

Hijackers detain Venezuelan jet, push back deadline

By ORLANDO CUALES
Associated Press Writer

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao — Two gunmen who hijacked a Venezuelan jetliner and are holding 79 people as hostages set a morning deadline for today for Venezuela to meet their demand for millions of dollars and an escape helicopter.

They freed six captives yesterday afternoon and the pilot of the commandeered Aeropostal DC-9 corrected an earlier report that one of the passengers had been shot.

Reporters monitoring radio conversations between the plane and the control tower said the pilot, Arturo Reina, initially told authorities that Mrs. Roman Puertas of Argentina was shot when her husband, who had been released, failed to return with \$1 million.

They said that in a later conversation, Reina reported the woman had not been shot but was about three months pregnant and it was feared she would suffer a miscarriage. He said again that the hijackers would allow a doctor, wearing only underwear, to board the plane.

The plane was hijacked Sunday after it left Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, for a flight to Curacao, but the gunmen forced it to land in Trinidad and Aruba before it arrived here yesterday morning.

Officials said the sky pirates were a former Haitian army captain opposed to Haiti's President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier and a man with a passport from the Dominican Republic.

'If they can have the money and helicopter, this will end here.'

—Arturo Reinó, pilot of hijacked jet

Their latest ultimatum was addressed to the Venezuelan government and said their demands for up to \$5 million and a helicopter would have to be accepted by "tomorrow morning," according to the monitored accounts.

If authorities refuse, "there will be no more negotiations and we'll all die here in Curacao," said the hijackers, who are believed to be armed with pistols and said they had placed a bomb in the rear of the plane.

They had initially demanded military weapons including machine guns, rifles and grenades, and in their latest demand they gave Venezuela two alternatives. They said their demand for a helicopter was not

negotiable, but they would take \$5 million in cash or \$3 million and military arms. They also said they would drop the money demand to \$2 million depending on the amount of weapons provided.

Their ultimatum, given at about 9 p.m., did not set a specific deadline hour. Reporters saw a large number of troops at the airport, which was closed to normal air traffic.

The DC-9 had 82 passengers, including the hijackers, and five crew members when it was hijacked.

Four passengers were freed at 1:30 p.m., including Argentine businessman Roman Puertas, and at 3 p.m. a man left the plane carrying a teen-age girl who was bleeding from the mouth and appeared unconscious. She was identified later as Oedjaghir Soenitadebie of Curacao, and officials said she was treated for shock at St. Elizabeth Hospital and released. The man was not identified.

In the earlier accounts from reporters monitoring the control tower radio conversations, the pilot said that Puertas had allegedly promised to return and give the gunmen \$1 million.

They said Reina was heard at 3:45 p.m. telling the control tower officials the hijackers had said that if Puertas didn't return with the money within five minutes

they would place his wife in the door and shoot her.

An airport spokesman confirmed that Reina had said there were two hijackers. Earlier reports said there as many as seven.

In Washington, a Defense Department spokesman said the United States had sent "technical advisers" to Willemstad. Navy Lt. Tom Yeager gave no details, saying only, "At the request of the government of the Netherlands Antilles, the United States government is making available technical advisers."

In Santa Barbara, Calif., where President Reagan is vacationing, assistant press secretary Mark Weinberg said the administration "is making available technical adviser" because the hijacking "potentially involves the safety of a sizeable number of people."

The U.S. army has maintained an anti-terrorist force at Fort Bragg, N.C., for several years.

Willemstad's Z-86 radio station had said earlier that a U.S. C-130 cargo plane from North Carolina landed on the nearby island of Bonaire, which is part of the Netherlands Antilles.

Governments of the two Caribbean islands where the commandeered plane had landed earlier refused to deal with the hijackers.



Venezuelan officials said most of the passengers were Dutch residents of Curacao, but it was believed there were five U.S. citizens aboard.

They also said they believed one of the hijackers was Hilerant Dominique, a former Haitian army captain who was living in exile in Venezuela.



Collegian photo/Monica Carlotta

Olympic watch

For those who can't be in Los Angeles for the Olympics, the TV room in Rittner Hall is the next best thing, a claim to which Janet Furgivele, division of undergraduate studies, Kirsten Hines (liberal arts), Jill Solomon (division of

undergraduate studies) and Judy Furgivele (division of undergraduate studies) can attest. The furtive foursome is gazing at some of the Olympic gymnastics competitions last night. Olympic games coverage continues on Page 8.

House, Senate attempts at defense compromise failed

By LEE BYRD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Congressional attempts to fashion a compromise defense budget virtually collapsed yesterday when Senate negotiators balked at House demands that money for the MX missile and anti-satellite weapons be tied firmly to administration efforts on arms control, sources said.

The impasse produced an indefinite suspension of the meetings of the House-Senate conference committee assigned to iron out differences on the record Pentagon authorization bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 — nearly \$300 billion.

With time running out on the election-year Congress, the deadlock heightened prospects that the regular appropriations process will be scuttled for the Pentagon, with money provided through a so-called continuing resolution — fixing general spending levels as a percentage of current amounts. That could imperil dozens of proposed new programs, while giving the administration a freer hand to continue existing ones.

House negotiators planned to meet with Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., and other leaders before formulating their next move. But several confided that they believed chances for a compromise with the Senate had become very dim.

That sentiment was echoed by Assistant Majority Leader Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, in the Senate. With the standstill over the authorization measure, he said, there was little point in proceeding on the companion appropriations bill — the measure that actually hands out the money.

