

Cuban fighter planes buzz Coast Guard helicopter

NASSAU, Bahamas (UPI) — Two Cuban MiG-21 fighter planes yesterday buzzed a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter searching Bahamian waters for four crewmen missing from a Bahamian gunboat sunk by Cuban fighter planes.

The Coast Guard, in a statement released in Miami, Fla., said the incident occurred near the Bahamian coral island of Santo Domingo Cay, about 35 miles south of where the gunboat Flamingo was sunk Saturday in a rocket attack.

In yesterday's incident, the Coast Guard said, the MiG fighters buzzed to within 50 feet of the helicopter in a case

of "extremely dangerous harassment."

The U.S. State Department officially protested the incident in a phone call to the Cuban Interest Section in Washington.

The Coast Guard statement said one of the Russian-built jets flew 50 feet under the helicopter and just 300 feet above the ocean, "cutting in its after-burner as it passed, before climbing to a high altitude and circling."

After the Cuban jet made its last pass, the Guard said its helicopter "proceeded to the USS Charles F. Adams, a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer, and hovered nearby until the Adams no longer had the MiG aircraft on radar."

"The Coast Guard helicopter then proceeded to Mathew Town, Great Inagua, Bahamas, before returning to its home station at Borinquen, Puerto Rico."

In Nassau, a Cuban diplomatic delegation met for three hours with Bahamian officials in an effort to reach a "friendly and honorable settlement" to the dispute between the two nations.

Afterwards, a member of the Cuban delegation admitted Saturday's attack "was a mistake" and then ducked into his car. He could not be identified.

The Flamingo was sunk after its crew

seized two Cuban fishing boats and arrested eight fishermen on charges of poaching in Bahamas waters 40 miles off Ragged Island at the southern tip of the Bahamas island chain.

The seven Cuban diplomats met with Minister of External Affairs Paul L. Adderley, then returned to Havana. They were scheduled to return today for another session of talks beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Adderley said yesterday's discussion "centered around the facts of the incident and the Bahamian note of protest to Cuba, which requested an appropriate apology, a guarantee that there would be

no repetition of such violations and that Cuba henceforth would respect the Bahamas' sovereignty and territorial integrity."

He added, "The Bahamas also would require reparations for the loss of life and property in the incident."

Despite the Cuban official's statement to reporters that the incidents were mistakes, Bahamian government spokesman William H. Kalls said the Cubans "didn't go that far" during the meeting.

"They mostly listened today," Kalls said.

Discussing the stakes of the conference, Adderley said: "Our bottom line is four lives and one ship. There is two fishing boats and eight Cubans. I think they want to lower the temperature a bit."

Meanwhile Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling headed back to Nassau from London, not satisfied by Cuba's apology.

Before leaving London, Pindling described the attack as "vicious and dastardly. It was made even more so by the fact that the Cubans fired on crew members in the water," he said.

"This appears to have been a totally unprovoked attack and I shall discuss

with my colleagues whether to take the incident to the Security Council (of the United Nations)."

He said even if Cuba's apology is eventually accepted, the Bahamas will still "demand reparations both for the sinking of the ship and for the families of those killed."

Quoting an official statement in the Communist Party daily Granma, Radio Havana said, "If the sunken boat was really a Bahamas patrol boat, we sincerely regret the incident, because our aim has always been to maintain the friendship and respect of this neighboring country."

But the broadcast monitored in Miami also demanded the Bahamas explain "why this (patrol) boat fired on a fishing boat, and why it disobeyed our warning (shots), and more important, an explanation of the whereabouts of the eight Cuban fishermen."

Arrest of the eight for poaching and seizure of their two fishing boats led to the incident 40 miles off of Ragged Island at the south tip of the Bahamas island chain Saturday night. The eight were jailed at Nassau yesterday, their arraignment postponed indefinitely.

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the daily Collegian

Tuesday, May 13, 1980
Vol. 80, No. 172 18 pages
University Park, Pa. 16802
Published by Students of The Pennsylvania State University

Senate OKs budget; deficit still possibility

From our wire services

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved a \$613.1 billion balanced 1981 budget last night, but last-minute spending hikes raised new doubts about whether Congress will actually eliminate the federal deficit for the first time in 12 years.

The vote on final passage was 68-28.

