

News Summary

NYTimes

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International

The United States and the Soviet Union are roughly in strategic balance, according to the Carter Administration's first comprehensive study of the global power relationships. Future trends, the study has found, are more favorable than had been anticipated by the Ford Administration. The study concluded, highly placed sources said, that the Soviet buildup in strategic arms was being effectively offset by measures taken by the United States and its allies. [Page 1, Column 6.]

While British and Guatemalan troops took positions on the border of Britain's Central American dependency of Belize, representatives of both Governments faced each other across negotiating and luncheon tables in Washington. By evening, the crisis had dissolved into an amicable and hastily arranged cocktail party. [A1:2-3.]

The American Jewish Committee is closing the office it had maintained for 29 years in Buenos Aires because of anti-Semitic and anti-American threats against its chief representative and his family. The committee's representative, Jacobo Kovadloff, whose family had lived in Argentina for five generations had already left Argentina with his wife and children for the United States. [A15:2-3.]

National

Fundamental changes in traditional means of communication are forcing the Federal Government to make policy decisions that could alter the fortunes of the nation's largest communications organizations and the lives of Americans. The Government must deal with such issues as the competing rights of large corporations, the possible demise of the Postal Service, the use of the air waves by individual nations and the importance of personal privacy. [A1:3 importance of privacy. [A1:3-4.]

The Federal inquiry into the disappearance of James R. Hoffa nearly two years ago has collapsed, officials close to the case said. The United States Attorney in Detroit, Philip Van Dam, said, "There's nothing left to do," but a Justice Department spokesman said the search for the former president of the teamsters union still had priority and was "by no means" closed. [A1:1.]

Howard R. Hughes's liquid assets cash account was depleted by about \$600 million in the last 10 years of his life, according to documents filed in a Delaware court. Discovery that nearly half that amount had apparently not been reinvested but had been dissipated was one of the main reasons for the recent changes in the board of directors of Summa, the Hughes holding company, by William R. Lummis, Mr. Hughes's nephew and Summa's chairman, an affidavit, indicated. [A6:1-2.]

Suzi Park Thomson, who had been a clerical aide to Carl Albert the former Speaker of the House, said that she was not an agent for the South Korean Government and had never received money or instructions from Tongsun Park, an alleged Korean agent, or the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. Mrs. Thomson, born in Korea, said in an interview that she had told a Federal grand jury that no Korean official or representative ever asked her to manipulate legislation on their behalf and that she had never done so. [A22:1.]

Metropolitan

Five prisoners were killed and 71 others injured in a fire that swept through a locked, overcrowded cellblock at the Federal medium-security prison in Danbury, Conn. Authorities said the fire was believed to have been set deliberately. [A1:4-5.]

Mayor Beame was told by the Federal Government to dissolve and take over the functions of the Council Against Poverty, the central agency responsible

for coordinating the city's antipoverty program. The Government has threatened to cut off support to the entire \$39 million program. The primary issue is the council's failure to provide city wide elections for community representatives to the boards of directors of 24 of its 26 community corporations. [A14-5.]

Its 13-months-old "temporary" ban on Concorde landings in New York was extended indefinitely by the Port Authority in spite of pressure from a Federal appeals court to fix the plane's noise standards "with dispatch." Thus, the issue remains where it has been for months, in the courts. Another court hearing is scheduled next week. [A1:4.]

Business/Finance

Retail sales showed signs of erosion in June. The report from 15 of the country's largest chain stores would have been better if apparel sales, both men's and women's, had not declined. Durable goods, especially appliances and furniture, held up well. Six of the 15 companies had increases in June that were below the total gain of the preceding five months. [D1:6.]

Gerald Sprayregen and several unidentified persons were charged in an 11-count Federal indictment with fraudulently siphoning more than \$2 million dollars from a company, which has since become bankrupt, that operated John's Bargain Stores. Mr. Sprayregen was chairman of the board of the Stratton Group Ltd., at the time of the alleged misappropriation in 1971. He resigned in 1974 after Stratton had filed for bankruptcy. [D1:2.]

Rising energy issues and a show of recovery in blue-chip issues helped a general upward movement in stock prices. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.78 points to 909.51. The utility average also moved ahead. [D1:1-2.]

The chief of Canada's Government nuclear agency was dismissed when it was learned that the agency had heavy losses last year on the sale of reactors. John S. Foster, a nuclear engineer, was dismissed as head of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Alastair Gillespie. The dismissal also followed reports of mysterious payments to overseas agents. [D1:5.]

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Quotation of the Day

"If I wanted revenge on him, what would be the difference between me and him?"—John McGavern, who was shot in the neck by Luis Robinson during a bus hijacking Monday. [A19:4.]

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CORRECTION

Because of a typographical error, some words were omitted from a sentence in an article in The Times yesterday on studies linking women who smoke and early menopause. The sentence should have read: The average age for menopause in women who have quit smoking was found to fall between that of light smokers (half a pack a day) and that of women who never smoked.

An article in The Times on Jan. 22, 1975, contained an erroneous statement concerning Nathan Lewin, a Washington attorney. A corrective article appears on Page B2.