

From the wires News from the world and the nation

National coal strike probable

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A coal miners strike next week — which could dim the nation's lights, sharply curb steel production and add hundreds of thousands to the unemployment rolls — appeared certain yesterday, despite union promises of new contract proposals.

United Mine Workers union leaders walked out of contract talks early yesterday and although a union spokesman said "we're busy working on our own proposals," there seemed little chance an agreement could be achieved and a contract ratified before the deadline at midnight Monday.

No further talks were scheduled, but a spokesman said the coal mine operators "fully expect to hear from the guys UMW representatives."

The contract covers 120,000 UMW members in 25 states, who produce about 70 per cent of the country's coal. Experts predicted a lengthy strike would disrupt electric utilities, especially in the southeast where stockpiles are low.

Guy Farmer, general counsel of the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, said the operators gave the UMW "an offer that in my opinion has not been exceeded in any negotiations in any major industry in total scope."

But UMW President Arnold Miller responded by leading his officials out of the negotiating session and declaring, "With this contract proposal they've declared a strike in the coal fields."

"There's not sufficient time for ratification and the membership will not ratify what they have given us," Miller added.

The UMW's current contract with the BCOA expires at midnight Monday and the union traditionally does not work without a contract. Even with a settlement, the union's

ratification procedures would take an estimated week to 10 days.

The union's "no contract, no work" rule could be relaxed under extraordinary circumstances, or President Ford could order an 80-day "cooling off" period under the Taft-Hartley law, a procedure which has met little success in coal walkouts in the past.

Israel rejects PLO recognition

By United Press International
Israel yesterday rejected the Arab summit's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as sole representative of the Palestinian people. It warned Arab leaders it was a dangerous illusion to think military force would solve the Middle East crisis.

The Israeli warning was delivered even as Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger flew to Cairo to see if he could repair earlier peace efforts damaged by the Arab summit decisions in Morocco.

It came after Israeli helicopter-borne troops crossed five miles into Lebanon, and blew up a house in the village of Majdal Zoun the military command said was used by Arab guerrillas. They returned with two suspected guerrilla collaborators—the village mayor and one of his sons.

In a policy speech to the Knesset parliament designed as a response to the summit decisions, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel has enlarged its armed forces and embarked on a big weapons procurement program.

"The government of Israel categorically rejects the conclusions of the Rabat conference, which are designed to disrupt any progress towards peace, to encourage the terrorist elements and to foil any step which might lead to peaceful

coexistence with Israel," Rabin said.

"The government of Israel will not negotiate with terrorist organizations whose avowed policy is to strive for Israel's destruction and whose method is terrorist violence."

"We warn the Arab leaders against making the mistake of thinking that threats or even the active employment of the weapon of violence or of military force will lead to a political solution. This is a dangerous illusion."

Kissinger starts war on hunger

ROME (UPI) — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger declared war yesterday on world hunger and starvation with a five-point blueprint for global action.

He said a concrete program could end hunger within a generation. He called on oil-rich nations to help pay for it.

Keynoting the United Nations World Food Conference which had been called at his urging, Kissinger told more than 1,000 delegates from 100 countries including both China and the Soviet Union they must all "act together to regain control over our shared destiny."

Countries able to do so should build up food reserves that other countries could draw on in case of emergency, Kissinger said. Distribution of the stockpiled food should be supervised by an international agency, he said.

U.N. Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim opened the 10-day conference at the modernistic Palace of Congresses on the outskirts of Rome. Kissinger gave the keynote address.

Kissinger said the world "may have the technical capacity to free mankind from hunger" but must gear this to globally-planned storage and distribution.

He said that immediately after the conference the United States would convene a group of major exporters to form a program for increasing food production.

The secretary of state urged help from the oil producing countries, whom he partly blames for the current food crisis because they increased oil prices several times over, thus forcing up the price of everything else.

The secretary of state said the oil producers have "a special responsibility" to help finance the war on hunger.

The American secretary also indicated without naming it that the Soviet Union should join the rest of the world in building food reserves.

Kissinger said the long-term picture was even more bleak than the short-range problem. He said the population explosion was closely tied to the food crisis.

"Hundreds of millions of people do not eat enough for decent and productive lives," Kissinger said. "In many parts of the world 30 to 50 per cent of the children die before the age of five, many of them from malnutrition."

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