

Guerrillas drop demand for ransom

SANTO DOMINGO. (UPI) — Guerrilla leader Radhames Mendez Vargas, shouting from a window "it's time to end this business," yesterday dropped his demand for a \$1 million ransom for seven hostages and offered to trim the list of political prisoners he wanted exchanged.

"As revolutionaries we respect the human being, and there is no threat at present against the physical integrity of the hostages," he said.

The ransom concessions were the first ones by the pro-Castro Jan. 12 National Liberation Movement since it occupied the consulate last Friday and asked for release of three-dozen political prisoners and \$1 million.

The group set four different deadlines for executing the hostages — including American diplomat Barbara Hutchison — at two-hour intervals but let each pass.

The government maintained silence on the concessions. President Joaquin Balaguer has offered the guerrillas, believed to number only six, nothing more than safe conducts for leaving Santo Domingo in return for releasing the captives unharmed.

Among the hostages are Hutchison, U.S. embassy public affairs officer; Venezuelan consul Jesus Gregorio and vice consul Waldemar Alvarado; Spanish priest Santiago Fuentes, and three Dominican employees of the consulate.

Mendez Vargas suddenly shouted his retraction of the ransom demand in a hoarse monologue shortly before noon using a makeshift megaphone apparently fashioned from milk cartons.

"The government is drawing this affair out to try to wear us down," he yelled. "Well, it just won't work! Let there be an end soon!"

Mendez Vargas originally demanded freedom for 37 convicted extremists, but a submitted list had only 33 names. Other guerrillas in the consulate have spoken of 35 and 38 comrades.

"Attention, journalist!" he cried to newsmen a half-block away at the police cordon. "Here goes an important communique:

"In response to public opinion, newspaper editorials and requests from members of families of the hostages asking mediation to resolve this conflict, and whose requests have fallen on deaf ears of the government, the Jan. 12 Liberation Movement has decided to desist in some demands."

He said the guerrillas were willing to talk with the government about "a possible reduction of the list" of prisoners to be released as well as dropping the demand for payment of \$1 million.

Mendez Vargas said Venezuelan vice consul Waldemar Alvarado was very ill and "worsening by the minute." He did not say what ailed the diplomat.

Vargas said the situation in the consulate was "insufferable" and that there had to be an attempt to reach a solution soon "or what happens will not be our responsibility but that of the government."

U.S. Ambassador Robert Hurwitch and his Spanish and Venezuelan counterparts asked the government earlier to allow a doctor to enter the captured building. The doctor was to treat Alvarado and a guerilla suffering from a bullet wound, apparently accidental, in the leg.

Archbishop Hugo Eduardo Polanco Brito, presumably at the request of the government withdrew as the food-supplying mediator Tuesday, leaving the guerrillas and hostages without food and water for 36 hours.

Charity weekend successful Greeks raise \$2,470

By PAMELA REASNER
Collegian Staff Writer

Two fraternity and sorority sponsored campaigns raised almost \$2,500 for charity last weekend.

The "rock for life" project sponsored by Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority raised \$2,220 for the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation.

Fraternity and sorority members collected money in cans while two people rocked in a giant rocking chair across from the Corner Room Restaurant. The rocking lasted 50 hours.

Chairman Ken Rawley said the project ran "extraordinarily smoothly" and the fraternity was considering doing the same thing or a similar project next year.

Rawley said fraternity members were pleased with the generosity of businesses, students and townspeople.

"We didn't plan on much money from businesses, but in two days we collected almost \$300," Rawley said.

Sigma Chi fraternity's Derby Days netted \$250 for the Wallace Village for Children, a rehabilitation center in Colorado for pre-teenage children with minimal brain dysfunction.

Vella said Sigma Chi plans to hold Derby Days next year to benefit the Wallace Village.

He said Derby Days was not as successful this year as had been hoped because the car wash and some Sunday afternoon games were rained out and because of some organizational problems.

Vella said the Derby

Darling contest was the most profitable event of the weekend. Blythe Steele from Delta Delta Delta sorority won the contest.

"We plan to look at the whole Derby Day system and compare it to other systems in the country," Vella said. "Next year it will be better with more participation. The first year is always harder."

Vella said Sigma Chi's national Wallace Village fund is now \$98,000.

Alpha Gamma Delta sorority won the trophy for the most derbies collected and most points won at the Sunday games.

Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority won the spirit award for enthusiastic participation.

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