Soviets shot down Korean jet, Shultz says — A Soviet MiG-23 fighter plane fired a missile at a Korean Air Lines 747 over the Sea of Japan Wednesday night, apparently destroying the aircraft and killing all 269 people aboard it, U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz said yesterday. Among the passengers on Flight 007 from New York City to Anchorage, Alaska, to Seoul, S. Korea, were 30 Americans including Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.), chairman of the conservative John Birch Society. Shultz termed the attack “appalling.” The Soviet Union made no response to Shultz’s remarks yesterday, and a report of the incident from the Soviet news agency Tass said only that fighter planes had unsuccessfully attempted to assist the passenger jet after it entered Soviet airspace.

Lebanese army moves to purge Beirut of Moslem militias — The Lebanese army used tanks and infantry this week in an attempt to gain control of Beirut and break the strongholds of Moslem militias in the city. Government radio reported yesterday that the army had retaken most of the western part of the city, and officials of both Lebanon and the United States expressed optimism that the army had been successful in gaining important military positions, establishing its authority and demoralizing the opposition militias. American Marines, stationed in Beirut as part of a multinational peacekeeping force, were not involved in the fighting, US officials said. Two Marines were killed and 11 wounded in shelling by Druze militia Monday.

Nation
Slowdown of recovery cheers economists — The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for July rose three-tenths of one percent, the smallest rise in 11 months, according to the Department of Commerce which reported Tuesday. The small gain "is an early indication that the economic rebound of the second quarter will taper to a more sustainable pace," said Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldridge. The news raised hopes among investors that the Federal Reserve would lower interest rates.

Local
New Bedford judge censors interview — Superior Court Judge Gerald F. O’Neill Jr. ordered The (New Bedford) Standard-Times not to publish an interview with Victor M. Raposo, one of the defendants in an alleged gang rape last March. O’Neill forbid any publicity which would “seriously impair the rights of all the defendants to a fair trial.” Raposo and five other men are charged with raping a woman for two hours on the pool table of a New Bedford bar. The Standard-Times will appeal O’Neill’s ruling as a violation the First Amendment.

Mother comes home — James A. M. Whistler’s most famous painting, “Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter’s Mother,” arrived at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts Wednesday as part of an exhibit of 19th-century American paintings. A native of Lowell, Mass., Whistler painted the portrait in England. It has been hung in the Louvre in Paris since 1891, and was last shown in America in 1965.

Weather
A perfect day for a picnic — Sunshine and clear skies will greet the freshmen today, with a high temperature near 85 degrees. More of the same tomorrow, but warmer still, with a high temperature near 90 degrees.

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