

OPEC price increase unlikely

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (UPI) — The oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries resumed informal talks Sunday amid indications they would shun a price increase designed to compensate for the decline of the U.S. dollar.

The ministerial meeting of the 13-state cartel began its second day in the Saudi hill resort of Taif. OPEC

sources said there was an outside possibility the session might be extended through Monday.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the second day of the talks was expected to focus on the state of the dollar — the world's oil-pricing unit — and on the world surplus of crude.

An Iranian delegate told reporters the participating ministers Saturday

had been handed a proposal to shift OPEC pricing to a "basket of various world currencies" and break with the dollar as the sole currency for computing crude prices.

But OPEC sources said moderate Saudi Arabia and Iran — accounting for over half of OPEC production — were virtually certain to block any such move.

Accused killer may plead guilty

NEW YORK (AP) — The city's criminal court system plans to accept possible guilty pleas from David R. Berkowitz, accused of being the Son of Sam killer who terrorized the city for a year.

The year-long orgy of random murder gripped New York City with a terror reminiscent of Jack the Ripper's 19th century London, prior to Berkowitz's arrest at his suburban Yonkers home last summer.

The pudgy, 24-year-old expostal clerk has admitted all six murders. His lawyers want him to plead innocent to each by reason of insanity.

On Monday he goes before state Supreme Court Justice Jo-

seph R. Corso in Brooklyn. If Berkowitz pleads guilty, as expected, an unusual plan will take effect. Judges from the three jurisdictions where Son of Sam is accused of striking will appear in the courtroom prepared to accept guilty pleas to all charges against Berkowitz.

Under the plan, Berkowitz could first offer Corso a guilty plea to the fatal shooting last July 31 in Brooklyn of Stacy Moskowitz, 20, the last of the Son of Sam victims.

Guilty pleas to all six murders would make Berkowitz liable to a maximum sentence on all six counts of 25 years to life, with parole possible, but unlikely, after the minimum term.

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