

# Copter carrying 2 senators forced down in Honduras

By **FREDDY CUEVAS**  
Associated Press Writer

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — A U.S. Army helicopter with two U.S. senators aboard was struck by gunfire and forced down yesterday in Honduras near the El Salvador border, U.S. officials said. No one was reported injured.

One of the senators, J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., said the UH-1 helicopter carrying him and Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., was struck three times by .50-caliber ammunition that came "presumably from Salvadoran

guerrillas."

A second UH-1, carrying Diana Negroponce, wife of U.S. Ambassador John Negroponce, also was fired on. Both U.S. Embassy officials here and Pentagon officials in Washington agreed that the second helicopter was not hit. The Defense Department amended its original statement that the aircraft was struck. No injuries were reported in the second helicopter either.

The mountainous area where the helicopters were fired on is 55 miles west of this capital city and 10 miles from the Salvadoran border province

of Morazan, a longtime stronghold of leftist guerrillas who are fighting the U.S.-supported government in El Salvador.

The senators, on a fact-finding mission in Honduras, were on their way from a Honduran air force base to a U.N.-operated camp for Salvadoran refugees in southwestern Honduras. Many residents of the camp, Colomoncagua, are considered sympathetic to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Johnston, speaking at a Tegucigalpa airport news conference later Wednesday, said he had no idea what was happening aboard the small heli-

copter until he felt air coming up from the floor. He said the pilot put the aircraft down safely and the half-dozen people aboard left the area aboard the second helicopter.

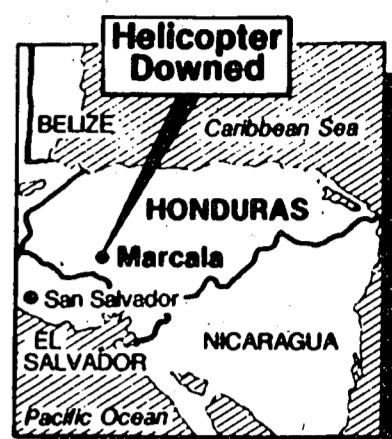
The passengers returned to the Honduran air force base at Palmerola and then went to Tegucigalpa to resume their itinerary, the embassy said.

"There was a precautionary landing of a helicopter," said Col. James D. Strachan, spokesman for U.S. military forces in Honduras. "Nobody was hurt."

O'Brien said nine passengers and six crewmen were aboard the two helicopters that came under attack.

Other officials said they could not confirm who had fired on the American contingent.

"A preliminary report indicates the UH-1 precautionary landing was made as a result of ground fire which struck the helicopter as it was approaching the refugee camp near the El Salvador border. The second helicopter also received ground fire but was not hit," the embassy said in a statement.



## USC student safe, prof dead

Former teacher-of-the-year releases hostage, kills himself

By **DAVID REED**  
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A former teacher-of-the-year who was denied tenure and lost his job at the University of South Carolina shot and killed himself yesterday after taking a student hostage and demanding to be reinstated, authorities said.

Philip Zeltner, 37, a former assistant philosophy professor, shot himself in the head in the office of the university's president, where he had barricaded himself after seizing a student who was later released, said Hugh Munn, spokesman for the State Law Enforcement Division.

Zeltner was found about 5:30 p.m. by a SWAT team that apparently picked the lock of the door to Holderman's office in the administration building, Munn said. The hostage had been released unharmed more than 90 minutes earlier.

"He apparently shot himself with one of the two handguns he had," Munn said.

Zeltner, from New York City, came to USC from State University of New York at Buffalo in 1974.

Although he was named USC's teacher of the year in 1978, he was denied tenure three times — the last time in the 1981-82 school year — which meant his contract was not renewed. He unsuccessfully sought reinstatement after leaving the school at the end of the academic year.

Zeltner entered the second-floor office of USC President James Holderman shortly after 1 p.m., demanding to see Holderman, Munn said.

**'(His problems with tenure) all started with a schedule problem. Phil didn't like to get up before 11 in the morning. The department chairman wanted to give him a 10 o'clock class.'**

— Ward Briggs, associate professor at the University of South Carolina

When told Holderman wasn't there, Zeltner took student Pat Bowman hostage, Munn said, and USC security officials evacuated and sealed off the building about 1:30 p.m. Bowman, an accounting major, is an intern in Holderman's office.

Zeltner talked by telephone with Holderman, agents of the State Law Enforcement Division and a television personality, but hung up and was dead within a half hour, Munn said.

He "basically was demanding that he be reinstated with tenure," Munn said.

The former professor's attorney entered the building to talk with Zeltner, but left shortly before the SWAT team was sent in, Munn said. Zeltner's former wife and personal physician also had been brought to the building, he said.

The physician, Dr. Melton Stuckey, pronounced Zeltner dead.

Bowman, who was released unharmed at about 3:50 p.m., said Zeltner was armed with two revolvers and claimed to have explosives, Munn said. No explosives were found in a search of the building.

