

Helms gives up Iran post

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Administration sources said yesterday that Richard Helms, the man who headed the Central Intelligence Agency during the Watergate affair, has submitted his resignation as a U.S. ambassador to Iran.

Helms had wanted the resignation to be made public before the results of the presidential election were announced, sources said, but the White House staff was involved in the final flurry of the campaign and the press

office never got around to putting out the announcement.

The sources said Helms, who is 64 and has been in public service for over 30 years, timed his resignation as "his way of divorcing himself from politics."

It is customary for presidential appointees, including ambassadors, to submit their resignations automatically when a new administration takes over in Washington.

Helms served as director of the CIA from 1966 to 1973, when he was named ambassador by President Nixon.

He spent much of the past year in Washington waiting to testify before various congressional committees about the CIA's role in Watergate and the unauthorized surveillance of American citizens.

During his ambassadorial confirmation hearings in February 1973, Helms told the Foreign Relations committee he had no knowledge of CIA involvement in domestic U.S. affairs and he would have refused to obey if ordered to involve the agency.

When the White House tapes indicated that Helms was aware of some CIA activities, such as technical assistance for the White House "plumbers" and surveillance of anti-war groups, some senators wanted Helms prosecuted for perjury or contempt of Congress.

Senate aides said the Helms case was turned over to the Justice Department but no indictment was ever returned.

Senate aides said: "The steam just sort of went out of the whole business."

Amendment gives Gandhi more authority

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A constitutional amendment giving Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government sweeping authority to remodel this nation of 610 million people was approved yesterday by the lower house of Parliament.

The amendment, which the government says will speed a socio-economic revolution and the opposition says will legitimize dictatorship, was approved 366-4, with most opposition lawmakers of the 523-member house boycotting in protest.

"This bill will open the floodgates to regimentation and dictatorship," charged P. G. Mavalankar, one of the few dissenting independents still sitting with members of the ruling Congress party majority and its allies in the Communist party.

"God will not forgive the sin you are about to

commit," he told the special legislative session climaxing weeks of debate on the constitutional amendment. "Though you are in a large majority, you are not sustained by morality."

Speaking for the government, Law Minister H. R. Gokhale chastized "the very rigid and backward-looking" opponents of the bill for trying to block consolidation of the gains he said have resulted from India's 16-month-long state of emergency.

With Gandhi in attendance, Gokhale said the measure puts beyond a doubt "the supremacy of Parliament... and keeps law in tune with society, with the people at large."

Replying to opposition charges that this was Parliament's "darkest hour," the law minister said it was Parliament's "finest hour."

The amendment, which rewrites the preamble

and 59 clauses of India's 26-year-old democratic charter, goes to the upper house next week.

Passage of the bill by the lower house came just three days after the government announced postponement of elections for at least another year, the second such postponement since Gandhi proclaimed a national emergency on June 26, 1975.

The two developments cleared the way for Gandhi's government to move ahead with virtually unfettered freedom, though neither Gandhi nor her cabinet members have given any specific indication what further changes might be in the offing.

The amendment itself, while adding a set of "fundamental duties" for each citizen, concentrates on rewriting those articles of the constitution which the government says the opposition has used to impede social and economic reform.

U.S. envoy sent to Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — A U.S. envoy made contacts with a leftist leader yesterday in new efforts to end the Lebanese civil war and 3,000 troops were reported to have moved in from Syria on an apparent peace-keeping mission.

The leftist-held Beirut radio said the Syrian force of about 3,000 men supported by armored vehicles and tanks entered the eastern Bekaa Valley from Syria. The vehicles were white, indicating they form part of the Syrian contribution to the Arab peace-keeping force.

Soviets back govt. control of news media

NAIROBI, Kenya (UPI) — A Western press group said yesterday a Soviet-backed proposal calling for government control of news media could destroy "the main cornerstones of all freedoms."

The World Press Freedom Committee, representing 17 American and international journalistic organizations, condemned the proposal in a four-page statement issued at

the annual general conference of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

"Many governments in UNESCO and other international organizations are wittingly or unwittingly seeking to undermine the main cornerstones of all freedoms — man's right to receive and impart information and opinion

freely," the statement said.

"The choice is to resist this effort to erode a fundamental freedom or allow large areas of the world to drift into authoritarianism and dictatorship."

Despite Russian sponsorship of the proposal, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister N. Zernskov barely mentioned it in his speech to the conference. He listed it among a number of proposals he said would "promote the strengthening of peace and international security."

Western governments and publishers have mounted a major attack on the proposal, which has not come up yet for full debate.

World Press Freedom Committee chairman George Beebe, associate publisher of

Rhodesia reinforces positions on border

SALISBURY, Rhodesia (AP) — White-ruled Rhodesia reinforced military border positions yesterday in anticipation of retaliation for commando raids into Mozambique. Several hundred black nationalist guerrillas were reported killed and several of their camps destroyed in the raids.

In the mountains surrounding the frontier town of Umtali, increased numbers of government troops manned mortars and field guns trained on bases in the neighboring black Marxist state. Mozambique has been reported setting up new rocket and mortar positions opposite Umtali.

Security forces said a white soldier and eight guerrillas had been killed in clashes in the past 24 hours. They also said guerrillas burst into a bar in the northwestern

mining town of Wankie late Monday and sprayed it with bullets wounding two blacks in the war.

Informed sources said at least seven camps used by black guerrillas trying to bring down Rhodesia's white regime were attacked in 36 hours from early Sunday by black and white Rhodesian government troops.

Mozambique accused Prime Minister Ian Smith's government of a "major military assault on an independent sovereign state." Rhodesia denied it was an invasion and said its forces struck in "hot pursuit" of guerrillas who had been attacking positions in Rhodesia.

No official details have been released here of the raids, but unofficial sources said Rhodesian forces suffered some casualties.

Burundi's president deposed by military

KINSHASA, ZAIRE (AP) — A military coup has toppled President Michel Micombero of Burundi, a small and violence-ridden central African nation where plotting is a centuries-old lifestyle.

A radio broadcast yesterday from the Burundian capital of Bujumbura said the Monday coup was bloodless. An official communique of the Burundi armed forces said the new leaders were Lt. Col. Jean Bagaza, deputy chief of staff, and a Maj. Nzimana, a helicopter pilot.

The communique said the 36-year-old Micombero, who took power in a coup 10 years ago, was "very tired," ap-

parently indicating the rebels considered him unfit to carry on his duties. A Belgian expert in African affairs said on Brussels radio yesterday that Micombero had become a "notorious alcoholic."

The Burundi radio said the communique denounced the deteriorating economic situation of the country and the "selfish clans" that had been leading the government. The communique blamed both Burundians and foreigners for the problems.

Besides Micombero, other leaders of the government and the country's single political party reportedly were ousted. The fate of the deposed leaders was not known.

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