

Doctors tell Reagan tumor has been removed

By MICHAEL PUTZEL
AP White House Correspondent

BETHESDA, Md. — Doctors told President Reagan yesterday he had colon cancer but that they believe surgeons removed all the malignant tissue before it spread to other areas of his body.

"The majority of patients in exactly the president's situation will certainly survive five years and beyond; it's certainly greater than 50 percent," said Dr. Steven Rosenberg of the National Cancer Institute.

Rosenberg said he had spoken to the president about his condition for five minutes, shortly after informing the first lady. Reagan's spokesman, Larry Speakes, said Nancy Reagan "accepted the news in a very calm fashion."

Navy Capt. Dale Oller, Reagan's chief surgeon, quoted the president as saying, "Well, I'm glad that that's all out," after being informed that a microscopic examination of the tissue had determined the tumor was cancerous.

Oller also said "the president continues his superlative recovery" from the operation Saturday at Bethesda Naval Hospital to remove the two-inch intestinal tumor and a two-foot section of the colon

surrounding it.

Rosenberg told reporters at news briefing at the hospital, "The president has cancer." But asked if Reagan now has cancer, the doctor said there was "a greater than 50 percent chance that the president now has no cancer, no cancer cells in his body and is completely cured."

"We have no evidence that this cancer has spread, and I think the chances are good that no spread will take place," he said.

The doctor said there is a "greater than 50 percent chance" that the second most deadly form of the disease will not recur during the 74-year-old president's normal lifespan.

Rosenberg said he would advise the president that after he recovers from the surgery, "There should be no change in his activity pattern whatsoever" and there is no reason for him to consider retirement.

The findings did show, however, that the cancer in the tumor discovered on Friday had invaded the muscle wall of the bowel, which means doctors caught it after it had begun to spread. That increases the likelihood the disease will show up again in the liver or elsewhere.

But Rosenberg said, "This tumor has not invaded beyond the wall of

the intestine," which would have markedly decrease his chances for long-term survival.

"The majority of the patients in exactly the president's situation will certainly survive five years and beyond," the cancer specialist told reporters at the military hospital, where Reagan was admitted on Friday.

"However, there is a chance that the tumor may recur at some time in the future. It's less than 50 percent," the doctor said.

Reagan should have regular colon examinations — like the one which uncovered the tumor — as well as "regular examinations of his lungs, liver and other body organs to assure they're in the same healthy condition they're in today," Rosenberg said.

Because radiation and chemotherapy, the most commonly used treatments after cancer surgery, have not been found effective in treating colon cancer, Reagan probably will not be given further therapy but will be closely monitored for any sign of recurrence, Rosenberg said. He added the National Cancer Institute will conduct a thorough study of the latest findings in search of any information that might affect Reagan's case.

Oller and Rosenberg went to Reagan's suite at the military medical center outside Washington at 2:40 p.m. EDT to inform Mrs. Reagan of the pathologists' findings. The president's chief of staff, Donald T. Regan, spokesmen Speakes and White House

physicians sat in on the half-hour conversation in a sitting room adjacent to the president's bedroom.

The doctors and Mrs. Reagan then went into the president's room to give him the news. Speakes earlier had described

Reagan as "very well prepared for any eventuality" as the doctors studied the large polyp and colon tissue removed on Saturday to determine whether they were cancerous.

"The president is pretty much of an optimist," the spokesman added.

Illness politically irrelevant

By EVANS WITT
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is enjoying a wave of sympathy after his surgery, but the political impact of his illness appears to be only a ripple in the turbulent waters already murky with deficits, budgets and taxes.

The president is certain to win a few short-term political benefits from his illness, as critics mute their barbs and aides have a ready-made excuse for Reagan to duck unpleasant confrontations on thorny budget matters.

But experts in Washington see no massive surge of support that Reagan could use to win policy battles with Congress — in sharp contrast with the situation after the assassination attempt in 1981, when soaring public approval helped persuade Congress to pass the president's far-reaching budget and tax plans.