Zeltner had only worked intermittently for the two years after he left USC and grew increasingly bitter and withdrawn, said close associate Ward Briggs, an associate professor at the university.

"(His problems with tenure) all started with a schedule problem," said Briggs. "Phil didn't like to get up before 11 in the morning. The department chairman wanted to give him a 10 o'clock class. Phil went to Holderman . . .

"He was sure at the last minute that Holderman would save him," said Briggs. "He was convinced that Holderman betrayed a friendship that never really existed."

University officials, however, would not disclose their reasons for not granting him tenure, and information spokesmen said such records were personal and would remain closed.

Zeltner said he wanted his demands relayed to Holderman through WIS-TV's Joe Piner, who is the Columbia TV station's weatherman and portrays a character called "Mr. Knozit" on a children's cartoon show. Piner has dealt with suicidal people in the past.

## Judge calls for fairer justice system for blacks, Hispanics

By **ANITA YESHO**  
Collegian Staff Writer

"For many blacks, the criminal justice system has become more criminal than just, and the halls of justice just halls," a New York Supreme Court judge said last night in a speech sponsored by the Justice Action Group.

Bruce Wright said that 85 to 90 percent of the defendants charged with crime are blacks or dark Hispanics.

"Little wonder that white middle-class judges find themselves sitting in judgment of people who are virtual aliens to them — immigrants, strangers from another planet who are regarded as automatically hostile," he said.

Wright said he has long urged that before being appointed all judges and police officers be psychoanalyzed to discover their deep-seated prejudices.

In a city like New York, where many blacks and Hispanics live, judges should not be eligible to serve unless they take some black studies, Hispanic culture, and sociological jurisprudence classes, he said.

"My mission in the law has been to harry the system into some semblance of fairness, some posture that permits blacks to be treated in the same way that whites are before the bar of justice."

"This may be an impossible task," he said.

Wright quoted playwright Lorraine Hansberry who said, "There is no reason to expect blacks to act like whites until they are treated that way."

Wright said that the policemen's union in New York tried to have him removed from the bench for telling a group of Princeton University political science students that New York police officers seem to have a license to shoot and kill blacks with impunity.

"I may as well confess — I've been before a disciplinary panel 13 times in 14 years," he said.

Wright said that in 1973 the New York Times reported the charge most often brought against white youths involving stolen cars is "unauthorized use of a motor vehicle" — a misdemeanor.

However, blacks and Hispanics are charged with grand larceny auto — a felony.

Until 1972, when the death penalty was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, 3,000 men

and three or four women had been executed in the United States, he said.

"Of that 3,000, almost 2,000 have been black or some other minority — and all have been poor," he said.

"I do not suggest that only blacks are executed, but almost 99 percent of those executed were poor."

"One of the great paradoxical curiosities about the great debate over the death penalty is that the right-to-life conservatives who oppose abortion are always in favor of the death penalty."

"For the courts the issue has been resolved, he said. "Simply throw the switch and at least that criminal will steal no more — but does that retaliatory murder by the state deter crime or reduce the number of murders? Of course not."

"When I speak of due process, fairness and impartiality in the criminal justice system, I do not venerate the criminal and abandon the victim," he said.

"The rights of the victims — that is, all of us who can cast the first stone — are another subject."

In addition to his criticism of the justice system, Wright had some strong words for members of the black bourgeoisie, whom he called "Afro-Saxons" — people with black faces and white masks.

Wright urged blacks to use their political power because a racist society is not going to change itself.

"Blacks nationwide have shown contempt for themselves by neglecting their black power at the ballot box."

Such self-hate is aided and encouraged by the whites and their built-in prejudices when it comes to skin color in America.

"We simply don't protest enough and we don't vote, not until recently in any case," he said.

"Jesse Jackson has had some rather stunning success and must be astonishing the entire nation."

Jackson has had so much success, he said, that there is a national underground conspiracy to cut him down to size. Wright said white Christian America delights in seeing Jews and blacks going at each other — "it saves them the trouble."

"Jews and blacks should, by virtue of their separate vulnerability, be natural allies in this country," he said.

Wright said he is concerned for Jackson's life. "Any man who can rouse black voters to register and vote is a serious threat to the American way of life," he said.

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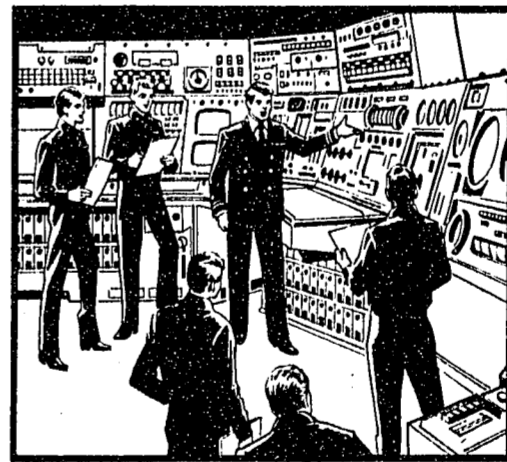
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