

News Summary

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International

A high State Department official said that the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel and the Arab nations had agreed informally to aim for December for the start of a new Middle East peace conference in Geneva. The official said he was summing up the views of participants in two weeks of consultations that Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance has had at the United Nations. [Page 1, Column 6.]

The Soviet Union's new Constitution was approved unanimously by about 1,500 members of the Supreme Soviet, or Parliament. The charter balances the rights of citizens with duties to support the state and the goals of "Socialism," and puts particular stress on economic guarantees, but like the three previous Soviet constitutions, it provides no mechanism for a citizen to challenge a law. [3:4-6.]

Choosing an eventual successor to Leonid I. Brezhnev was apparently sidestepped by the Kremlin leadership. It named Vasily K. Kuznetsov, a Foreign Ministry official, to a new post of First Vice President. Mr. Kuznetsov, at 76, is six years older than Mr. Brezhnev, and diplomats agreed that the post would be ceremonial and without any behind-the-scenes power. [3:1-3.]

National

Gov. Marvin Mandel of Maryland and three business friends were sentenced to four years in prison and fines of \$40,000 each. Two other friends of the Governor were also convicted six weeks ago of bribery and mail fraud involving state racetrack manipulation received lesser sentences. The prison terms, from which the six are free on appeal, automatically suspended the powers and the \$25,000-a-year salary of Mr. Mandel. Lieut. Gov. Blair Lee 3d has been Acting Governor since the trial began five months ago. [1:1-2.]

The national jobless rate eased to 6.9 percent last month, the Government reported, but officials saw little long-term improvement in the unemployment picture, particularly for blacks. The rate slipped two-tenths of a percentage point from the August level, and it has been basically unchanged for six months and only half a percentage point lower than a year ago. The Carter Administration is under mounting pressure to increase economic growth and cut the jobless rolls. [1:3.]

The House ethics committee has approved a subpoena for the rent records of the Speaker of the House, Representative Thomas P. O'Neal Jr., to investigate an allegation that his rent had been paid by Tongsun Park, the fugitive Korean lobbyist. The Massachusetts Democrat vigorously denied the allegation, and a committee spokesman declined to comment on the subpoena or the allegation. The first public hearings in the panel's inquiry into alleged Korean influencing of members of Congress is to open Oct. 19. [24:1-2.]

A decision of national impact is near in a long and bitter battle over land and water focused on California's Imperial Valley, a former wasteland. At issue are a 1902 Federal law, a recent court decision and a new Federal regulation that, if enforced, would break up huge farms on land there that has been reclaimed from deserts with irrigation water imported from the Rocky Mountains. [1:2-3.]

Metropolitan

In any effort to desegregate city classrooms under a Federal order, School Chancellor Irving Anker said, he will not place racial distribution of students above their educational needs. The Government has accused New York City's school system of maintaining several thousand illegally segregated classrooms and has ordered school authorities to submit a plan to desegregate them within 45 days. Mr. Anker esti-

mated that less than 5 percent of the classrooms in integrated schools might be segregated. [1:5.]

New Jersey will halt ocean dumping of sewage sludge within four years, state officials said. The sludge dumping has been blamed in part for recent fish kills and the fouling of beaches in New Jersey and on Long Island. New York City, which uses the same dumping site, is also under Federal orders to stop the practice by the end of 1981. New Jersey is expected to use a process called "composting" to change sewage into a soil conditioner. [1:4.]

A Rikers Island escapee held his wife hostage at gunpoint for nearly nine hours in East Harlem before surrendering. Anthony J. Ricco, 23 years old, released his wife, Yolanda, after negotiators, including a childhood friend who is now a police officer, pledged he would not be sent back to Rikers Island, from which he had escaped Sunday. He had been held for murder during a 1975 robbery attempt. [36:3-4.]

An inquiry into organized-crime gambling activities has uncovered a New York City detective in an elite undercover unit who allegedly gave confidential information to bookmakers. One of the bookmakers, the police said, was the brother-in-law of the detective, identified as Irvin Cardona, who was demoted last month. He is the first in the unit—the Organized Crime Control Bureau—known to face possible corruption charges since it was established in 1971 after an inquiry by the Knapp Commission. [27:1-2.]

Business/Finance

The prime loan rate was raised by most commercial banks to 7½ percent—the highest in nearly two years. The banks increased the rate from 7¼ percent in response to rising demand for short-term credit and a widening climb in costs of funds they seek. The higher rate means increased costs for corporations, but does not affect consumer loan and mortgage rates. [29:5-6.]

Stock prices eased in a slow trading session. The Dow Jones industrial index slipped 1.73 points to 840.35, ending the week with a loss of nearly 7 points. [29:2-3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"I spent half my life in public life. Now my whole life is in disarray. I have to start my life anew."—Gov. Marvin Mandel of Maryland, sentenced to four years in Federal prison for mail fraud and racketeering. [24:4.]

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