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May 5, 1975

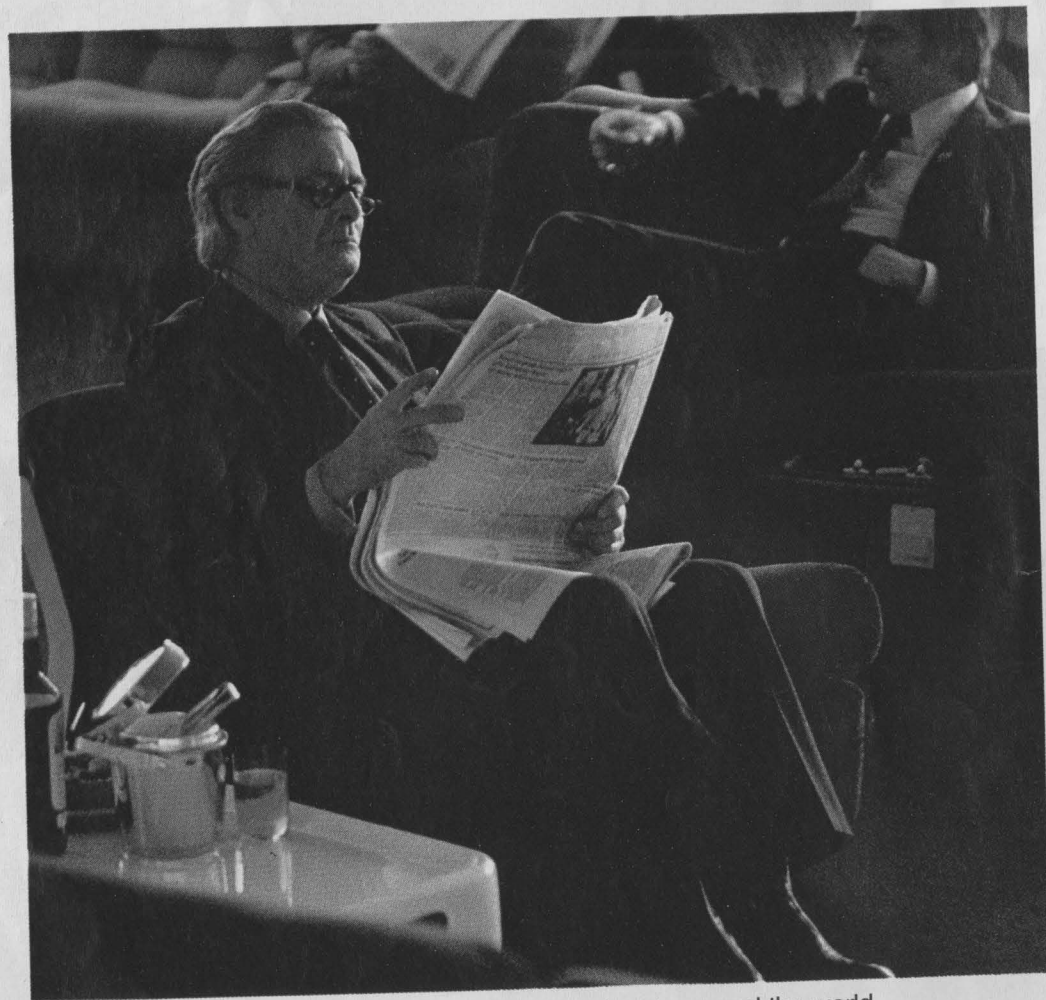
The Last Days

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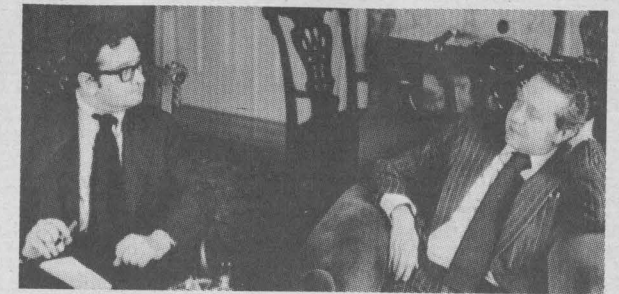
Top of the Week

Indochina: The Last Days Page 6

The war in Indochina "is finished as far as America is concerned," said U.S. President Gerald Ford last week. But the ending was not quite as tidy as that, and some final, anguished scenes remained to be played out. In Saigon, a tearful South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu finally stepped down, lashing out bitterly at the U.S. for its alleged failure to deliver on its promises to the Saigon government. Later Thieu left the country, leaving behind his successor, Vice President Tran Van Huong, and a clutch of rival politicians who continued to squabble over what to do even as Communist forces tightened their iron



ring around the capital. Meanwhile, an evacuation airlift flew thousands of Americans, their South Vietnamese dependents and other refugees out of the country, as a huge U.S. armada stood offshore, poised for a final evacuation effort that could still turn ugly. In Saigon, correspondents **Loren Jenkins** and **Nicholas C. Proffitt** reported on South Vietnam's final hours, while other correspondents covered the mass evacuation of Vietnamese to Guam, the Philippines and California. From their files, a team of writers under the direction of Foreign Editor **Edward Klein** tells the story of the agony of Vietnam and Cambodia for the cover report. Accompanying the stories is an eight-page pictorial review of the long, costly tragedy that engulfed Indochina in fire and blood and left the American nation deeply wounded and divided. In a companion piece, Contributing Editor **Donald Horne** provides an Australian view on the meaning of the Indochina collapse. (Cover photo by Nik Wheeler—Sipa-Liaison).



