

News Summary

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International

A ban on all explosions of nuclear devices will be discussed in Washington Monday by the United States and the Soviet Union, the State Department announced. The ban is one of the basic aims of President Carter's arms control program. The Soviet Government, American officials said, is receptive to the proposal. [Page 1, Column 1.]

For the first time, more oil was shipped last year by the Soviet Union to the West than to its Communist allies. Soaring Siberian production and high world prices apparently made it advantageous to divert more oil to earn Western currencies. The increased shipments confirm predictions by some American economists that the centrally planned Soviet economy would respond to increased prices by adjusting its fuel policies and consumption patterns. [1:4.]

A vast plain of rubble is all that is left of Tangshan, which had been a major city in northern China until an earthquake struck 11 months ago. The barren horror of the demolished city is described by one of the first foreign correspondents permitted in the earthquake area. It is estimated that 750,000 people were killed in and around the city. [1:3-4.]

Uganda put further pressure on British nationals living there by forbidding them to gather or travel in groups larger than three persons. The Government radio quoted a military spokesman as saying that Britons—there are about 240 in Uganda—defying the order would be arrested and "put in any nearest military or other prison." Earlier this week, Britons were prohibited from leaving. [3:3-4.]

The Dutch Prime Minister said that mediation efforts between the Government and the South Moluccan captors

of 51 hostages on a train in the Netherlands had failed. "The situation," Prime Minister Joop den Uyl said, "is extremely critical." There was a feeling that the Government might be planning an assault on the train. Interior Minister Wilhelm F. de Gaay Fortman said in a television interview: "Our aim is restoration of the legal order. If possible without loss of life." The train was surrounded by nearly 2,000 soldiers and policemen. [4:5.]

National

President Carter was plainly irritated over the changes made in his energy program as it went through Congressional committees. He suggested in a statement prepared for reporters by his press secretary that committees had surrendered to pressure from the oil and automobile industries and said the "people of this country will be the ones to suffer" if his energy proposals are "thwarted." Jody Powell, the press secretary, adding an observation of his own, said that the deregulation of natural gas prices, voted Thursday by a House subcommittee, was a "ripoff of the American consumer." [1:6.]

Two Congressional critics of the costly and controversial B-1 bomber, which would replace the B-52 as the Air Force's major strategic bomber, say that President Carter, who had opposed the supersonic B-1 in his campaign, now seems to be in favor of at least its limited production. They had a meeting at the White House with the President, who said he would "go into seclusion and decide this month" whether to approve the bomber. [1:2.]

Alabama's court system, which had almost closed down when its operating funds became exhausted last week, was voted a \$3.7 million special appropriation by the Legislature. The courts since June 1 had been operating on a restricted schedule under a State Supreme Court order. [8:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Bernard Bergman, the nursing home operator who was imprisoned for Medicaid and tax frauds, is back in the business, operating the Park Crescent Nursing Home at 150 Riverside Drive, at 87th Street. His license to operate the Park Crescent was ordered revoked after he was convicted of fraud, but is on appeal. [1:2.]

There is a small town on the Massachusetts-Connecticut border that buys its electricity from a family in Massachusetts. Operating from a kitchen table and out of a couple of file cabinets in a house on Berkshire Avenue in Southwick, Mass., the Fletcher Electric Light Company seems to be the only unregulated utility in Connecticut, except that it is not in Connecticut, and may not be a utility company. "It's a little bit embarrassing," said King Quillan, spokesman for Connecticut's Public Utilities Control Authority. [1:4-6.]

Business/Finance

Retail sales are continuing to rise. The Commerce Department said that 1 percent more was spent in retail stores in May than in April and 13 percent more than in May last year. The biggest gains over April were made by grocery stores and apparel and accessory stores. [25:5-6.]

Citibank, often a trend setter on loan rates, kept its prime rate unchanged at 6¾ percent. In addition, in a move apparently intended to mollify Administration and Congressional critics, as well as for competitive reasons, the bank changed the formula under which it sets its prime, the rate banks charge their most creditworthy customers. The bank's decision was "wise," said Henry S. Reuss, chairman of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee. [25:4.]

Stock prices moved up a little when news reports allayed Wall Street's fear of higher short-term interest rates, which would add to corporate overhead. The Dow Jones industrial average showed only small changes, with none of its 30 industrial components moving up or down as much as a point. It was up 0.94, closing at 910.79. Some oil issues showed good gains. [25:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The difference is a paltry \$71 billion ripoff."—Jody Powell, White House press. secretary, explaining the difference between a plan voted Thursday by a subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee to deregulate natural gas immediately, which he said would cost consumers \$86 billion over the next eight years, and President Carter's regulation plan, which he said would cost consumers \$15 billion. [32:5.]

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CORRECTION

In the Broadway column of yesterday's Times the founder, chairman and chief officer of Atlantic Records was listed as the late Ahmet Ertegun. Mr. Ertegun is alive.