The House passed an overall \$292 billion defense budget in May; the Senate approved a \$299 billion version on June 21.

Secret negotiations in the conference committee had produced little movement for weeks, with Senate Armed Services Chairman John Tower, R-Texas, fighting for the entire \$299 billion package favored by President Reagan. Finally, Tower offered a "compromise" total of \$297 billion.

House members of the panel agreed, on condition that the Senate bend on four key issues: the MX, anti-satellite weapons, sea-launched cruise missiles and troops in Central America.

According to sources who spoke only on condition that they not be identified, the Senate group did agree to some arms-control language on the three weapons systems, and also to a variation of the House prohibition against using troops in Central America except to save American lives.

But the rub, according to these sources, was over how much power to leave Congress for a further decision next year on the future of the MX.

Last marines leave Lebanon

By SAMIR F. GHATTAS
Associated Press Writer

The last U.S. Marine combat force in Lebanon yesterday began its pullout to U.S. navy ships offshore on a quiet day in Beirut marking the end of the 22-month U.S. military presence in Lebanon.

As the Marines began moving out in amphibious vehicles at dawn, the state radio announced that Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, was expected on Friday for talks on Moscow's proposal for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Soviet Union has called for a conference to be attended by the Soviet Union and the United States, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Polyakov was the Soviet Ambassador to Egypt who was expelled by the late President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The departing 90-100 Marines were from the unit stationed in west Beirut to guard the U.S. Embassy compound on the seaside Corniche Boulevard. The embassy was destroyed on April 18, 1983, in a suicide bomb attack that killed 63 people, including 17 Americans.

Once the embassy moves to its new quarters, the Marine amphibious unit offshore also leaves, U.S. officials said.

Most of the Marines will depart by helicopter, embassy officials said. When the pullout is completed today, a 15-man Marine guard unit, similar to the teams guarding U.S. embassies the world over, will be the only remaining U.S. military personnel.

They will join a force recruited from local militias to protect two new embassy sites, one in mostly Moslem west Beirut and an annex in Christian east Beirut.

The new west Beirut site is about 500 yards from the present seaside Corniche Boulevard embassy address. The Corniche has been closed to pedestrians and vehicles, heavily barricaded and guarded by the Marines and local militiamen.

There were no reports of violence in Beirut.

No official announcement of the pullout was made. At 5:15 a.m., the Marines removed anti-vehicle barriers and barbed wire from the eastern entrance of the embassy compound.

During their stay, 259 Americans were killed, including 241 in a suicide bomb attack against their headquarters at Beirut Airport last October.

EPA seeks lead removal from gas

By MATT YANCEY
Associated Press Writer

The Environmental Protection Agency yesterday proposed a 91 percent reduction of lead from gasoline by 1986 under a plan officials said could save 50,000 children from brain damage in just two years.

"The fact is that our past programs to reduce lead in gasoline haven't worked as expected," EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus said. "The evidence is overwhelming that lead from all sources is a threat to public health... especially for pregnant women and young children."

The agency said it was also considering a complete ban on lead by 1995 as a gasoline additive for boosting octane and lubricating valves.

Leaded gasoline now accounts for about 45 percent of all the gas sold nationwide, despite the mandated installation of catalytic converters requiring unleaded fuel on all American cars built since 1975.

Ruckelshaus said the new regulations are needed because recent studies show lead has adverse health effects at levels much lower than previously believed. He also cited evidence of widespread cheating by motorists who use leaded fuel in cars not built for it.

It would cost refiners about \$75 million to meet the new standards, Ruckelshaus said.

"But, from a social point of view this expense is more than offset by the \$1.8 billion that will be saved during 1986 alone from lower costs for medical treatment and rehabilitation, reduced vehicle maintenance bills and improved fuel efficiency, not to mention a higher quality environment," he said.

The new regulations, if adopted following a 60-day comment period, would require refiners beginning in January 1986 to limit the concentration of lead in gasoline to one-tenth (0.1) gram per gallon. That is 11

times more stringent than the current standard of 1.1 grams per gallon, set in 1982.

But in announcing the proposal, the EPA said it might instead order a reduction to only one-half gram per gallon in July 1985 and "phase down" gradually to the 0.1 level by 1988 if refiners can show that the standard could not be met by 1986.

'The fact is that our past programs to reduce lead in gasoline haven't worked as expected.'

—William Ruckelshaus, EPA administrator

Ruckelshaus, however, indicated that he clearly favors the earlier deadline.

"We estimate that by 1988, absent this standard, there would still some 97,000 children in the country who would have blood-lead levels in excess of 30 micrograms per deciliter," Ruckelshaus said. "As a result of this standard, we'll move 50,000 children below this level."

The government's Centers for Disease Control now uses the 30 micrograms per deciliter concentration of lead in blood as a guideline for requiring medical attention. However, an advisory committee for the centers recently recommended lowering the guideline to 25 micrograms per deciliter.

EPA officials said brain-wave changes have been detected in children with lead-blood levels as low as 15 the incentive for motorists to switch fuels and tamper with the catalytic converters.

tuesday

inside

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- Three cars of a high-speed train carrying commuters and tourists hurtled off the track near this village yesterday, killing 13 people and injuring 44, British Rail and police reported....Page 5
- Michael Gross of West Germany became the first double gold winner of the 1984 Summer Olympics yesterday with a world-record performance....Page 8

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weather

Partly sunny and warm today and tomorrow with a late afternoon or evening shower possible each day. High today 83 and tomorrow near 85. Low tonight 63.

.....by Glenn Rolph