World

Nkomo threatens fighting in Rhodesia — Rhodesian black guerrilla leader Joshua Nkomo has refused to undertake negotiations with prime minister Ian Smith. Nkomo says he is “ready to fight.” The announcement came one day after Smith imposed a form of martial law in Rhodesia. A conference will not solve the problem, according to Nkomo.

A State Department spokesman dismissed Nkomo’s statement as “plain rhetoric,” but the US government is clearly not optimistic about the immediate future of the Rhodesian political situation.

Nation

Asbestos causes more cancer than previously thought — A recent report by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare says that some 67,000 Americans per year are diagnosed to have lung, intestinal, or other types of cancer due to exposure to asbestos where they work. This is about 17 percent of all American cancer patients each year, according to the report. HEW Secretary Califano said that the study will be given to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration this week, presumably for further research.

Local

Teachers’ strike talks at a relative standstill — According to reports from the Boston Teacher’s Union and the Boston School Committee, both sides are still at the negotiation tables, but little or no progress is being made. The union will vote on Wednesday concerning a possible strike. Boston Teacher’s Union President Henry Robinson said that there is “no progress to report,” but that both sides have agreed to work around the clock to try to reach a settlement.

Dukakis complains about excessive state aid to Boston — Governor Michael Dukakis has expressed concern over the high tax burden borne by Bostonians and how it might affect state aid to the city in the future. He said that Mayor White must take on the responsibility of lowering the property tax, and warned that the state legislature “will not listen to cries for state aid” to Boston if White does not do so this year.

GASP is suing the MBTA on smoking violations — The Group Against Smoker’s Pollution (GASP) has announced that it is seeking $1,000 in civil damages from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. The group cited the fact that the MBTA simply refuses to enforce its own smoking rules. There will be a hearing on the matter later this month.

— By Richard Duffy

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