Soares (right) and Behr: A historic election

A Triumph for Portugal's Moderates Page 36

For the first time in 49 years, the Portuguese people went to the polls. And in a stunning setback to the country's leftist military rulers, they gave more than 60 per cent of their vote to moderates led by Socialist Mario Soares. **Edward Behr** and **Miguel Acoca** report on the vote and Behr interviews a key junta leader, Adm. António Coutinho.

A Sea Change in Manila Page 32

For decades, the U.S. and the Philippines have had a special relationship. But last week, in the wake of the collapse of Cambodia and South Vietnam, President Ferdinand Marcos threatened to reconsider those ties. Asian Regional Editor **Richard M. Smith** reports.

The Anonymous Empire Page 46

It is a huge multinational trading firm with branches scattered around the world and it shuns both politics and publicity in order to keep such highly diverse customers as the Republic of South Africa and the People's Republic of China. With reporting from **John Herbert** in Copenhagen, **Kenneth Labich** profiles Denmark's little-known—and immensely successful—East Asiatic Co., Ltd.



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New Products and Processes

Strike Up a Lamp

Piezoelectricity is that electric current produced by pressure on certain crystals. The phenomenon was discovered in 1880 by Pierre Curie and his brother Jacques and since then has found use in such things as safety igniters for stoves. There has even been some experimentation with piezoelectric ceramics in the production of flat-screen television. But the General Electric Co. in Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, has now put piezoelectricity to its first photographic use with its FlipFlash lighting array. Unlike flashcubes, which are somewhat bulky and can produce only four flashes each, the FlipFlash is a thin pack that easily fits into a pocket and gets eight flashes to an array. The FlipFlash cannot be used with regular cameras. But Eastman Kodak will soon be marketing two new lines of cameras, the Trimlite Instamatic and the Tele-Instamatic, that incorporate piezoelectric strikers.

Range Finder

RCA Corp.'s Government Communications and Automated Systems Division is developing a range-finding device that uses a laser to determine distance. Called the AN/GVS-5, this lightweight, binocular-like unit (photo) completely eliminates human error in range finding. When an object is sighted and focused on, its range is accurately found by activating the laser. The reflected energy from the target being sighted is taken in by the unit's receiver system. To determine range, the system calculates the time it took for the laser's light beam to make the round trip to the object being sighted. This range, expressed in meters, is then displayed within the sighting eyepiece. The AN/GVS-5 is being developed for military use, but its basic design and function make it easily applicable to surveying and sporting uses.

Book Pack

A Finnish company, Pussituote Oy, has come up with a new system for packaging books or records for shipment by mail. Called Pandaroll-Pak, the system features a long tubular envelope into which the books are placed. They are then rolled up in the envelope with cardboard used as a stiffener between each rolling for added protection. Because of the tubular nature of the envelope, which is easily cut to desired length, only as much packaging material as is needed for each order size is used. The Pandaroll-Pak thus alleviates the need for a variety of package sizes. As a result, the paper savings over conventional systems are considerable (up to 25 per cent). According to the manufacturer, the Pandaroll-Pak system, in a semiautomatic mode, can form up to 3,600 packages an hour, as compared with 700 packages an hour with current packaging systems.

Plug-In Signs

A stunningly visual lighting-display system that can be assembled in minutes is now being manufactured by SEFLI of Morangis, France, and distributed by Intergros of Paris. Called Self-Lite, this Swedish-designed invention eliminates the need for bulky wires in electrical advertising-display panels. The secret of the system is the panel itself,

which is composed of layers of electrically conductive material. When spear-mounted lights are pushed into the panel they form a complete lighting circuit. Since the Self-Lite system's lights have different spear lengths, making an exciting lighting display becomes as easy as pushing pins. The Self-Lite system is expected to find wide use in window, theater marquee and other forms of display lighting.

Coated Screws

Brookes (Oldbury), Ltd., and British Industrial Plastics, Ltd., of Warrley, England, have devised a method of extending the life of the injection machine and extruder screws that are at the heart of modern plastic-making machinery. Called BruX 900 Bimetallic Screws, they are made by a metallurgical treatment in which the screw surface is coated at high temperature and velocity in a controlled atmosphere with a specifically formulated nickel/chrome/boron alloy. The depositing of this alloy on the extruder-screw metal can be very accurately controlled with the Brookes and British Industrial method, so that after treatment the screws can still be machined to their proper tolerances. BruX 900 Bimetallic Screws come in sizes ranging from 25 mm. to 90 mm. in diameter and have up to six times greater life than untreated screws.

—STEPHEN KINDEL



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