

News Summary

NYTimes

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International

American technicians may be sent abroad to help rehabilitate the Soviet-built planes in the Egyptian Air Force. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton Jr. told a House subcommittee that the State Department had informed two companies, General Electric and Lockheed, that it supported such an arrangement from a policy point of view. He said the arrangement would essentially be the sale of services. Some members of the House warned that the decision could increase tensions in the Middle East. [Page A1, Column 1.]

More than 1,200 students were arrested by the South African police as they gathered at their university to commemorate the death Tuesday of Steven Biko, a young black leader, allegedly after a hunger strike while in police detention. The arrests were made without resistance at the University of Fort Hare, one of the universities attended by Mr. Biko. Policemen with attack dogs ordered the students into a fleet of trucks after a crowd of about 1,500—equal to the university's entire enrollment—started the memorial meeting, which was marked by the singing of black nationalist anthems. [A1:2.]

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, on his way to Washington with Israeli proposals for a Middle East settlement, said he doubted the Arabs would accept them but added he hoped they would serve at least as a basis for beginning negotiations. He reiterated that Israel would not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, but would not object to the presence of Palestinians as part of a Jordanian delegation provided that they were not affiliated with the P.L.O. [.]

National

An aggressive defense of his integrity, his career as a Georgia banker and his competence to manage the national budget was made by Bert Lance at a

Senate hearing. He told the Senate Government Affairs Committee, which confirmed his appointment as budget director in January, that it had no grounds to question that decision now. He insisted that he had withheld nothing about his banking career from the Senate. [A1:6.]

Mr. Lance began his rebuttal with a 49-page statement in which he promised to answer to the best of his ability "every charge that has been made and every question that is asked." When he finished his carefully worded statement nearly two hours later, he had given his first detailed reply to a series of charges ranging from a possible criminal misuse of corporate aircraft to allegedly "sloppy" management of two Georgia banks. However, he sidestepped a number of issues, avoided a number of others and attempted in courtroom fashion to focus a strong counter-attack on several narrow points. [A1:4-5.]

An increase in the minimum wage in each of the next three years was approved by the House and in a tense, dramatic roll call, it defeated a proposed subminimum wage for youths by a margin of one vote. The House also defeated a proposal, supported by labor organizations and President Carter, to set the wage permanently at 53 percent of the average wage of manufacturing workers. The wage is now \$2.30 an hour. Under the stepups it will rise to \$2.65 on Jan. 1, to \$2.85 in 1979 and to \$3.05 in 1980. [A1:1-2.]

A nationwide breast cancer screening program would be continued, with some restrictions, under the recommendations of a panel of cancer experts. Since 1973, 280,000 women have been tested for cancer with an X-ray technique called mammography. The experts called for a tightening of the existing guidelines under which the mammography technique is used. [A1:6.]

An additional round-trip New York-London budget fare was approved by

the Civil Aeronautics Board and it became effective immediately. Travelers will be able to take reserved-seat flights at a fare of \$280, just \$24 above the new "standby" fare that was used for the first time yesterday. The \$280 is \$44 above the slightly more austere "standby" fare that the British Laker Airways will offer Sept. 26. [A16:1-2.]

Metropolitan

Governor Carey strongly implied that he would support the Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York City whether or not he is Mario M. Cuomo, whom he had pledged to support in order to get Mr. Cuomo the Liberal Party's support. "Who said I can't support Ed Koch for Mayor?" the Governor asked at a news conference. [B7:1-3.]

Manhattan's Westway highway project received a potentially serious setback. A New York State hearing officer, finding that the highway was likely to worsen air pollution despite assurances that it would not, recommended that a construction permit be denied. [B8:3-5.]

Business/Finance

A consumer rebate of revenues from a new tax on domestically produced crude oil, proposed by President Carter, apparently will not go farther than the Senate Finance Committee, which made clear that it would not be accepted. The committee would like the money used for the development of new energy resources, particularly unconventional forms, such as oil shale. [D1:6.]

A long period of unprofitability will close the S. H. Kress store on Fifth Avenue at 39th Street in four to six weeks. It was opened 42 years ago and is one of the oldest and largest variety stores still in operation in Manhattan. A spokesman for Genesco Inc., Kress's parent company, cited changing Fifth Avenue shopping patterns. [D1:1-2.]

Stock prices continued upward after the threat of an increase by the Federal Reserve in short-term interest rates had been lifted. Rising auto sales apparently also had a beneficial influence on the market. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 2.08 points to 860.79, rising from the 20-month low it almost reached again Tuesday. [D1:1-2.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I am secure and comfortable know-
ing that my conscience is clear and that
the people's verdict will be a fair and
just one."—Bert Lance. [A1:6.]

Business/Finance

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