

The Major Events of the Day

International

Communist forces renewed their assault on Xuan Loc, a key provincial capital east of Saigon, yesterday while others shelled the Mekong Delta city of Can Tho in the heaviest fighting since the North Vietnamese offensive of 1972. The battle for Xuan Loc is regarded as critical because a breakthrough by the Communists on Route 1 there would leave little between them and Bien Hoa, a virtual suburb of Saigon and the site of the country's largest air base. The Communists have committed three divisions to the battle for Xuan Loc, an indication, Western officials said, of the importance they attach to it. [Page 1, Column 8.]

The new military Government in Cambodia vowed that despite the "very grave" military situation and the closing of the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh it would refuse in any circumstances to surrender to the insurgents surrounding the capital. Premier Long Boret said that while continuing the military struggle, the Government would "make every effort" to persuade the other side to "accept our offer of a cease-fire followed by negotiations and national reconciliation." [1:5-7.]

The Laotian coalition, headed by 73-year-old Premier Souvanna Phouma, is marking its first anniversary this month, and suffering some strain, uncertainty and bickering. But the unusual alliance of neutralists, rightists and pro-Communists is holding together, mostly because the United States, the Soviet Union, China and North Vietnam seem content to keep the current Government intact. [1:5-7.]

The worldwide arms buildup, particularly in the Middle East, has brought boom times for United States exporters of arms. Military exports by American companies have reached a high of more than \$8-billion a year, and deliveries of weapons to foreign customers are growing at the fastest rate in the nation's history. The surge in business has caused the manufacturers some problems. Congressional criticism is one of them. [1:1-2.]

Palestinian guerrillas and members of the right-wing Lebanese Phalangist party clashed in a Beirut suburb and more than 20 persons were reported killed. It was their most serious fight since last summer. [1:4.]

National

The Internal Revenue Service operated a secret school for undercover agents in which

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it tested them with liquor and women to see if they could resist disclosing their identities. Periodic classes were conducted at two naval bases and at several private motels. The liquor was paid for by the Government, according to former agents, and the women were Federal employees. The program was called "stress seminars" in some I.R.S. circles. [1:1-3.]

The biggest erasure of Congressional incumbents in several decades took place in the 1974 election, and almost half the 103 Congressmen who were not returned to Congress are still in Washington, lobbying, practicing law and working for the Government. "It's a case of how are you going to keep them down on the farm," said Jed Johnson Jr., a former member of Congress from Oklahoma who specializes in keeping track of former Congressmen. [27:1-6.]

Metropolitan

To correct a state system that he termed "a charade," Bronx District Attorney Mario Merola has proposed the establishment of "forensic hospitals" for the segregation and treatment of mentally ill criminals and defendants. He also called on the Governor to name a commissioner with jurisdiction over the care of deranged convicts and defendants. His recommendations were based on a five-month investigation into hospitals operated by the State Department of Mental Hygiene. [1:3.]

Ties between Jews and blacks in the United States have been strengthened by the declining economy and continued tensions in the Middle East, according to community leaders. Since January there have been a number of conferences and joint statements by established black and Jewish leaders aimed at increasing cooperation between the two groups. The new initiatives followed a period of tension in black and Jewish relations, particularly over minority-hiring programs and related matters. [1:4-5.]

Seeking support for Soviet Jews, a crowd estimated by the police at 100,000 paraded down Fifth Avenue over to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza in front of the United Nations. In the vanguard were nuns and priests, ministers and rabbis. The demonstrators were given encouragement in addresses by Senators Hubert H. Humphrey and Henry M. Jackson and Governor Carley, among others. [5:6:1-4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"We are determined to stay on to continue our resistance and to struggle alongside our people. There will be no surrender."—Premier Long Boret. (1:4.)

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