

DOONESBURY



Pro-Palestinian guerrillas hanged

DAMASCUS, Syria (UPI)—Syria hanged three pro-Palestinian guerrillas at dawn yesterday outside the hotel they raided just 24 hours earlier. Hundreds of cheering Damascus residents gathered in the streets to view their bodies.

The bodies dangled from the gallows opposite the hotel until midmorning to show Syria's swift action against terrorism. Palestinians said they feared the executions may signify a crackdown on the guerrilla groups.

Damascus Radio said the three were charged with "crimes against the security and integrity of our people" for invading the luxury Semiramis hotel Sunday and taking 90 hostages in a bloody bid to force the release of 33 jailed terrorists.

Syrian troops stormed the building and killed the group's leader in a four-hour battle in which four of the hostages died and 34 were injured, including four Americans.

The three captured went on Syrian television Sunday night and said they were members of Al Fatah—the largest guerrilla group under the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a morning broadcast yesterday, President Hafez Assad, who personally approved the death sentences, denounced the "behavior of some Palestine Liberation Organization leaders whose main concern is to attack Syria."

The guerrillas were hanged at dawn—just 24 hours after they staged their attack.

Hundreds of Damascus residents, shouting slogans praising Assad's quick action, condemned Iraq for alleged involvement in the raid and demanded punishment for Al Fatah leaders.

Other chanting demonstrators roamed through the city in groups demanding the execution of the prisoners; the guerrillas wanted released, witnesses said.

In Beirut, a PLO spokesman in Beirut denied "flatly any connection" with the guerrilla attack and Palestinian sources said they believed guerrilla renegade Abu Nidal, head of the breakaway Fatah faction based in Baghdad, was responsible.

"We think Abu Nidal, in his hatred for both us and the Syrians, did this, but we are still worried the Syrians may try using it as a pretext for cracking down on Fatah in Syria or launching terrorist attacks in Lebanon," a PLO official said.

In their television appearance, the guerrillas, all bearing facial wounds, said they had received their training in Iraq.

"We had specific instructions to kill the hostages and blow up the hotel if our demands were not met," one of the guerrillas said.

Firm tied to fund misuse

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A federal judge has temporarily frozen the assets of an insurance conglomerate and four principal officers who allegedly diverted more than \$3 million from premiums paid by the Teamsters and other unions, it was announced yesterday.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said Judge Charles Richey scheduled a hearing today in U.S. District Court in Washington. Judge Gerhard Gesell issued a temporary restraining order Friday.

The SEC asked the court to appoint a receiver to assure the integrity of stockholders' assets in one of the defendant corporations, National American Life Insurance Co. of Louisiana.

The SEC also named NALICO's parent company National Pacific Corp., Great Pacific Corp., Family Providers Life

Insurance Co. and Pacific Southwest Insurance Agency Inc.

The SEC said defendants Joseph Hauser, Melvin Wyman, John Boden and George Herrara misappropriated more than \$1 million from the insurance premiums paid by the unions between January and June alone.

Other alleged diversions amounted to \$880,000 on one occasion and about \$1.2 million on another, the SEC said.

The SEC said the insurance premiums were paid by the Teamsters' Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Health and Welfare Fund. The SEC said other alleged diversions involved insurance premiums paid on behalf of Laborers' Union chapters in Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana and Massachusetts.

The Teamsters filed suit in U.S. District Court Aug. 4 in connection with the alleged looting of premium payments.

Carter says poverty level caused by Republicans

By UPI

Jimmy Carter blamed Republicans for a record increase in poverty yesterday, while President Ford promised to spend the first 100 days of his next term rallying Americans to battle crime.

A newly released New York Times-CBS News poll showed Ford adding some support since Labor Day in his struggle to catch up with Carter, and said more voters thought the President won last Thursday's debate on domestic topics.

Carter, possibly reflecting the view that he scored points on unemployment in the debate, returned to that subject yesterday and used a new Census Bureau report on poverty to fuel his campaign speeches.

Comparing his own economic policies to John Kennedy's and Lyndon Johnson's, the Democratic presidential candidate told a regional labor conference in Portland, Ore., 26 million Americans "cannot earn adequate income" under the administrations of Ford and Richard Nixon.

He credited Democrats with cutting nearly in half the percentage of Americans living below the poverty line before Nixon took office.

"Mr. Nixon and Mr. Ford have made these people

poorer in the same way as Mr. Hoover in the 1930's—by denying them the chance to work," Carter said.

He called Ford "a president who sees numbers instead of people when he thinks of unemployment and inflation," and said Republicans "have become the party not of work, but of welfare."

