WORLD AND NATION

Military coup in Thailand successful

Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — A group of military officers seized control of official Radio Thailand today and announced they had seized power "to correct the seriously deteriorating situation of the economy."

Earlier reports had said some air force officers had attempted a coup but encountered opposition from army units.

But the broadcast over Radio Thailand said military men led by a former armed force supreme commander, Gen. Serm Nanakorn, had overthrown the elected government of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who was on an official visit to Indonesia.

"There is no change of the commanders of the police and the military," the broadcast said. "Any military movements must be under the orders of the chief of the revolutionary group."

Four tanks and soldiers from an armored cavalry division took up positions around Government House, and blocked off all streets leading to the compound.

Tanks also were seen at the public information department and around the royal palace.

Both of Thailand's most powerful figures were abroad.

Reader's knowledge of recent news tested

Associated Press

How much do you remember about the stories that have been in the news recently? If you score fewer than five correct answers, you have been spending too much time on the crossword. If you get eight or more right, you rate an "A."

1. President Reagan began what White House officials called "the fall offensive" with a campaign-style Labor Day speech about his drive for tax reform, delivered in: (a) Independence, Mo.; (b) Washington, D.C.; (c) Santa Barbara, Calif.

2. A team of American and French researchers reported they'd found the hulk of the luxury liner Titanic south of Newfoundland — the liner had sunk in: (a) 1914; (b) 1912; (c) 1917.

3. An appeals court overturned the nation's first ruling on "comparable worth" — equal pay for different jobs judged to be of equal value — in the state where its implementation would have cost $1 billion: (a) Illinois; (b) New Hampshire; (c) Washington.

4. The State Department told Congress that, in the event of Soviet military action in the Persian Gulf or threats to oil supplies there, U.S. forces could now count on the use of bases, access to which had previously been withheld, in: (a) Egypt; (b) Jordan; (c) Saudi Arabia.

5. The Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration said that last year U.S. oil reserves had: (a) risen for the first time since 1970; (b) risen for the fourth straight year; (c) fallen, as in every year this decade.

6. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced a realignment of her cabinet, the most extensive shuffle of her six years in office, but leaving in office as her foreign secretary: (a) Sir Geoffrey Howe; (b) Jeffrey Archer; (c) Leon Brittan.

7. Laws mandating the use of seatbelts and repealing the state's 24-year-old "blue law" went into effect in: (a) Pennsylvania; (b) Texas; (c) California.

8. The Khmer Rouge rebel movement announced that its leader, Pol Pot, was retiring from command of the organization he'd headed, in: (a) Thailand; (b) Cambodia; (c) Laos.

9. The broadcasting company announced that, looking for ways to pay for the costly takeover fight it had had to wage earlier this year, it would offer early retirement to 2,000 employees, or about 7 percent of its workforce — that company is: (a) ABC; (b) NBC; (c) CBS Inc.

10. A 24-hour telephone information service, (202) 653 0258, opened offering a recorded message: (a) from the Environmental Protection Agency, warning of areas of high air pollution; (b) from financial centers around the world, with latest exchange rates; (c) from the Naval Observatory, with facts about Halley's comet.

ANSWERS: 1.a 2.b 3.c 4.c 5.a 6.a 7.b 8.b 9.c 10.c.

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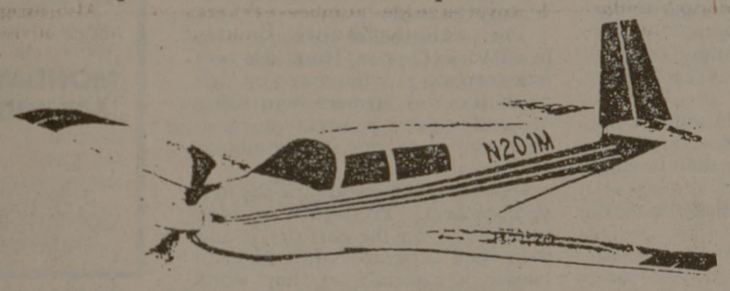

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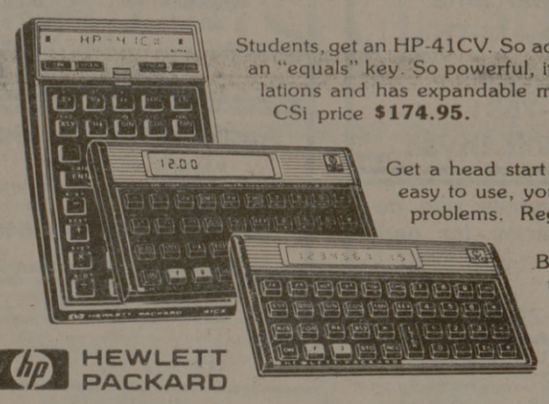

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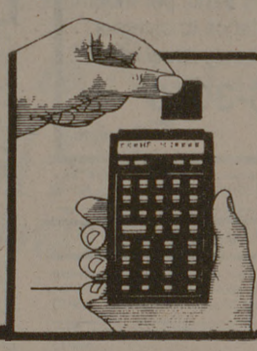

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