

News Summary and Index

NYTimes

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1975

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The Major Events of the Day

International
Reports circulated in Phnom Penh and Washington yesterday that the United States was about to evacuate the remaining members of its embassy and other Americans in the Cambodian capital. The State Department refused to comment on the reports and said the final decision was up to Ambassador John Gunther Dean. The departure of the last Americans would underscore the belief in Washington that the Cambodian Government could not hold out much longer against the insurgents. [Page 1, Columns 7-8.]

Counterattacking Cambodian Government troops reportedly gained a two-mile stretch north of Phnom Penh, but insurgents holding a village less than three miles from the capital's airport fought off attempts to retake it. Although Phnom Penh remained under severe rebel pressure, the Government's army appeared to be fighting back more effectively than at any time in the last two weeks. [1:7-8.]

South Vietnamese soldiers, militiamen and fighter-bombers reportedly pushed Communist troops out of Xuan Loc, a city 38 miles northeast of Saigon. Xuan Loc was in ruins but the battle for it was not over. Communist gunners continued their rocket and artillery attacks and there were reports that Government troops clashed with small Communist units one mile east and south-east of Xuan Loc. [1:6.]

Congressional resistance developed against President Ford's request for authority to use American troops, if necessary, to protect the evacuation of South Vietnamese citizens. Mike Mansfield, the Senate Majority leader, predicted that Congress would show "great reluctance" to give the President the authority. Senator Robert C. Byrd, the Democratic whip, said he was flatly opposed to using American troops in an evacuation. Opposition also continued to mount in Congress to the President's request for \$722-million in military aid for the Saigon Government. [1:4-5.]

Six major Portuguese parties signed away almost all their power to devise a constitution for a democratic Portugal and accommodated themselves to several years of tight military rule—a necessity, the Portuguese President said—to protect the new government from its enemies. [1:1-2.]
The Soviet Union signed an agreement to borrow \$250-million from a group of West-

ern banks. The loan was said to be the largest the Soviet Union has ever arranged with private Western financial institutions. Lazard Freres heads the group of lenders, which includes Morgan Guaranty, Banque National de Paris and several other West European and North American banks. [1:3.]

National
Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, under the will of her late husband, receives \$3-million, a bequest far less than published reports had indicated she would get, according to friends of the Onassis family. Shortly before his death Mr. Onassis reportedly had decided to divorce his wife, and the bequest was the minimum her husband could leave her under Greek law. [1:4-6.]

Partly reversing some of its earlier decisions, the Senate Budget Committee gave final approval to a proposed ceiling of \$365-billion, on Government spending for next year. The figure was \$9.4-billion, or 2.6 per cent, higher than the Administration has proposed for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. It was also \$3.2-billion lower than the one approved last week by the House Budget Committee. [4:5-8.]

Metropolitan

All 12 public schools in East Haven, Conn., for a town adjoining New Haven, were closed for an indefinite period because school funds were exhausted. The elementary schools closed at 3 P.M., 5,700 students were sent home without any indication of when they could return, and 300 teachers were out of work. Town authorities sought an injunction to prevent the shutdown, and a hearing on it was set only for Tuesday morning. Financial troubles also have put public schools in several other Connecticut towns in jeopardy. [1:1-2.]

The staff of the Public Service Commission said in Albany that the Consolidated Edison Company's application for a \$202-million interim rise in electricity rates should be turned down without a hearing. The company contended, according to the commission's staff counsel, that the increase was needed to "impress the financial community with the commission's intention to help Con Edison regain its financial well-being." A commission spokesman said that he could not recall the staff, which acts as a consumer-oriented party, ever recommending a denial without a hearing. [30:2-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"You have found our case is hopeless, but we have to cling to life until we die."—Um Sim, Ambassador of Cambodia, speaking of President Ford's assertion that aid for Cambodia might be too late. [1:8.]

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CORRECTION

An article in The New York Times on Wednesday incorrectly identified the Geneva Corporation as having been formed to serve investment interests in Kuwait. The venture capital company was established in 1971 by members of the Rosenwald family and includes American banks, insurance companies and private interests among its investors. The Kuwait Investment Company invested \$1-million, or less than 7 per cent of Geneva's capital.

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