



World news at a glance
by James Brennan

Thousands protest death of Black leader in South Africa

South Africa - On Sunday, thousands of Africans attended memorial services for student leader and honorary president of the Black Peoples Convention, Steve Biko, who recently died in police custody. Although the official explanation contended that Biko had died of a seven day hunger strike, international and local skepticism has led Police Minister Kruger to order an inquest. CBS News quoted reliable sources as saying there is 'mounting evidence' that Biko suffered multiple brain and body injuries before he died.

continues to be carried out there in what are called "safe houses". Held on 'temporary' 1972 laws, some people have allegedly been imprisoned for years without trial. An estimated four to eight thousand politicians, union leaders, journalists and communists are presently being held for largely economic considerations. The government apparently fears that investors in the country would rapidly withdraw in a climate of social damage.

Middle East - On his way to the US where important negotiations on a reconvening of the Geneva peace talks are to start this week, Israel's foreign minister Moshe Dayan surprised the world by holding an unscheduled, secret round of talks in Paris and then flying home to confer with Prime Minister Begin. As yet no one knows with whom Dayan spoke, though international speculation has included Egypt's foreign minister Fahmy and Soviet foreign minister Gromyko.

Italy - After a week of parliamentary pressure for his resignation, Italy's Defence Minister Vito Lattanzio has been shifted to the Transport Ministry. Lattanzio came under criticism for allegedly failing to maintain adequate security around Nazi Herbert Kappler, who escaped from a Rome hospital on August 15.

Meanwhile Fahmy, also on his way to the US, has again said that the Geneva talks cannot be resumed without PLO representation and Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 borders. US President Carter has said that he supports Palestinian but not PLO representation.

Ethiopia - There has been another week of heavy fighting in and around Ethiopia's Ogaden desert region, with the Somali-backed Western Somali Liberation Front making significant advances. The Somalis claimed Saturday to have captured the strategically crucial eastern outpost of Jijiga, though Ethiopia's head, Mengistu Haile Mariam, denied this on Sunday. The fact that Ethiopia has just mobilized all adults under the age of 60 however, would indicate that Ethiopia is losing the war.

China - China Saturday successfully carried out an airborne nuclear test, the twenty-second in its history and the first since the death of Mao Tse-tung. The Chinese government, which has not signed the nuclear test ban treaty, announced that its nuclear tests are entirely for the purpose of defence. In no circumstances, they claimed, would China be the first to use nuclear weapons.

Pakistan - Four days after his release on bail for a murder charge, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has been arrested again on charges of misuse of power and rigging last year's elections.

Philippines - Amnesty International last week reported that despite the appearance of a less rigid application of martial law, there are still thousands of political prisoners in the Philippines, and that torture

Military strongman Zia Ul-Haq who is presently running the country, has promised that Bhutto will have a fair trial in a military court and if found innocent will have enough time to participate in this month's general elections. Ul-Haq has warned that campaigning, which kicked off Sunday, must be conducted peacefully and strict Islamic laws will be enforced.

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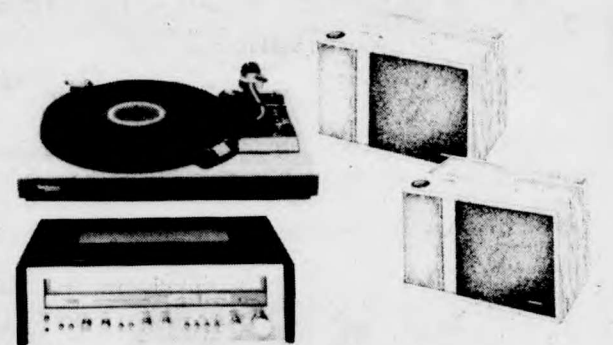
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