

News Summary

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International

To prepare for renewed negotiations with the Soviet Union on a new strategic-arms limitations treaty in late March or early April, President Carter ordered a National Security Council review, White House officials said. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance has already discussed with the Soviet Ambassador a visit to Moscow so that he may meet Leonid I Brezhnev and arrange a meeting between Mr. Brezhnev and President Carter in the United States. [Page A1, Columns 3-4.]

Deportation seemed near for some human-rights activists in Czechoslovakia. Four leading dissidents were reportedly ordered to appear at the passport and visa office in Prague today. They were identified as Zdenek Mylnar, Milan Huebl and Frantisek Kriegel, all members of the liberal Communist leadership of 1968, and Pavel Kohout, a playwright. [A1:1-2.]

If the Soviet Union tries to silence Andrei D. Sakharov, a physicist and one of its leading dissidents, it will conflict "with accepted international standards of human rights," the State Department said. The statement was issued a day after the department had charged Czechoslovakia with violating the 1975 Helsinki agreement by detaining and harrasing dissidents. [A1:3.]

National

Bitter cold weather and the looming natural gas shortage had a further impact across the country. Pennsylvania and Ohio ordered statewide school closings; there were hundreds of thousands more industrial layoffs, and warnings of even more severe hardship. Ohio's Gov. James A. Rhodes declared an "energy crisis," that closed

all schools served by the state's four gas utilities and put an estimated 250,000 people out of work. [A1:5.]

Congress got a \$31.1 billion package of economic stimulants proposed by the Carter Administration that has as its centerpiece a \$50 tax rebate for most Americans, who are expected to spend it. Administration officials said the package had been scaled to avoid igniting more inflation and to push the 7.8 percent jobless rate down to levels "approaching" 6 percent by the end of next year. [A1:1.]

As part of its economic program, the Administration proposes to create 200,000 jobs for unemployed veterans of the Vietnam War. Secretary of Labor F. Ray Marshall said that this special job provision would cost \$1.3 billion, and that some of the jobs would be available in national parks and national forests. [A1:2.]

Metropolitan

The Governors of New York and New Jersey declared states of emergency to deal with a worsening energy crisis. Utilities in the two states, meanwhile, began shutting off gas supplies to major users and warned of widespread disruptions if the appeals for conservation were not heeded. The curtailment in New Jersey was expected to force the immediate layoff of 20,000 workers. [A1:6.]

New York City under a \$500,000 Federal grant, will establish an experimental pedestrian mall in Times Square this summer. that, if successful, will be made permanent. Under plans announced by Mayor Beame, all private cars in off-peak periods would be diverted from Broadway between 45th and 48th Streets by next September. All downtown traffic would be detoured to Seventh Avenue by January 1978. Crosstown traffic would not be affected. [A1:4-5.]

Wall Street investment bankers who underwrite municipal bonds agree with New York City's commercial banks on the necessity of an independent, outside agency to monitor New York City's finances so the city can market its bonds in the future. [A1:6.]

Business/Finance

Unidentified New York City officials apparently were bribed by the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation from 1971 to 1973 to get city contracts, according to a complaint against the company filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission. [D1:5-6.]

A decline in sales of Gimbels New York, which has 10 stores in the New York metropolitan area, may have been the reason why Matt Kallman has been replaced as chairman and chief executive officer by Elliott J. Stone. Mr. Stone is the president and chief operating officer of Gimbel Brothers Inc., the parent company. Mr. Kallman came from Gimbels Pittsburgh and was promoted only last July. He will stay on in a still to be determined assignment. [D1:4.]

The end of the two-tier pricing system established in December by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will be sought in additional talks soon with oil-producing countries, according to Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, in an interview in Riyadh. [D1:1-2.]

Glamour stocks traded at their lowest prices in more than a year and the market generally weakened. The Dow Jones industrial average made a small advance and then dropped 3.99 points to 954.54. [D1:5-6.] The bond market responded with a fairly sharp decline to the Treasury's announcement that it would refinance \$2.1 billion of publicly held 8 percent notes to raise \$3.7 billion of additional cash. [D2:6.] A record trading volume—178,040 contracts was reported by the Chicago Board of Trade. The previous high was 137,608 contracts, last July 7. All soybean and meal futures registered trading records, and trading in wheat, corn and oats was unusually active. [D1:6.]

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"The horses have been brought to the starting gate fast and under good control."—Representative Joseph L. Fisher, Democrat of Virginia, describing his reaction to President Carter's \$31.1 billion program for the economy. [A12:1.]

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