

# News Summary

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## International

Israel announced a cease-fire in the area of the Lebanese border where Palestinian guerrillas and Israeli-backed Lebanese Christians have been fighting for 10 days. It called this the result of diplomatic endeavors through the good offices of the United States. The Israeli radio later reported quiet along the border. Israeli troops, vehicles and armor were seen returning from earlier sorties into southern Lebanon. [Page 1, Columns 1-2.]

Israel's conditions were rejected by Foreign minister Ismail Fahmy of Egypt in connection with the American proposal for Palestinian representation at a Geneva peace conference. He took particular exception to Israel's insisting that no Palestinians representing the Palestine Liberation Organization could take part, asserting that substantive negotiations should not be held without the P.L.O. [3:4-6.]

The highly competitive bargain-fare Skytrain flights of Britain's Laker Airways between London and New York were started by a DC-10 that carried 272 passengers and three infants-in-arms. A round trip costs about \$237—\$102 from London and, because of currency differences, \$135 the other way. Some passengers had waited in line for two days and two nights at London's Gatwick Airport to be sure of a seat, but the flight had 73 seats to spare. [1:1-2.]

Soon after Laker's flight left London, the White House announced that President Carter had overruled the Civil Aeronautics Board's refusal to set more competitive fares and had authorized New York-London fares for major airlines that were almost as cheap as Laker's. [15:1.]

## National

Moving to salvage his energy program, President Carter called on the Senate

to "act responsibly" and "reject narrow, special interest attacks on all segments of the national energy plan." His program, meanwhile, had further setbacks in the Senate, which voted overwhelmingly to cut off a filibuster by liberals opposed to decontrol of natural gas prices. The Finance Committee agreed to kill the President's proposed tax on domestically produced oil. The committee, though, appeared willing to revive the tax if another formula for using the revenues could be found. [1:6.]

Standards for the nation's hospitals proposed by Federal health planners would eliminate most of an estimated total of 100,000 unneeded beds over the next seven years. The standards, aimed at keeping soaring hospital costs from going higher, would limit the number of general hospital beds to four per 1,000 persons throughout the country, set a minimum of 80 percent occupancy in general hospitals and reduce the number of hospitals offering expensive specialty services. [1:5.]

## Metropolitan

New York and other cities with problems of blight would receive greatly increased housing and community-development aid over the next three years under a \$12.4 billion program agreed on by Senate and House conferees. The agreement would give Northeastern states a 71 percent increase over current funds. A minimum of \$987 million would be allocated for New York State under the plan. [1:4.]

Consolidated Edison lost nearly 40 percent of its power supplies apparently because of lightning strikes, but averted another systemwide blackout by employing emergency procedures adopted following last July's blackout. It imposed limited blackouts in various areas and fired up reserve generators. It also obtained extra power from Long Island and New Jersey utilities. [1:5-6.]

The suspension of Justice Frank Vaccaro of State Supreme Court in Brooklyn without pay for six months, was ordered by the state Court on the Judiciary because he had accepted a free weekend at a Catskill resort from a law firm whose members appeared regularly before him. The five-member court, a disciplinary panel, found that Justice Vaccaro had "exercised poor judgment and engaged in injudicious conduct." [1:3.]

The Metropolitan Opera will telecast three live performances this season from the opera house in Lincoln Center. The Met decided to televise the performances because of the outstanding success last spring of the telecast of "La Bohème," which was carried by the Public Broadcasting Service, Texaco and the National Endowment for the Arts will finance the telecasts. [1:3-4.]

## Business/Finance

President Carter said the United States would achieve its objective of a 6 percent economic growth this year. In a speech in Washington at the opening of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the President declared this country was committed to "vigorous" activity in 1978, and he indirectly criticized other nations by pointing out that the slowing pace of economic activity abroad was one factor in the large and growing trading deficit of the United States. [53:6.]

The nation's trade deficit reached \$2.7 billion in August and was the second largest on record, the Commerce Department said, mainly because other countries with more economic problems could not afford to buy American goods. The United States, however, relied less on imports, the Government report said. Oil imports, the cause of most of the trade imbalance this year, declined 9 percent to \$3.3 billion. [53:2-4.]

The stock market overcame unfavorable economic news and finished mixed after a late mild recovery erased some earlier losses. This enabled the Dow Jones industrial average, which had been heading for a decline, to close up 2.51 points at 841.65. [53:4-5:]

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## Quotation of the Day

"While involuntary sterility caused by a manufactured chemical may be bad, it is not necessarily so. After all, there are many people now paying to have themselves sterilized to assure they will no longer be able to become parents."—Robert K. Phillips, executive secretary of the National Peach Council, suggesting that people who do not wish to have children handle a pesticide known to cause sterility. [18:3.]

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