

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

War goes better with Coke

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, a fancier of the finest French wines, has decided his troops C-rations would go better with Coke.

"You can't expect a soldier to fight on a Coke-less stomach," said one State Department official.

A second, acknowledging that \$60,000 worth of Coca-Cola probably will be on its way to the war-stricken African country, commented: "They have to drink something and the water isn't too good."

Lifting of Cuban embargo eyed

WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter told two senators Tuesday he would not block efforts to partially lift an embargo on U.S. trade with Cuba to allow Havana to import food and medicine.

Sens. George McGovern and James Abourezk, both South Dakota Democrats, met with the President in the Oval Office after a recent trip to Havana.

McGovern said legislation to lift the 16-year embargo as it applies to food and medicine stands a "50-50 chance."

Congress hears energy policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter asked Congress Wednesday night to approve a national energy policy that raises prices and taxes for energy and automobiles to encourage conservation of vanishing resources.

Carter told the senators and congressmen, already divided by allegiance to different regions and interests, that he has learned why a comprehensive energy policy has not already been developed. "It is a thankless job," Carter said, "but it is our job, and I believe we have a fair, well-balanced and effective plan to present to you."

He urged enactment of legislation that would tax gas-guzzling autos anywhere from \$449 for 1978 low-mileage models up to \$2,488 for 1985.

And he asked the lawmakers to approve a plan that would add

about 7 cents a gallon to the cost of gasoline, fuel oil and other petroleum products by 1980 through a series of taxes on crude oil.

Carter's program threatened further gasoline taxes starting at 5 cents a gallon in 1979 and rising as high as 50 cents a gallon if U.S. gasoline consumption is not held down.

U.S. gasoline prices are now about 60 cents a gallon for regular, including 4 cents of federal tax. By comparison, the price in Great Britain is around \$1.60 a gallon.

Carter emphasized fairness was one of his chief aims and that "the energy industry should not reap large unearned profits" from the nation's energy crisis.

"None of our people must make an unfair sacrifice. None should reap an unfair benefit," Carter

said.

He urged "individual accounting be required from energy companies for production, refining, distribution and marketing — separately for domestic and foreign operations.

"Strict enforcement of the antitrust laws can be based on this data, and may prevent the need for divestiture," Carter said, referring to proposals to break up the major energy companies.

Carter said his program also would seek to soften its own impact on particular segments of the public.

For example, he proposed using part of the Highway Trust Fund to compensate states for the revenues they will lose as declining gasoline consumption cuts into state gasoline tax income.

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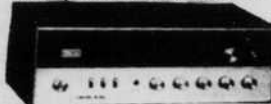
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