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PLACE: THEATRE AUDITORIUM, ST. MARY'S U.

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The world this week

by Glenn Walton

While a quiet of sorts descended over Soviet-occupied Afghanistan, there were reports of sporadic guerilla activity that one observer said "could go on forever." In the United Nations a resolution calling for "immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all foreign troops in Afghanistan" was adopted by a large majority. The Security Council had failed, due to the Soviet power of veto, to adopt a similar resolution. Also, a group of major grain exporting countries met in Washington and agreed not to undercut American efforts at organizing a grain embargo of the Soviet Union.

The Iranian hostage situation continued on into its 3rd month with more warnings of war: the U.S., says Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, has not ruled out a naval blockade of the mouth of the Persian Gulf, through which Iranian oil is exported. "If that happens, it would certainly result in war," said Iranian Commerce Minister Reza Sadr. Domestically, ethnic violence was commented on by one of Iran's six grand Ayatollahs, Reza Golpayegani, who said the Islamic revolution is in 'real danger' from Eastern and Western imperialists, international Zionists and Marxist leftists and their sympathizers.

As many as 180,000 steel workers will soon have walked off their jobs in the U.K., in what is being called the worst industrial action in half a decade. The strike, now two weeks old, will be the first major test for the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is not known for her compromising attitude to unions. Thatcher was a member of the government of former Prime Minister Edward Heath, which fell in 1974 as a result of a similar strike. Thatcher believes in a 'hands-off' policy for labour disputes and prefers to let the 'free market' take its course, but an extended strike which would severely cripple the steel-dependent economy of the U.K. may yet force her government to interfere in negotiations between management and labour.

In Canada speculation has mounted that the Olympics, as a result of concern over the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, may be moved from Moscow to any one of a number of former Olympic sites, including Montreal, Mexico City, Munich or Tokyo. In a press conference Prime Minister Clark said Canada would consider a request by the Olympic Committee to be host of the 1980 games. In addition, a number of actions will be taken by the Canadian government to protest the Soviet invasion: grain sales and high technology exports to the U.S.S.R. will be restricted, credit will be stopped, and visits by ministers and officials, as well as cultural and scientific exchanges, will be cancelled.

Aerofot, the Soviet airline, will not be allowed to put on an extra flight during the summer season. A boycott of the Olympics, should they be held in Moscow, however, is not being contemplated.

In election news: Pierre Trudeau will not, after all, take part in the planned television debate between the three national party leaders. Trudeau objected to the participation of TV journalists who he said "seemed to be spending most of their time taking Mr. Clark off the ropes . . . Mr. Clark should be called upon to state his views without reporters deciding what they want to discuss." Other parties saw the former Prime Minister's decision differently, seeing evidence of the Liberal Party's desire to hide Mr. Trudeau from the electorate. Perhaps the most succinct remark of the campaign this week was made on the french language channel

of the CBC: The Liberals, said the commentator, are trying to win the election in Ontario by talking about Mr. Clark, while the Conservatives are trying to win it by talking about Mr. Trudeau.

And finally, the music world lost two prominent figures this week: **Richard Rodgers**, composer of more than a score of Broadway musicals, and perhaps the most successfully prolific writer of catchy melodies in our century, died this week, as did conductor **André Kostalanetz** in Haiti, who popularized (some say trivialized) classical music for a broad audience. The Russian-born musician conducted the New York Philharmonic for several decades, and his recordings were widely popular.

Quote of the week comes from Joe Clark, who seems to be raising political doubletalk (or baffle-gab) to new heights. Asked if he agreed with assertions that the Afghan situation is the worst east-west crisis since the Second World War, Clark responded: "I think it would be difficult to exaggerate the seriousness of the crisis posed by the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and I think there is an obligation upon Canada and other countries who want respect of international practices and who also oppose the extra-territorial ambitions of the Soviet Union to act as strongly as we can in the face of this very serious move on their part into Afghanistan." We're right behind you on that one, Joe!

