

News Summary

NYTimes

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1977

MAR 3 1977

International

The Soviet press, responding to the Carter Administration's complaints about violations of human rights, is counterattacking with a series of articles portraying the United States as a land of political arrests and false freedoms. After three weeks of accounts of police surveillance, unequal justice, racism, anti-Semitism and entrenched McCarthyism in the United States, Soviet readers were told that President Carter had received Vladimir K. Bukovsky, "a criminal law offender" and "active opponent of the development of Soviet-American relations." [Page 1, Column 1.]

Refugees from Uganda who have slipped into Kenya in recent days have begun telling of a wave of death, fear and intimidation that made many flee without their families. Most were doctors, engineers, students and civil servants belonging to the predominantly Christian Lango and Acholi tribes. They said that the persecution of the tribes had not yet reached the proportions of 1972 killings but that the death toll was mounting. [1:2-3.]

A meeting in Madrid of the leaders of the French and Italian Communist parties with Santiago Carrillo, secretary general of the Spanish party, was seen as a way of easing legalization of the party in Spain. It is only two months since Mr. Carrillo emerged in Spain after many years of underground leadership of the party. [2:2-3.]

National

A House vote was imminent on a new code of ethics in an effort to restore public confidence in Congress. The new and more stringent code would include a limitation on outside income. Supporters of the ethics package overwhelmed their opponents by 267 to 159 on a key procedural vote. [1:1.]

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez submitted his resignation as chairman of the House Committee on Assassinations, accusing some of its members of trying to usurp his power and the Democratic leadership of failing to support him. The Speaker, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., doubted the committee would survive without some major new investigative lead. He noted that the resignation would have to be adopted by the House. [1:2-3.]

The Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 that a Social Security provision making it harder for widowers than for widows to get survivors' benefits was unconstitutional sex discrimination. The provision requires men to prove dependence on their spouses to qualify, but not women. The majority was divided in its reasoning, with four feeling the provision discriminates against women and the fifth feeling it was unfair to men. [1:4.]

Women in the Navy will have wider opportunities for sea duty under legislation it has prepared ending prohibitions against their assignment to ships other than transports and hospital ships. The Navy has been facing legal action for alleged discrimination. The change would still bar women from combat duty. [18:3-4.]

Metropolitan

Vetoing the June primary bill, Governor Carey of New York delayed the political calendar and thoroughly scrambled the mayoral race in New York City. The Governor said in his message the bill gave too little time to get the political process under way and the city campaign would coincide with its financial crisis. Some saw a delayed primary as helpful to his re-election prospects in 1978. [1:6.]

Informal proposals by major banks for an independent agency to control New York City budgets were called "stiffer" than previous versions by Mayor Beame's aides, and probably unac-

ceptable to him. As a result alternative means are being sought to redeem \$1 billion in moratorium debts. [1:5.]

A top aide to Louis J. Lefkowitz, the New York State Attorney General, was arraigned on charges of accepting a trip to Las Vegas as a bribe for making inquiries about a state investigation of a school for the mentally retarded. [1:5.]

The New York State Board of Regents would lose its power to license various professions and other functions not chiefly concerned with education under a proposal that is being considered by Governor Carey's commission on higher education. [38:5-6.]

Business/Finance

The Bahamas are gaining a new eminence in the financial world as a rapidly growing portion of the international banking business is being booked, or officially recorded, in this tiny Caribbean nation. The islands have become a key link in the little-known Eurocurrency market, helped by a recent British tax increase and their nearness to New York. Big American banks have more than doubled their lending there in the last three years. [1:3-4.]

The White House wrote 450,000 persons, mostly chosen at random, to solicit their suggestions for the national energy policy that President Carter will submit to Congress by April 20. The unusual inquiry into public opinion asked views on whether measures to save energy should be voluntary or mandatory, whether environmental quality should be sacrificed, and whether fuel prices should have more or less Government control. [47:6.]

Federal spending still lags behind budgeted amounts, for reasons not fully understood, Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal said, adding that the phenomenon would probably reduce the projected size of the fiscal deficit this year. [47:5.]

Stock prices resumed their long slide after Tuesday's 8-point jump, with Dow Jones industrials down 2.66 points to close at 942.07. [47:1-2.] Bond prices rose as the Treasury conducted its monthly sale of one-year bills, and yields declined to the lowest level since January. [48:3-4.] Soybean futures set new season's highs. [53:6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The ethics of the marketplace are not sufficient for public life."—Representative David R. Obey of Wisconsin, defending in a House debate the stringent code of ethics for members of Congress. [1:1.]

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