The census report said 2.5 million more Americans fell below the poverty line in 1975—the largest jump in one year since the government began keeping income records in 1959.

Ford, exuding confidence his campaign is clicking now, wound up a three-day political trip across the South yesterday by pledging if elected to begin a 100-day crusade to rally Americans behind federal anti-crime legislation.

"It is time to give the streets back to law-abiding citizens and to put the criminals behind bars," he told a Miami conference of the national police chiefs association.

"Too many politicians are underestimating the public's concern about crime," Ford said, blaming Congress for failing to pass administration legislation.

"I serve notice today that a top priority of the first 100 days beginning with inauguration day for the Ford

Carter to fire aide

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Jimmy Carter's hispanic adviser, Alex Aguiar, will be fired because of a poor Latino turnout Sunday during the Democratic presidential nominee's visit to Southern California, campaign officials said yesterday.

Rick Hernandez, a Mexican-American from Houston, will be moved up in the organization to replace Aguiar, a native of Ecuador who will return to his old job as a Chicago bank executive.

The announcement is expected to be made tomorrow at a meeting of Carter's Hispanic Advisory Board.

Campaign officials also said Franklin Delano Lopez, a Puerto Rican who has been working as a nine-state area field coordinator, will be

moved into the No. 2 slot in the hispanic affairs office as field coordinator.

The campaign officials, while confirming that Hernandez and Lopez would be taking over, did not discuss Aguiar. Sources close to the campaign however said Aguiar had been axed and the poor showing in California was the reason.

With Carter hoping for a big voter turnout among minority groups on election day, the poor turnout at a Santa Ana, Calif., Mexican independence parade and other Orange County appearances was seen as indicative of the poor planning in his national campaign office which has resulted in Republicans taking the initiative away in the Latin community.

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**POLITICAL MACHINE**  
By Mike Shenk

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ACROSS  
1 Bit of paper  
6 A crooked politician will take one  
11 Acute  
12 Presidential candidate  
13 House number, in roulette  
14 Pours  
15 Actor Edward  
16 Greek letter  
17 American Beauty, for one  
18 Hepburn and namesakes  
19 Looking after  
20 Monticello, for one  
21 Last mentioned  
22 Rise: Old English  
23 Diners  
24 Novelist Jane  
25 Russian republic: abbr  
26 Cleopatra's killer  
27 Lawman Wyatt  
28 "Bus Stop" author  
29 Items for Perry/Mason  
30 "— of the earth"  
31 "Right —?", which way?  
32 Alternative to DC  
33 Surface the road again  
34 Dug for coal  
35 Digraph  
36 An ostrich, for one  
37 English college  
38 Symbol on a card  
39 Biblical town in Samaria  
40 Nose, in Nuremberg  
41 World War II area  
42 Foolish person  
43 Dissipate  
44 Contents of a pirate's chest  
45 Combining form for "hair"  
46 Official on the diamond  
47 Pesticide found in Spring Creek water  
48 "Fideles"  
49 Night: German  
50 Argentina's continent: abbr  
51 Belonging to Mrs. Charlie Chaplin  
52 Paper for a tenant  
53 "err is human"  
54 Vote too many times  
55 Small idol  
56 Envelope sticker  
57 High-interest lending

DOWN  
1 Cursed  
2 Completes a convector task  
3 Little state: abbr  
4 "A Trick or —"  
5 Pod dweller  
6 — tide  
7 Crackle  
8 Exists  
9 "Beauty and the —"  
10 Interrogative exclamations  
11 Lances  
12 Frau's spouse  
13 Army fliers: abbr  
14 Conducting a congressional campaign  
15 Appliance parts  
16 Pleasure walkers  
17 Fairy tale beginning  
18 "— and stripes"  
19 Painter's need  
20 Dunne or Ryan  
21 Service for pekee  
22 Partner to feather:  
23 — fact  
24 Sign over Spanish n's  
25 Frighten  
26 Prefix with meter or sphere  
27 States: French  
28 Belonging to one of the Watsons  
29 Monkeys  
30 Spray water on again  
31 Apartment house  
32 Arrow poison  
33 Sheer linen fabric  
34 Four: prefix  
35 Baseball's Hank  
36 High mountain  
37 Passes  
38 Procrastinate  
39 Collect mollusks again  
40 Capsizes  
41 Cases: German  
42 Insertion  
43 Type of glue  
44 Couch  
45 Beatles movie  
46 Words to doctors  
47 Old French coin  
48 Uranium: abbr  
49 College: agree  
50 Four pecks: abbr.

(answers to puzzle on page 7)

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