

# Americans continue oil reserve drain

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States consumed 63 percent more natural gas and 100 percent more oil than it found last year and continued to draw down its long-dwindling reserves, two petroleum trade organizations reported Sunday.

The American Institute said the industry added almost 1.4 billion barrels of crude oil to its roster of "proved reserves" in 1977, but at the same time almost 2.9 billion barrels to meet the nation's demands, for a net

decrease of 1.5 billion barrels.

As a result, the proved reserves dropped from about 30.9 billion barrels at the end of 1976 to some 29.5 billion barrels at the end of last year.

New field discoveries have run within a relatively narrow range between about 100 million and 300 million barrels a year for the last two decades, with the major exception of the huge 9.8 billion barrel discovery in

Northern Alaska in 1968. The 1977 new field discoveries were reported at about 160 million barrels.

Extensions of known oil fields by further drilling have shown a steady decrease in results since 1951, leveling off for the past few years close to the 1977 level of 365 million barrels.

And expert "revision" of previous reserve estimates, which generally provide larger

estimates than those originally offered, peaked out around 1970 and have become more conservative. But the 1977 revisions, adding up to a net increase of almost 770 million barrels, were still the largest category of "new" oil reserves.

In natural gas, the American Gas Association (AGA) accentuated the positive, reporting that 11.9 trillion cubic feet of gas was added to reserves in 1977, "the highest since 1968."

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Despite rains, new fires burn

Rain reached parts of the fiery Southern woodlands Sunday, helping the fight against rampaging wildfires, but new blazes broke out in at least three states, adding to the thousands of acres and millions of dollars that are going up in smoke each day.

"The fire situation in the Southeast has improved considerably, although there is still enough fire danger in most places to require continued caution," said Jim Sorenson, a spokesman for the regional office of the U.S. Forest Service in Atlanta.

### 800 Filipinos arrested

MANILA, Philippines — Police broke up a peaceful march Sunday protesting the "death of freedom and democracy" and arrested all 800 demonstrators, packing and hauling them off to nearby military camps.

The demonstrators carried two empty coffins they said contained the "remains of freedom and democracy" after Friday's interim National Assembly elections, the first in the Philippines since President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

### Ultimatum sent on Moro

ROME — Italian newspapers claimed Sunday that the Red Brigades have sent an ultimatum and possible conditions for the release of kidnapped former Premier Aldo Moro.

The reports, which gave no details of the message, were not confirmed by police. If true, however, it may represent the first time specific demands have been laid down for Moro's freedom.

### Troops blast Thai village

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — About 300 Cambodian soldiers and Thai Communist rebels blasted a Thai border village with rifle fire and grenades Sunday, killing 15 persons and wounding 10, border police said.

They said one Cambodian soldier was killed in the pre-dawn attack on Kruat village, 250 miles northeast of Bangkok in Buriran province.

The attackers also burned about 50 houses and stores, border police said, and half of the 400 villagers fled. Nine of the dead were reported to be border policemen. Police said they had no further details on the fighting.

It appeared to be one of the most serious incidents in recent months in the border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand, which began shortly after Communist forces seized control on the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh in 1975.

About 200 villagers from Buriran province were abducted last month by Cambodian troops. Thais who have escaped after being kidnapped claim they were taken to camps inside Cambodia



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## Somalian troops quash coup try

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Young officers influenced by "new imperialists" tried to overthrow the government of Somali Pres. Mohammed Siad Barre Sunday but were quickly crushed by loyal troops, Siad Barre announced.

The coup attempt came one month after Somalia's defeat in the Ogaden war against Ethiopian troops backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The Somalis recently have used the term "new imperialists" to describe the Cubans and Russians.

Diplomatic observers had also predicted, however, that Somali troops embittered by the retreat might strike out at Siad Barre.

Western diplomatic sources contacted by telephone in Mogadishu, capital of the East African nation, said gunfire broke out about 8:15 a.m. at the village of Afgoy, eight miles south of Mogadishu, and continued for about two hours. The sources said

small arms fire and explosions were heard in the capital.

Siad Barre later announced on official radio, monitored here, that "a few" rebel officers and enlisted men "were immediately faced by the armed forces who put their rebellion down." He said the insurgents were captured and would "be tried according to Somali law."

"We have overcome them. All is well, all is normal," he said.

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