News Summary

NYTimes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1976

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International

A court order released Santiago Carrillo, secretary general of Spain's Communist Party, his personal secretary and six members of the party's executive committee from a Madrid prison. They had been arrested earlier this month. All were released on bail. Soon after Mr. Carrillo was released, the Government announced that it was abolishing the special Court of Public Order that reviewed political cases. The Government also decreed that "terrorism" cases would no longer be considered by the Supreme Court of Military Justice but instead by ordinary civilian courts. [Page A1, Columns 1-2.]

An official in Peking said the situation in the North China city of Paoting, where political feuding erupted into armed conflict, was gradually improving. He said that factional disputes there dated from the Cultural Revolution of 1966-69 but gave no details of the latest clashes. [A1:3-5.]

National

Mayors of major cities are saying that a disproportionate share of the \$2 billion in Federal public works funds is going to the suburbs and small cities. "A review of the grants shows clearly that the Ford Administration awarded smaller local governmental jurisdictions a disproportionate share," Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark said on behalf of the United States Conference of Mayors. Meanwhile, the new House majority leader, Jim Wright of Texas, said that a bill would be introduced early in January to expand the public works program by \$2 billion. [A1:3.]

The African nation of Liberia is without a natural harbor, but it has, at least on paper, the world's largest merchant fleet. The fleet was developed in less than 30 years under a "flag of conventence" an arrangement devised by a former Secretary of State of the United States, Edward R. Stettinius Jr., that

has been extremely beneficial to shipping interests and the producers of oil and steel. About a third of the Liberian fleet is owned by Americans. Five Liberian-flag vessels have been involved in oil spills or other mishaps in United States waters in the last two weeks. This has put the Liberian shipping operation under scrutiny. [A1:1-2.]

The California Supreme Court said the system of financing the state's public schools with property taxes was unconstitutional. The 4-to-3 decision said that educational opportunity for elementary and secondary students varies illegally because of wide differences in taxes available in rich and poor districts. "The poor district cannot freely choose to tax itself into an excellence which its tax rolls cannot provide," the court said. [Al:1.]

Metropolitan

Governor Carey, after a review of all the material relating to the 1971 prison uprising at Attica in upstate New York, pardoned seven former Attica inmates and commuted the sentence of another inmate, who participated in the riot. He also said that no disciplinary action would be taken against 20 of the state troopers and prison guards who had helped quell the revolt. [A1:6.]

David L. Yunich unexpectedly announced his resignation as chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. In a letter to Governor Carey he asked that his resignation "become effective at your earliest convenience." Mr. Yunich, who was an appointee of Gov. Malcolm Wilson, denied that he had been pressured to resign by the Carey administration, with which he has been at odds over a fare increase that Mr. Yunich believed might be required and that the Governor said was "unthinkable." [A1:4-5.]

To help cut the high cancer incidence in New Jersey, a State Senate committee recommended that the Legislature ban 16 alleged cancer-causing chemicals from use in the state. They urged a 1-cent increase in the state cigarette tax to help finance a cancer-prevention program. [A1:5.]

To keep pollutants from moving into Queens and Westchester, an incinerator in Port Washington, L. I., may not operate whenever the wind blows from the east, under a ruling by Judge Thomas C. Platt in Federal Court in Brooklyn. [A1:4.]

Business/Finance

Massive write-downs by the nation's banks will be avoided under the Financial Accounting Standards Board's proposal for a relatively mild accounting treatment for the restructuring of "troubled loans." Earlier discussion by the board had drawn protests from banks and bank regulators against the possibility of massive write-down requirements. [D1:5-6.]

The Argo Merchant's oil spill off Nantucket has raised fears among oil industry and Government officials that the sale of oil leases in the area, scheduled for May or June, may be postponed because of environmental pressures. "This will produce far more aroused opposition to the leasing program from environmental interests," said Stanley D. Doremus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior, which runs the leasing program. [D1:1.]

Stock prices advanced in stepped-up trading, and the Dow Jones average closed up 4.16 points to 999.09. Rising stocks outnumbered declining ones by a ratio of more than 2 to 1. [D1:6.] Fixed-income securities continued to rise, but trading was light as some institutions increased their portfolios. Government securities started to move upward following the Federal Reserve's announcement that it would establish permanent reserves for the banking system. [D2:1.] Soybean futures advanced and the March delivery closed at \$7.10½ a bushel, up from \$7.06. March wheat closed at \$2.77¼ a bushel, down about 2 cents, and March corn at \$2.56½, off-¼ cent a bushel. [D9:1-2.]

Tada

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Weekend

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Quotation of the Day

"Attica lurks as a dark shadow over our system of justice. The time has come to firmly and finally close the book on this unhappy chapter of our history as a just and humane state."-Governor Carey. [A10:2.]

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poor New Year celebrator

CORRECTIONS

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Tom Wicker discusses incarceration of Phil Shinnick

Eric Foner explains who Thaddeus

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Stevens was

Because of an error in editing, a Washington dispatch yesterday said that a dispute over contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization had broken out "among the leaders" of American Jewish organizations. The article should have said that the dispute had arisen among "some members of the American Jewish community." The accepted leaders of the community, who make up the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as cited in the body of the article, oppose contacts with the P.L.O.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board's public hearing on accounting for oil and gas producers and other extractive industries will begin next March 30 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In yesterday's editions of The Times, the date was incorrectly stated as March 20.