"To suggest that this wave of sympathy is going to sweep the Congress and sweep through his agenda —

don't kid me," said Republican political consultant Eddie Mahe.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. told reporters, "I don't see anything political in it whatever."

Added Norman Ornstein, a congressional expert at the American Enterprise Institute and Catholic University in Washington: "His sort of thing is not going to provide the impetus to get Congress to do what it doesn't want to do or has been hesitant to do."

In the operation Saturday, doctors removed a two-foot section of Reagan's intestine that contained a two-inch tumor. The medical team announced yesterday that cancer was found in the colon, but that there was no evidence it had spread and that they believed there were no more cancer cells in Reagan's body.

The finding certainly changed the medical situation, but there was no immediate reaction on Capitol Hill to indicate a change in the political analysis.

But Reagan's hospitalization did have some quick benefits for the president.

The Democrats canceled their response to Reagan's taped Saturday radio address.



After the party...

Cleanup crews worked in the heat and rain yesterday, to remove the landscaping and debris on Allen St. in the aftermath of the six-day long Festival of the

Arts, while recuperating bystanders watched the retransformation and began plans for next years Festival.

University elm tree population dwindling fast

By NAN CRYSTAL ARENS
Collegian Staff Writer

University workers will begin removing another five American Elm trees from the Mall across from Schwab Auditorium this morning, bringing the total of diseased trees cut down on campus this year to eight.

Ardath Johnson, coordinator of information services for the Office of Physical Plant, said the five trees have Dutch elm disease and must be removed to prevent the disease from spreading to nearby trees on the Mall.

Only one tree will remain standing near Schwab — the elm closest to Pollock Road is still disease free, she said.

Another elm located on the lawn of Sigma Nu Fraternity, 340 N. Burrows Road, was cut down last Wednesday after it was diagnosed as having Dutch elm disease, Johnson said.

Chiko Haramaki, professor of horticulture and chairman of the University Tree Commission, said the University plans to replant the area with American Elms after the diseased trees are removed.

"What we are trying to do is to maintain the 'cathedral effect' with the tall trees and arching branches," Haramaki said.

He added, however, that the new trees would be planted farther apart to prevent root systems from growing together which will help relieve stress on crowded trees.

John Peplinsky, coordinator of the University's Plant Disease Clinic, said Dutch elm disease is a fungal infection that is spread from tree to tree by bark beetles, or, in the case of most University elms, through roots, which have grown or grafted together.

"The major way it spreads on campus is through root grafts," Peplinsky said.

Haramaki said the new trees will still be at risk of contracting Dutch elm disease, but University maintenance efforts are helping to control the disease.

"Here in State College and at the University we have a very good tree maintenance program," Haramaki said. "But if you leave the immediate area we are surrounded by Dutch elm disease."

Haramaki added that although Dutch elm disease can be transmitted through roots, it is not a soil born disease. Therefore, the new trees will not be at risk except through attack by disease-carrying beetles flying in from outside the area. Also, University officials will fumigate the soil before replanting, to help kill harmful soil organisms.

Peplinsky said campus elms are also under environmental stress, which makes them more susceptible to diseases such as Dutch elm, he said.

He explained that the trees are planted too close together for trees of their size, making each compete for water and nutrients from the soil.

Planting the new elms farther apart will help relieve this stress. Also, pedestrian traffic across the tree's root area has compacted the soil making it more difficult for the elms to get needed air, water and nutrients, Peplinsky said.

During the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, University workers erected snow fences around the trees to prevent further damage by pedestrians.

Sidewalks, buildings, and underground pipes and cables also restrict the trees' root systems.

Johnson said preventive maintenance by the University includes spraying with pesticides to control the bark beetles which spread the disease.

