

News Summary

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International

"A reasonable accommodation is possible" with the United States on nuclear arms control, Leonid I. Brezhnev said, if Washington seeks "mutually acceptable solutions not in words but by deeds." In his first public statement about the failure of last week's talks with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, the Soviet leader blamed Washington for lack of progress, but held out hope for repairing relations and advancing toward a strategic arms limitation treaty. [Page A1, Column 1.]

Henry A. Kissinger urged the Carter Administration to avoid "rhetorical battles" with the Soviet Union over strategic arms talks and to speak out forcefully about the invasion of Zaire, which, he said, could not go on without Soviet support. Mr. Kissinger, in his first public speech since leaving office as Secretary of State, urged all Americans to support the new Administration, but was implicitly critical of some aspects of its policies in dealing with the Russians and human rights. [A1:2.]

Citing a growing concern over Soviet penetration into African countries, President Anwar el-Sadat asked the United States to start supplying Egypt with many arms, including F-5E fighters. The White House said that a military discussion between Mr. Sadat and President Carter had been "in general terms" and that "no commitments or decisions" were expected soon. [A1:1.]

Taiwan has secretly bought Gabriel surface-to-surface missiles from Israel, sources in Taipei disclosed, as part of a costly program to modernize its armed forces. In the last two years the Chinese Nationalist Government in Taiwan has also purchased about \$500 million worth of weapons from the United States. Nonetheless, the Nationalists appear to be growing resentful over what they feel are unfair curbs that Washington has placed on their weapons buildup. [A1:2.]

National

To improve the immunization status of American children, Joseph A. Califano Jr., Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, will announce today details of a major program. Dr. William H. Foege, a leader in the worldwide effort to eradicate smallpox, will have a major role in the effort. The Government estimates that 20 million of the 52 million American children under age 15 are now inadequately immunized against major diseases for which vaccines are available. [A1:3-4.]

In a compromise, the Carter Administration proposed revised food-stamp legislation that would eliminate the cash purchase price for the coupons but raise their price for all recipients. The new bill would cut about 1.5 million recipients from the program and reduce benefits paid to nearly one-third of present recipients, but it would also bring into the program 2.5 million others who are too poor to buy food stamps now. A new formula would cut benefits disproportionately in the Northeast and Northwest. [A1:5-6.]

Voting 361 to 43, the House approved major changes in the Water Pollution Control Act opposed by most environmental groups and also a three-year, \$17 billion extension of its program of grants for sewage treatment facilities. The vote came as Congress struggled to clear away before its Easter recess the hurdles it had put up to enactment of President Carter's \$4 billion public works jobs bill. [A13:1.]

Metropolitan

Negotiations for spring borrowing, \$3.6 billion this year, have been completed by New York State 10 days before the deadline. The average interest rate will be 4.51 percent, a major improvement over last year's 7 percent. Comptroller Arthur Levitt said he was "highly

pleased" by the outcome of the talks with a syndicate of financial institutions. [A1:6.]

The New York State Court of Appeals reaffirmed the year-old Stavisky-Goodman bill, which would have required a rise in education spending in New York City by up to \$150 million this year. Six of the seven members of the state's highest tribunal reversed two lower courts and declared that the Legislature had acted properly a year ago when it overrode Governor Carey's veto of the bill. [A1:5.]

Alexander Guterman, a Florida financier who made and lost two financial empires, and five members of his family were killed when their twin-engine plane crashed near a residential Bronx neighborhood while trying to land at LaGuardia Airport in rain and heavy fog. The pilot also died in the crash in Peiham Park. [A1:2-4.]

Business/Finance

Consumer credit soared by \$2.02 billion in February, the second biggest monthly rise on record, according to the Federal Reserve Board. The only larger increase was reported for February, 1973, when consumer debts rose \$2.09 billion. The strong surge was a surprise in light of fears about the economy because of the impact of the severe winter east of the Rockies. [53:6.]

The advance in consumer credit was paced in large part by a rise in automobile credit. The nation's automakers sold more than one million cars last month—the first time car sales have passed that mark since the Arab oil embargo in 1973. For the final third of March, the industry reported a 7 percent overall increase in sales, compared with a year earlier. Big cars continued the largest gains. [53:5.]

Most stocks eased in listless trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones industrial average managed to add 0.58 point to 916.14, after falling in 11 of the previous 13 sessions. But declining issues outnumbered gainers by a ratio of nearly 9 to 5, and for every issue that showed a yearly high, there were 10 new lows. [53:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The limitation of arms is not a favor one side does for the other. It is a fundamental necessity."—Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, in a speech at Georgetown University, urging the Carter Administration to avoid rhetorical battles over strategic arms talks with the Russians [A3:2.]

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