

# News Summary and Index

NYTimes MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1976 APR 26 1976

## The Major Events of the Day

### International

On the second anniversary of the overthrow of a long dictatorship, the Portuguese voted for a National Assembly yesterday. The voting was expected to be close. The first, partial returns from conservative rural centers showed substantial gains for the rightist Social Democratic Center and the centrist Popular Democratic Party. The Socialist Party was expected to pick up votes in urban areas and to win by a narrow margin. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Sirens called North and South Vietnamese voters to polling places to elect a joint National Assembly, the divided country's first unified government in 30 years. The Assembly will have no opposition members, the real power remaining with the Politburo of the Workers' Party in Hanoi. [1:7.]

A detailed and candid account of the Vietnam war's final battles by North Vietnam's Chief of Staff says that Hanoi's leaders did not expect their offensive last year to lead to complete victory and that they were surprised by the speed of Saigon's collapse. Gen. Van Tien Dung, the Chief of Staff, said that when hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese troops and civilians fled in panic from Pleiku in the Central Highlands, beginning the rout, he was almost incredulous. Hanoi's Politburo and top generals, he said, had planned only a series of attacks that would set the stage for a general offensive and uprising in 1976 to "completely liberate South Vietnam." The general's report is being serialized by two of Hanoi's official newspapers and apparently is being published to coincide with the first anniversary of the Communists' triumphant entry into Saigon last April 30 and with yesterday's elections in North and South Vietnam for a unified national assembly. [1:5.]

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger met with the heads of state of both Kenya and Tanzania on the first full day of his African tour. In his airport statements on arrival and departure, Mr. Kissinger sought to establish a tone of modest expectations for his tour. He repeated several times that he had gone to Africa to learn the views of its leaders to help him formulate a comprehensive United States policy on Africa. [1:4.]

### National

Monopoly-like control by physicians and

### Medical

"passive" patients who generally do not question doctors' orders or medical costs are pushing health-care costs up at a record speed, the President's Council on Wage and Price Stability said in a report. "The nature and extent of services provided is usually determined by the physician in a transaction in which the patient is often a passive participant," the report said, giving this as one of the possible causes for soaring health costs, which last year totaled \$118.5 billion, 40 percent of it paid for by Federal, state and local governments. The reasons why medical costs are so high will be examined at public hearings to be held around the country by the council this spring. [1:5-7.]

Jimmy Carter, regarded as the front-runner in the Pennsylvania primary tomorrow, was attacked by Senator Henry M. Jackson, Representative Morris K. Udall and their political allies, who hope to defeat him, as being unsympathetic to organized labor and blacks. Mr. Carter continued to express confidence that he would win, but he said that "machine politics" was a powerful factor in Pennsylvania, and that if there was a "very poor voter turnout, I may not come in first." [1:2-3.]

### Metropolitan

The State Department of Environmental Conservation believes that it may cost more than \$20 million to cleanse the upper Hudson River of toxic chemical PCBs, and it plans to ask the General Electric Company, which was found guilty of violating the state's water quality standards, to pay "the entire cost of cleaning up the river it has damaged." [1:1.]

Key officials seeking to restore balance to the city's fiscal affairs believe that despite such improvements as an increase in accounting honesty, New York City's current austerity plan eventually may have to be bolstered by as much as \$500 million in additional financing. They also express increasingly grave concern about the city's basic economy. [1:2-3.]

The Regional Plan Association, a private, nonprofit research and planning agency, said that Times Square and the convention center proposed for the city needed each other. The center needs the mix of theaters, restaurants and hotels in the Times Square area, the association's president said. [4:2:1-2.]

## The Other News

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## Quotation of the Day

"Nguyen Van Thieu was then forced to fight a poor man's war."—Gen. Van Tien Dung of North Vietnam on the American cutbacks in military aid to Saigon. [16:1.]

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