News Summary

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International

The United States and North Korea appeared determined to keep the shooting down of an American helicopter over North Korea from growing into a confrontation as negotiators prepared to meet today in the Panmunjom truce area. North Korea's first official account of the incident, which it described as an "unhappy" one, seemed especially moderate and avoided its customary invective. [Page 1, Column 1.]

About 15,000 Indochinese refugees—Laotians, Cambodians and Vietnamese—will be admitted to the United States this year and next. President Carter gave his approval to a State Department recommendation that the refugees be permitted to enter the country to 385e the plight of at least some of the more than 80,000 Indochinese stranded in Thailand and elsewhere in southeast Asia. [1:2-3.]

National

Alcoholies, drug addicts and terminal cancer patients apparently were unwitting subjects of drug experiment programs conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1950's and 1960's. Admiral Stansfield Turner, the Director of Central Intelligence, told the Senate Intelligence Committee that the aditional information had just been uncovered and that he was confident there had been "no previous attempt to conceal this material." [1:3.]

Following public personal criticism by the chairman of the House ethics committee, Philip A. Lacovara, the committee's special counsel for the Korean investigation, resigned. Representative John J. Flynt Jr., the chairman, who said in an interview that Mr. Lacovara had "temper tantrums," also asked the General Accounting Office to audit his June bill for \$35,212.50. [1:1-3.]

A Senate committee was told by Bert Lance, director of the Office of Management and Budget, that he would take further steps to avoid a conflict of interest if the committee would release from a pledge to sell about 207,000 shares of a Georgia bank's stock before Dec. 31. Mr. Lance confirmed that he had debts totaling some \$5.3 million and \$373,000 a year in interest payments and that if he took a loss of \$1.5 million on National Bank of Georgia stock he would have to sell other holdings. [10:3-4.]

An offer of \$25 million in Federal funds and 100,00 state-owned acres in Maine was recommended by President Carter's special representative on Indian land claims to settle a suit by the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes who maintain that Maine had acquired their land without the approval of Congress. The Indians had sued for \$25 billion and for 12 million acres. [36:1.]

Metropolitan

New York City and Westchester County were designated as disaster areas by the Small Business Administration as investigations, damage assessments and cleanup operations followed the 25-hour power blackout. Full power was restored by Consolidated Edison, and New York's business and financial activities and municipal and transportation services were at near-normal . . . levels. [1:6.]

Consolidated Edison, fearful of public hostility and lawsuits, might have held out too long Wednesday night before cutting out limited parts of its power system and thus lost the entire system, according to some investigators of the 1965 blackout. Engineers said that, in a crisis, the utility had long been regarded as reluctant to "shed load," or produce small, temporary blackouts to prevent a prolonged big one. [1:5.]

Outrage and despair overwhelmed neighborhoods that were plundered during the blackout and raised the question whether the devastation caused by looting and arson would give a death blow to those already failing areas. On almost every street corner in the South Bronx and in Harlem and in the shopping areas of Queens and Brooklyn men and woment gathered and asked each other whether their neighborhoods would return to normal. [1:4.]

A 20 percent increase in monthly charges would be paid by Co-op City tenants and they would make certain additional payments to the financially troubled cooperative corporation under a tentative agreement reached by New York States officials and tenant representatives. In exchange, more than \$25 million of the co-op's existing debts would be excused for two years and possibily forever, it was said. The settlement is subject to a referendum among the tenants. [1:1-2.]

Business/Finance

A business equipment output helped push industrial production up seventenths of 1 percent in June, the Federal Reserve Board said in its monthly report on the output of factories, mines and utilities. Production of business equipment, the report said, "continued to advance strongly, rising 1.5 percent in June and at about an 18 percent annual rate for the second quarter as a whole." [27:5-8]

Computer issues led a modest advance in stock prices. Advances outnumbered declines by an 8-to-5 ratio as trading volume rose to 29.12 million shares from 23.16 million Wednesday. The unusually large midsummer volume was attributed to a backlog of orders held ever from Thursday's power blackout "holiday." The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 905.95, up 2.96 points from Wednesday. [27:1-2.]

Confirming rumors in Wall Street, the American Stock Exchange announced the Paul Koiton, its chairman, would leave at the expiration of his contract in November. He joined the Amex in 1962 as executive vice president and in 1972 became its first full-time salaried chairman. His decision not to seek a contract renewal appears to make Robert J. Birnbaum, the recently appointed Amex president, a leading candidate to become chairman. [27:5-6.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I think this repeated blackout points out again an obvious fact that too many forget: We ought not to operate our electric system on the bare edge of sufficiency, because then Jupiter sends a lightning bolt and we are in trouble."—The nuclear physicist, Dr. Edward Teller, who served on a panel investigating the 1965 East Coast blackout. [8:4.]

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