

News Summary

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International

Four Palestinian guerrillas, said to be members of the Black June group that opposed Syria's intervention in Lebanon, seized the Inter-Continental Hotel in Amman but were overpowered by Jordanian soldiers. Three of the gunmen were killed, along with two soldiers and two hotel employees. The fourth gunman was seriously wounded. [Page 1, Column 3.]

China's public charges against Chiang Ching, widow of Mao Tse-tung, and her three political associates have illuminated the private workings of Peking politics. It now appears that almost every issue, from farm mechanization and factory management to movie production and militia organization, tended to become personal. [1:6.]

National

President-elect Carter, meeting in Georgia with 15 Democratic Congressional leaders, had one specific request—restoration early next year of the President's power to propose Government reorganization plans subject to the veto of Congress. He emerged from the three-hour session voicing confidence of their support for his legislative goals. [1:6.]

Tighter rules for drug safety will be proposed tomorrow by the Food and Drug Administration. The purpose is to prevent sloppy and fraudulent experiments on animals that might compromise the safety of food additives and other products for humans. F.D.A. investigations have raised serious questions about the dependability of such data under present regulations. [21:1.]

Better civil defense is necessary, in the opinion of a Boeing Aerospace Company study team, to maintain nuclear deterrent balance with the Soviet

Union. The study calls for more protection of industry and the population against nuclear attack. [16:3-4.]

The first jail sentence for a high company executive in the grain-export scandals was imposed in Federal court in New Orleans. Phillip H. McCaull, former executive vice president of Cook Industries Inc., who pleaded guilty to conspiring to cheat customers, received three months. [20:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Two mid-Hudson sites, across the river from Poughkeepsie and north of the city, in Red Hook, are under consideration by the Consolidated Edison Company for a giant power plant. It would have either coal or nuclear energy as fuel to meet the electricity needs of the 1990's. There was an immediate disapproving response from a number of environmental groups. They have consistently fought the expansion of power plants in the scenic Hudson Valley as unsightly, unneeded and, in the case of nuclear plants, dangerous. [1:1-2.]

New Jersey's Supreme Court ruled 6 to 1 that nonprofit hospitals other than those operated by religious bodies might not forbid the use of their facilities for elective abortions. The landmark decision held that the Federal constitutional right to an abortion in the first three months "is now well settled" and that the state's so-called conscience law was not applicable. [1:1-2.]

Alleged jury tampering in the acquittal of defendants in a major narcotics trial last year is under investigation by a Federal grand jury in Manhattan. The focus is on whether one juror received as much as \$60,000 and then paid one or more other jurors, according to sources close to them. One juror is said to be in custody, possibly because he might be called as a witness. [1:1-2.]

Samuel Bronfman 2d, frequently showing emotion, testified that Dominic P. Byrne, one of the two men on trial for kidnapping him, offered midway in his captivity to free him but he declined because he did not want to take a chance on anything going wrong. He also testified that he had told Mr. Byrne he would assist him financially and try to help him avoid prosecution. He had not mentioned Mr. Byrne's offer when interviewed following his ransom. [1:3-5.]

Business/Finance

NBC settled the Federal antitrust suit against it on terms that will severely restrict the network's financial interest in entertainment programs that it broadcasts. Similar suits against CBS and ABC continue, with ABC announcing that it had no intention of settling. The Justice Department said NBC's settlement should minimize its incentive to select programs on the basis of financial interest in them. [1:4-5.]

Technology transfer to developing countries was the subject of a Ford Administration conference with business, labor and educational leaders. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger urged a United States policy of taking a leading role in helping these countries in the development of their own technological bases. Otherwise, he said, the dispossessed would band together and all problems would be solved by contests of strength. [61:4-5.]

Less natural gas will be available this winter, according to industry and Government experts, but the shortage will probably not affect residential or most commercial users. The impact is expected to be milder than last winter because industry has been largely successful in switching to other fuels and reducing its need for gas. [61:6.]

Stock prices rose, slipped back a little and closed with Dow Jones industrials at 938.08, up 2.74 points for the day. [62:1.] Bond prices were firm in active trading as new issues, many of them international offerings, met an excellent reception. [63:1-2.] Soybean futures gained 2½ cents while wheat futures were down 6½ cents. [63:1.]

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Quotation of the Day

"When we first came here, you never heard anything good about the United States or anything bad about Russia. Now you still hear nothing bad about Russia, but you begin to hear something good about the United States occasionally."—Ambassador William B. Saxbe, who is leaving India. [13:1.]

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