Before approving the defense-oriented budget package, the Senate voted to restore money for Saturday mail delivery, boost veterans spending, keep federal law assistance grants alive and make repeal of President Carter's oil import fee easier.

While the string of spending votes technically left the 1981 budget in balance, the last-minute changes would require dipping into the \$10 billion expected to be raised by Carter's import fee.

In proposing to balance the 1981 budget, Carter and congressional leaders vowed not to use the import fee which, beginning Thursday, will add about 10 cents a gallon to the price of gasoline.

However, in a dramatic turnaround from its earlier support of its Budget Committee's belt-tightening plan, the Senate rejected several of the more unpopular proposed spending cuts.

By a voice vote, the Senate agreed to restore \$300 million for Saturday mail deliveries, paying for that increase by cutting federal administrative costs an additional 1 percent across-the-board, except for defense.

The 1 percent cut is on top of a 5 percent reduction in the bureaucracy

already approved by the Budget Committee, and some observers believe the new cut is unrealistic.

The Saturday mail amendment by Sens. John Glenn, D-Ohio, and David Pryor, D-Ark., puts the Senate in disagreement with the House, which favors elimination of Saturday mail.

Earlier, on a 87-6 vote, the Senate raised spending on veterans affairs by \$300 million to \$21.3 billion and agreed to pay for the hike by reducing a promised tax cut that was to be paid for by the \$10 billion oil import fee.

Ironically, the decision to use the import fee money followed a 75-19 Senate vote expressing strong displeasure with the fee and making it easier for Congress to repeal Carter's authority to impose it.

The two votes raise fresh doubts about whether the budget can be balanced in the face of a worsening recession and growing congressional sentiment against the import fee.

In another budget change, the Senate voted 68-25 to keep alive the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration with \$20 million diverted from foreign aid. The House voted to end LEAA, which provides grants to local police departments.

Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., proposing the LEAA amendment, said Carter and congressional budget committees had "marked LEAA for dead."

He said LEAA, which originally was plagued with problems and abuses, had become an effective program that played an important role in police training. "We need assistance to policemen in the small towns."



Balancing act
Even a single scoop ice cream cone can be a heck of a lot to handle, especially for a little person. But this girl manages to balance her cone and purse while running a sample test on her tongue as she emerges from the University Creamery.

Drug battle is waged in Happy Valley

Editor's Note: This is the first in a three-part series on drug traffic in State College. Tomorrow's story will deal with the enforcement of drug laws in the area.

By TOM BOYER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

State College is a pleasant place. The nickname "Happy Valley" implies innocence and lack of conflict. But behind the colorful streets, boisterous bars and busy offices, a quiet, dirty war is going on.

On one side of the battle are certain students, town residents and business people. On the other side are the police and federal and state drug laws.

Because of its large student population, State College comprises one of the largest markets for illegal drugs in the state.

"We're going to have a greater drug problem than another community our size because of the disproportionate amount of young people," said Walter F. Williams, regional director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Drug Enforcement's State College office.

Also, because State College is situated on or near important drug transport routes, large quantities of drugs pass through on their way to large cities.

"We're at a kind of crossroads," said Sam Hargrave, director of On Drugs Inc. He said most of the drug traffic flows westward from eastern ports such as Boston and New York, to Ohio and Illinois. Drugs also travel northward from Harrisburg and Baltimore toward Buffalo and Syracuse, he said.

Compilation of accurate statistics on drug trafficking is impossible. Police arrest records account only for drug law violators who get caught, and neither police nor the traffickers themselves would speculate on the total quantity of drugs coming into State College.

However, all sources questioned agreed about the size of the local drug operation.

"I'd say there's a lot of marijuana traffic in this town. A tremendous amount," Hargrave said.

David E. Stormer, director of University Safety, said of marijuana:

and their contents are almost always misrepresented, Hargrave said.

Smuggling operations, which bring in illegal drugs from other parts of the country and outside the United States. Marijuana, hashish and cocaine come from this source, Hargrave said.

Nonintended substances, such as model glue and butyl nitrite, and natural substances, such as mushrooms and nutmeg, which can be bought or grown legally.

Illegal drugs travel through a hierarchy that allows dealers to be secure in their common desire to make money, dealers say, with only a little bit of trust required.

"The drug market is a combination of free enterprise and a lot of collusion," a dealer who will be called "Harry" said. He added that dealers informally agree among themselves to set prices.

