

The Major Events of the Day

International

The House Select Committee on Intelligence voted overwhelmingly yesterday to hold Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in contempt of Congress for his failure to respond to three subpoenas that would have required him to provide the committee with classified information concerning United States intelligence activities. The contempt proceedings, which cited Mr. Kissinger for "contumacious conduct," must be approved by a House majority before the Justice Department could determine whether Mr. Kissinger should be charged with criminal liability. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Spain agreed to abandon Spanish Sahara by the end of February and to share its administration until then with Morocco and Mauritania under a settlement reached after three days of negotiations by representatives of the three countries. The agreement apparently opens the way for complete Moroccan and Mauritanian control of the Spanish territory. [1:6-7.]

The Portuguese Government suffered a major blow to its dwindling authority with the capitulation to angry construction workers who had held the Prime Minister hostage for 36 hours. After insisting that the Government was on the verge of bankruptcy and could not afford to meet the workers' demands, Prime Minister José Pinheiro de Azevedo's office issued a statement giving them satisfaction. [1:8.]

National

A Justice Department study has found only "token" compliance with the 1972 landmark Supreme Court ruling that required the appointment of lawyers to represent any indigent defendant facing a possible jail term. "The Sixth Amendment right to counsel is an empty one for many defendants," the study said. [1:5.]

Many Republicans in Congress criticized President Ford because of his apparent willingness to sign legislation that would lower oil prices over the next two years. Mr. Ford told a group of Republican legislators Thursday that he had not made up his mind about the bill, but most of those at the meeting said afterward that they had the impression that the President was likely to allow the measure to become law. Others said there was an even chance that he would veto the bill. [1:4.]

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Quotation of the Day

"As I stopped in the first row, and that was the only active gesture that I saw, but in the hand there was a weapon."
—President Ford, in videotape testimony at Lynette Alice Fromme's trial. [25:5.]

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Correction

The introduction to a text published Thursday in The New York Times stated incorrectly that the document, a United States draft resolution on amnesty for political prisoners, had been introduced in the United Nations General Assembly. Actually, the resolution was introduced in the Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

The State Housing Finance Agency narrowly avoided default as Comptroller Arthur Levitt used state treasury funds to buy \$80 million of the agency's maturing notes. State officials meanwhile worked frantically to put together a package that would also keep Yonkers from default today. John G. Heinann, the State Superintendent of Banking, asked agent banks for the \$21 million in Yonkers notes to stay open until 11:59 P.M. to handle the complicated financing arrangements necessary to repay the noteholders if legislative aspects of the package were approved as anticipated. [1:1.]

Westchester County Executive Alfred B. DeBelto said that he was planning to ask the County Board of Legislators to raise sales taxes in Westchester County next year to at least 7 percent, or by 2 percentage points, in many towns and villages. Mr. DeBelto said he believed he had the board's support, "especially with the higher sales tax as an alternative to raising county real estate taxes." [1:2.]