Prime Minister James Callaghan, of Britain, in a message to the opening session of the Geneva conference to assist in negotiations for transfer of power from Rhodesia's 270,000 whites to its 6 million blacks. [1:5.]

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CORRECTION

A report in The Times on Oct. 14 incorrectly stated that the Adolph Coors Company of Golden, Colo., supported a Colorado ballot proposal to require deposits on beverage containers. The company advocates Federal legislation to this effect, but opposes the state proposal.