Sources disagree over whether local drug traffic is controlled by a small group of people or is disorganized, fed by various "ad hoc" sources.

A source who will be called "Rick," who has been acquainted with drug operations in the area for several years, said there exists a State College "mafia," including restaurant owners and car dealers, that finances large drug purchases and controls the supply of certain drugs in town.

"The people at the top have the front money. They buy at the best price and they can regulate the selling price," he said. "They can do it because they have the capital and the resources to know where to get it."

Drug enforcement director Williams said no single network of smugglers controls the majority of drugs in the area.

"You can go down to Colombia and make your own connections there," he said.

Nearly all sources acknowledge that some local businesses are connected with drug smuggling operations.

"I would say there are local

businessmen who have money in the dope trade," Hargrave said.

Williams said his office has no evidence of organized crime involvement in local drug operations.

However, when asked whether local businessmen are involved, Williams said, "I'll not discuss the truthfulness of that statement, but I must say there's a certain amount of believability to it."

However, Williams said, it is nearly impossible to obtain evidence to prosecute people in high places in the drug hierarchy.

"As you go up the ladder in anything," he said, "the further you go up, the further insulated those individuals are from the actual criminal actions."

Harry, who deals on a small scale, said, "The people above me don't want me to meet the people above them 'cause the more people you know, the bigger risk you're taking."

He said most of the major dealers are very careful to protect themselves, which means "you can party with them for two years before they'll sell to you."

Large suppliers give the drugs to dealers to sell on consignment, which means the dealer has a set amount of time — usually two weeks or less — to sell the drugs and return the money to the supplier, Rick said.

"After that (if the drugs are still unsold), you might add 15 percent to the price and have two more weeks," he said.

Harry and his friend, who will be called "George," are both "runners," small dealers who make their living traveling around town delivering drugs. The life of a small scale dealer is not easy, they said. They both live modestly, their only luxury being free samples of what they sell.

"I don't know any dealers who save money," Harry said. "People who deal five pounds a week tend to be big consumers themselves, and they earn just enough to get by. That's not living high on the hog."

"You get burned all the time," he said. "You might get some pot and think you can get rid of it but you can't so you have to cut your price a lot."

A friend of Harry's, who is not directly involved in the traffic, said: "You'd think it would be profitable, but it seems the more they make, the more they do themselves."

Harry said LSD is the best drug to deal "because you can't do too much of it. I couldn't eat into my own profits."

There is not much money to be made from dealing on a small scale, George said. "You can run around all night and make \$10. You can run around all night and lose money."

Harry said he can sometimes make \$300 in one week, but that only happens every three or four months.

"The key is quantity," Harry said. "If you can sell more you can sell at a lower price, but you have to know a lot of people. If you know you can turn over three pounds, you can get the fourth one cheap."

All agreements between small dealers and their customers are verbal, so no records are left for police, George said.

"It's hard to keep track of everyone because you can't write down their names," he said.

As a result, Harry said, a dealer must be able to collect debts with force, if necessary, because he can't go to the police to complain.

"If you're smart your money never leaves your hands until you have the drugs," George said.

Harry and George said dealers keep each other informed about police activities.

"The information I get from the grapevine is really good," Harry said. "When the drug enforcement people took out a room at the Sheraton, everybody in town knew in a couple of days."

Harry and George said they try to protect their customers against bad drugs.

"This last batch of acid wasn't anything you could see God on, so I told people that," Harry said.

They said some drug suppliers have a policy with their dealers to buy drugs back at cost if they can't be sold.

Hargrave said some dealers use On Drugs' free analysis service.

"There are dealers who are fairly scrupulous, who care about the quality they're handling," he said.

However, Harry said there is a "seedier side" to drug dealing in State College. "There are people who are really out to rip you off," he said.

He said he knows of dealers who make imitation hashish with marijuana leaves and pine sap, and some who lie about the quality of drugs they sell.

"Some people will sell stuff they know is bad because they've got money tied up in it," he said.

A noisy evening

Some early morning thunderstorms will give way to partly sunny skies with temperatures near 83 by afternoon. Thunderstorms will return in the late afternoon and evening, and tonight's low will be 62. Tomorrow we can expect patches of clouds and sun along with a little drier air, but there will still be some afternoon showers. Tomorrow's high will be 76.



Illustration by Della Hoke