

News Summary and Index

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The Major Events of the Day

International

Cambodia's insurgents were closing in on Phnom Penh from all sides as the military government in the capital sought to stem their advance by bringing troops back from the defense positions on the outer perimeter. The airport was virtually cut off, according to an incomplete dispatch from the correspondent of The New York Times. The radio circuit from Phnom Penh went dead some hours after the start of his dispatch. [Page 1, Columns 5-8.]

Communist gunners shelled the Bien Hoa fighter base 15 miles from Saigon with long-range artillery. Western officials in the capital saw this as a sign of North Vietnamese confidence in view of the risk to their heavy artillery. There were indications that they were moving three more divisions into the battle for Saigon. In an effort to keep the South Vietnamese off balance they poured shells and rockets into Tay Ninh, northwest anchor of Saigon's defense line. [1:5.]

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee sent to the White House a proposal for a \$200-million "contingency-fund" that President Ford could use to evacuate Americans from Saigon and provide humanitarian aid to South Vietnamese. A move was also developing in Congress to extend this contingency concept to the military aid requested by Mr. Ford. Some opponents of military aid were said to be willing to vote for such funds for assuring safe withdrawal of Americans and ending American military involvement. [1:6-7.]

A preparatory meeting in Paris for an international energy conference this summer broke down in disagreement on the agenda and other terms. The United States, the European Economic Community and Japan insisted that it focus on energy and related economic problems, while four oil producers—Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Iran—and three developing countries—Zaire, Brazil and India—insisted on addressing the whole range of demands of developing countries for a new international economic order. [1:4.]

Gunfire, rockets and bombs in the Beirut area raised the unofficial death toll to close to 100 lives in the third day of fighting between Palestinian guerrillas and the armed militia of Lebanon's Phalangist party. The survival of Lebanon's coalition Government

was uncertain. The Phalangist leader, Pierre Gemayel, has opposed Palestinian guerrilla raids that bring Israeli retaliation. [1:7.]

National

Senate conferees yielded on major points to the House version of a farm bill tailored to increase subsidy and price-support payments while averting a Presidential veto. The Senate version had been costlier and more likely to bring about a veto. Although Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz reiterated that he would recommend a veto, other Republicans farm leaders said Mr. Ford had promised to give it careful consideration. [1:2-3.]

The defense rested its case in the bribery trial of John B. Connally after the former Secretary of the Treasury conceded that his memory was flawed, but insisted that he had never accepted a \$10,000 payoff. He maintained that he was ill-prepared when he gave some "mistaken" testimony in 1973 and 1974 investigations. [1:7-8.]

Metropolitan

Mayor Beame and Budget Director Melvin N. Lechner have trimmed more than \$100-million from the city's 1975-76 expense budget deficit, which had been projected as \$883.9-million. They have also made tentative plans for more layoffs of city workers, perhaps as many as 10,000, according to administration officials. This is planned as a negotiating wedge to force the municipal unions to agree instead to freeze wages of reopener existing contracts. [1:1.]

The Federal Government gave the city and state of New York a timetable that in effect orders them to adhere to a step-by-step program to substantially clean the city's regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency after it found that the city had "failed to implement, effectuate specific increments" of a plan approved in 1973. [1:2.]

A former Brooklyn insurance broker named Herman Goldfarb will be telling a Federal grand jury in Manhattan in the next few days of Project Cleveland—a rare cooperative effort of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Joint Strike Force and New York Police Department to break the grip of organized crime on segments of the garment industry. The undercover operation came apart last fall for reasons still in fierce dispute. [1:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"The presence of women in business, in the professions, in government and, indeed, in all walks of life where education is apparent and a proper subject of judicial notice."—Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun, in majority opinion on a Supreme Court case involving equal rights for women. [21:1.]

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CORRECTION

In the photograph with yesterday's television schedule in The New York Times, Shirley Maclaine was shown with Mrs. Chou En-lai, wife of the Premier of China, not with the wife of Mao Tse-tung.