

News Summary

NYTimes SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1977

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International

Psychiatrists continued to negotiate with South Moluccan extremists in the Netherlands who freed 105 schoolchildren and a teacher they had been holding captive with other hostages in the Assen area. The extremists were still holding four teachers in addition to 56 people on a train they stopped Monday in Zuidlaren, 15 miles north of Assen. More than 500 Dutch troops have surrounded the train. [Page 1, Column 3.]

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau of Canada and his wife, Margaret, jointly announced that they had separated and that Mr. Trudeau would have custody of their three sons. They have been married six years. The statement said that Mrs. Trudeau "wishes to leave the marriage and pursue an independent career." [1:6.]

Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, removed from his post in South Korea for challenging President Carter's proposal to withdraw troops there, was appointed chief of staff of the Army's largest command, which is at Fort McPherson in Atlanta. He will have a job "of equivalent responsibility and stature," according to an Army spokesman who said "This is a lateral move." [7:1.]

National

A reduction of \$2.7 billion in President Carter's proposed defense budget was recommended by the House Defense Appropriations subcommittee. The amount represents a long series of small reductions. The recommendation made no provision for the elimination of a major weapons system that the President had proposed. The subcommittee also proposed eliminating the practice of "double-dipping" in which military retirees draw pensions while holding another Government job. [1:6.]

"There is no finer ship in the world," President Carter said after he took a trip in the nuclear submarine Los Angeles off Cape Canaveral, Fla. The Pres-

ident was accompanied by his wife and Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, who was his commanding officer in the Navy. The submarine descended 100 fathoms into the sea. The President briefly took the helm during the three-hour maneuvers. [1:4-5.]

An alleged monopoly in the sale of eyeglasses that may be costing consumers as much as \$400 million in excessive prices is being investigated by a Senate committee, the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department. Hearings held by the Senate Select Committee on Small Business found that the prices Federal agencies pay for glasses are only a fraction of what ordinary customers pay. [1:4-5.]

The country may be "overrun by hordes of lawyers hungry as locusts," Chief Justice Warren E. Burger said, unless new ways are found to settle disputes. "People with problems, like people with pains, want relief and they want it as quickly and as inexpensively as possible," the Chief Justice said. The remarks were made at a conference at the Columbia Law School in New York on the resolution of minor disputes. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

New York City settled for \$1.10 its \$250,000 suit against George H. Willig, the 27-year-old mountain climber from Queens who scaled the 1,350-foot South Tower of the World Trade Center. Mayor Beame accepted a dollar bill and a dime from Mr. Willig at a convivial City Hall news conference. The Mayor said the suit had been filed without his knowledge. [1:2.]

Gordon M. K. Ambach, a 42-year-old education professional, is the new State Education Commissioner in New York. He was chosen by the State Board of Regents to succeed Ewald B. Nyquist, whom the board forced out six months ago. Mr. Ambach was Mr. Nyquist's executive deputy. [1:1.]

Business/Finance

Wall Street remained calm as the Dow Jones industrial average dipped below 900, considered a psychological barrier by many investors. The average declined 9.24 points yesterday to 898.83, its lowest level since January 1976. Analysts noted that the Dow, established in 1896, is at present a misleading barometer of the stock market as a whole. "To tell you the truth," a broker said, "my customers are sort of bored by the stock market and many of them expected the Dow to fall below 900 sooner or later." [25:4-5.]

Citibank's prime rate was raised a quarter of a point to 6¼ percent, the second such increase this month. More than half a dozen other big banks did the same, but more slowly than two weeks ago when almost all of the 20 biggest banks raised their rate within hours of Citibank's announcement. [25:6]

The economy may continue to grow strongly, but at a somewhat slower pace than in the first quarter, the Government indicated. The Commerce Department's composite index of leading indicators rose by only 0.5 percent in April compared with 1.5 percent in March. Economists differed in their interpretations of the latest figures. [25:1.]

General Motors has decided in principle to discontinue allowing its five automobile divisions to put their names on automobile engines, knowledgeable persons within the company said. G.M., thus, hopes to put an end to charges of engine switching which have incurred law suits by buyers who found a Chevrolet engine in their Oldsmobile. The plan, if adopted, would start with G.M.'s 1978 models, it was said. [25:3-4.]

Weekend

shows you a good
time Friday in
The New York Times

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"Young people using marijuana need help and jail does not seem to have been an effective way to help them."—A statement issued by the chancery of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York. [32:5.]

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CORRECTIONS

In an article on the Clean Air Act in The Times on Thursday, it was incorrectly reported that Representative George E. Brown Jr., Democrat of California, was a supporter of an amendment introduced by Representative John B. Breaux, Democrat of Louisiana. Mr. Brown backed another amendment, proposed by Representative Gunn McKay, Democrat of Utah.

In an article in The Times yesterday, Nicholas Smith was incorrectly listed as among the dead in a fire at the Everard Baths. The name should have been Yosef Synovec, 30 years old, of 201 West 70th Street. Mr. Smith, a friend, had identified his body.