Suicide bomber kills self, nine others

By RUTH SINAI
Associated Press Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel — A suicide bomber in a car bearing a Red Cross flag blew up a checkpoint and nearby bakery at Israel's south Lebanon security zone yesterday, killing himself and nine other people, Israel radio and military sources reported.

They identified the victims as seven Lebanese civilians and two members of the militia that acts as Israel's surrogate in the area.

The attack was claimed in the name of a pro-Syrian group.

The white Peugeot 504 exploded near the village of Tibnit, about five miles north of the Israeli border, the radio and military sources said. It was the third such attack at security-zone checkpoints in less than a week.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the crossing had been closed to civilians since the two bombings at other locations last Tuesday.

When the car arrived at the checkpoint at about 3:50 p.m., members of the South Lebanon Army militia demanded identification and the driver then detonated the bomb, a military source reported. He said most of the victims were employees or customers at a bakery a few dozen

yards from the crossing. He estimated the car was carrying about 220 pounds of explosives.

Three hours earlier, four Katyusha rockets aimed toward Israel were found on the Mediterranean coast just north of the security belt and defused four minutes before they were set to launch, the radio said.

'The Israeli enemy who occupied and is still occupying our land must be taught a lesson.'

— Hisham Abbass, identified as the suicide driver

Israel radio and south Lebanon sources said the car was flying a Red Cross flag. A Red Cross representative in Tel Aviv said he knew nothing about it, adding that his organization uses Peugeot 504 cars in Lebanon.

After the explosion, Lebanon's state television broadcast a videotaped farewell message from a man identified as the suicide driver. It said he was Hisham Abbass, 20 years old, a member of

the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, a Lebanese group allied with Syria.

Similar tapes of last Tuesday's bombers, who said they belonged to the same group, also were broadcast.

Abbass, clad in combat fatigues, said: "The Israeli enemy who occupied and is still occupying our land must be taught a lesson. So I decided to carry out this operation following suit from those before me — namely Sana Muheidleh and the other comrades — to take the revenge of my people and my land."

Sana Muheidleh, 16, rammed his car bomb into an Israeli patrol near the Bateh al-Chouf crossing into south Lebanon on April 9, killing two Israeli soldiers.

Abbass said: "I want to address a salute to our first comrade, struggler Hafez Assad (president of Syria) and also wish to tell the Israeli enemy that I cannot be the last struggler. ... I hope my operation will result in great losses in enemy ranks."

Lebanese resistance groups have vowed to force Israel to abandon the security zone and the 2,000-man militia, which is dominated by Christians, and withdraw the Israeli soldiers still in south Lebanon.

Israel pulled nearly all its troops out of Lebanon early in June, but

left advisers behind in support of the militia, which is led by Antoine Lahd, a former general in the Lebanese army.

Israeli security sources said last week that the man and woman who drove the cars in last Tuesday's suicide bombings were from the fundamentalist Shiite group Hezbollah, or Party of God, which has Iran's support. One of the bombs killed 13 Lebanese civilians and two militiamen.

In Beirut, however, the party allied with Syria claimed responsibility. The group, which is leftist, wants a pan-Arab state in the "fertile crescent" stretching across the Middle East from Cyprus to Kuwait and has claimed it sent several previous car bombs against the Israelis.

The South Lebanon Army patrols the buffer zone and mans four checkpoints leading from other areas of Lebanon into the zone.

Israel said the militiamen reopened the pedestrian crossing yesterday at Ras al-Bayada on the Mediterranean coast, where one of the suicide bombings occurred last week. It wounded two Israeli soldiers, three South Lebanon Army militiamen and a 13-year-old Lebanese boy.

Militiamen sealed off the Tibnit area after Monday's attack to search for suspects.

tuesday

inside

The University Executive Student Council met informally at Holmes-Foster park with U.S. Rep. William Clinger this weekend.

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weather

A possible morning shower or thundershower giving way to partly cloudy skies with intervals of sunshine by afternoon. High of 79. Tonight clearing by morning with a low near 60. Heidi Sonen