

# News Summary

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## International

The international uproar over France's release of Abu Daoud, a suspected Palestinian terrorist leader, left Government and opposition leaders apparently in a state of silent shock. But the French press of left, right and center upbraided the Government. The action was interpreted by many Frenchmen as based on the Government's eagerness for better relations with the Arab nations that are major oil producers. [Page 1, Column 1.]

A strong central sports body to upgrade American amateur athletics is recommended by the President's Commission on Olympic Sports in an attempt to remain competitive at the international level. The commission would let American athletes accept money for endorsements and other noncompetitive activities. [1:4.]

The Soviet pilot who defected from Siberia in a MIG-25 to Japan has given American questioners a picture of a life of brutal discipline, distrust, extraordinary concern with safety and spartan living conditions. They call him a gold mine of technical, tactical and operational information. [1:1-3.]

A Canadian federal judge upheld the ban on the use of French in air traffic control except for visual operations at several small airports in the French-speaking province of Quebec. The civil aviation dispute had contributed to animosities between English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians and the election victory of a pro-independence group in Quebec. [8:3-6.]

## National

December unemployment declined to 7.9 percent from 8.1 percent in November, the Department of Labor reported. Julius Shishkin, the Government's chief statistician, said the economy has resumed an upward path. Other figures he presented indicated that the decline

in the national unemployment rate would continue to be slow. [1:6.]

President Ford addressed Congress for the last time in a State of the Union Message, urging "prudent" policies at home and warning that America must never be second in defense. He expressed "gladness and gratitude" as he returns to private life. He made no specific legislative proposals, leaving that to his successor, to whom he wished "the very best." [1:2-3.]

The Supreme Court reversed as wrong its own 1973 ruling that Federal law should govern disputes over a state's ownership of riverbeds within its boundaries. A majority in the new 6-to-3 decision said the court was reverting to a pattern set in 1845 upholding state sovereignty in such cases. Briefs from 26 states had urged reconsideration of the 1973 decision. [22:1-3.]

More data linking birth defects to exposure early in pregnancy to female sex hormones, including oral contraceptives, has been reported by a team that studied more than 50,000 pregnancies. They reported in The New England Journal of Medicine that women who received the hormones during early pregnancy were twice as likely as others to bear children with a major heart abnormality. [1:4-5.]

## Metropolitan

Higher education in New Jersey should receive less direct state aid to colleges and universities, while tuition assistance to students should be substantially increased, a special commission has recommended. Its proposals to the State Legislature also included new formulas that would increase the share of state aid going to the private sector. Total aid would increase by \$62 million a year. [1:2-3.]

Matthew J. Troy Jr. pleaded not guilty at his indictment in New York State Supreme Court on charges of perjury

and grand larceny in taking more than \$30,000 from the estate of two sisters he represented as an attorney. He said he would not resign his seat representing Queens County in the New York City Council, which he would automatically lose if convicted. [39:6.]

A suggestion to Governor Carey from his advisory commission on higher education would have New York City and New York State each contribute half of the disputed \$100 million in financing needed by the senior colleges of the City University. This compromise proposal would raise the state's annual contribution to the colleges to about \$150 million. [40:4.]

## Business/Finance

Farm prices pushed the Wholesale Price Index up in December, but industrial commodity prices, considered a better signal of inflationary pressure, showed the smallest rise in seven months, according to the Labor Department. Indexes for farm products, processed foods and feeds ended the year 1.1 percent below a year earlier. [1:5.]

The stock-transfer tax imposed by New York State on those who place orders on out-of-state exchanges was unanimously held unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court as an interference with interstate commerce. Rejection of the state's attempt to protect its securities business appeared to add incentive for brokers to move to other states. [49:6.]

A new oil price pattern is beginning to emerge a month after the split in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. With a two-tier price system, oil companies are scurrying for lower-priced oil and the producing countries are trying to hold onto their regular buyers. [49:1-3.]

Stock prices sank again, with the Dow Jones industrials down 8.40 points to close at 968.25. [49:5.] The bond market moved skittishly, but there were signs that prices were beginning to stabilize. [51:3-5.] Soybeans rallied strongly, with March contracts closing up about 10 cents. Corn futures remained relatively steady. [58:3-6.]

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## Quotation of the Day

"Taken in sum, I can report that the State of the Union is good. There is room for improvement as always, but today we have a more perfect Union than when my stewardship began."—President Ford in his State of the Union message. [26:1.]

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