

state/nation/world

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Israelis release 100 prisoners

By JUAN-CARLOS GUMUCIO
Associated Press Writer

TYRE, Lebanon — Waving their clenched fists and chanting, "God is Great," 100 Lebanese released from an Israeli military prison crossed the border to freedom yesterday, and Shiite Moslem guerrilla leaders pledged to step up attacks until the 335 other detainees are freed.

It was the second group of prisoners, captured by the Israelis during their occupation of southern Lebanon, to be freed since a TWA jetliner was hijacked by Lebanese extremists last month. The hijackers demanded the release of 75 prisoners held by Israel in exchange for the 39 American passengers on the plane. But Israel said it had always intended to set the prisoners free from Atil when the situation in southern Lebanon was calm.

Press reports in Tel Aviv said that the remaining detainees at Atil would be freed in three groups at two-week intervals.

This southern port city gave the freed prisoners a traditional Lebanese hero's welcome, showering them with rice and rosewater.

But the grief of families who discovered the men they waited to see were not among those released cast a pall over the jubilation.

Many of the detainees spoke of beatings and mistreatment. Israeli authorities have insisted the men were properly treated and regularly examined by the International Red Cross.

One of the released prisoners, Abdul-Amir Shehab, 30, who said he was held for 19 months, complained about "beatings with bats and kicking with boots," but said he was not tortured.

Israeli military sources in Atil said 74 of the released were Shiites, 20 were Palestinians presumed to be residents in Lebanon, and six were Lebanese Sunni Moslems.

They said most of the Shiites were followers of the pro-Iranian

Hezbollah, an extremist anti-Western group suspected of responsibility in most of the abductions of 13 Westerners and one Iranian in Lebanon in the last 18 months.

The detainees were among 1,200 Lebanese and Palestinians transferred to Israel from the Ansar prison camp in south Lebanon last April before the main Israeli occupation force pulled out.

The move provoked protests from the International Red Cross, Arab and Western governments including the United States. They said the transfer violated the Geneva Conventions barring the transfer of prisoners of war across international boundaries.

Israel countered that the detainees were not prisoners of war because Israel and Lebanon were not in a declared state of war.

In Beirut, Justice Minister and Shiite militia leader Nabih Berri said in a broadcast that the release failed to meet the terms of an agreement under which his Amal militia freed the TWA hostages from Beirut after a 17-day ordeal in which one passenger, a U.S. Navy diver, was shot dead.

"If there is one prisoner left we will do everything (to free him) and the Israelis know it," Gamal Seifeddin, an Amal officer, told The Associated Press. "We will not sleep and we are not afraid."

"We can do whatever is needed," he added. "We have proved that to the whole world," he said, evidently referring to the hijacking of the TWA Boeing 727.

The plane was seized by two Shiites after taking off on a flight from Athens, Greece, to Rome flight June 14. It finally landed at Beirut where Amal militiamen moved passengers to hideouts in the city.

On June 30 the last 36 passengers and three crewmembers were freed from the Beirut hideouts. A Syrian President Hafez Assad for help in resolving the crisis.



Covered by newspapers, the body of Jordanian embassy first secretary Ziad Sati lies on the street beside his car after he was slain by gunman yesterday.

Jordanian diplomat slain by gunman

By EMEL ANIL
Associated Press Writer

ANKARA, Turkey — An assassin said to be a Shiite Moslem terrorist ran up to the car of a Jordanian diplomat who had stopped for a traffic light yesterday and shot him in the head four times.

Police said Ziad J. Sati, 40, died at the scene. His car lurched forward after the shooting, crashed into a minibus and came to rest against a bank.

A witness said the gunman outran a bank guard giving chase, jumped into a car and escaped. Sati, a bachelor, was first secretary of the Jordanian Embassy and had served in Turkey for three years.

A man telephoned The Associated Press in Ankara and said the killing was the work of Islamic Holy War — Jihad Islami in Arabic — a radical Shiite group that has claimed responsibility for a long series of killings, kidnappings and bomb attacks.

He called Sati a "lackey of imperialist powers" and said: "Our actions against such people will continue." He spoke in unaccented Turkish.

A man calling himself Colonel Omar made a similar claim in a call to the British Broadcasting Corp. in Brussels, Belgium. Speaking in poor, heavily accented English, he threatened the death of all Jordanian diplomats in Europe who worked for peace with Israel.

Turkey's semi-official news agency Anatolia said an anonymous caller to its London office claimed responsibility in the name of the Hezbollah (Party of God), another Shiite extremist group some believe is part of Islamic Holy War or associated with it.

King Hussein of Jordan and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, agreed earlier this year to a joint strategy for peace negotiations with Israel. Arafat has approved a list of names for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with which he and Hussein hope the United States will meet as a prelude to talks with Israel.

Witnesses described Sati's assassin as a young, slim, dark man of medium height.

One of the witnesses, Mehmet Keller, told an AP reporter he heard shots, looked out of his window and saw the man flee, tucking a pistol into his belt as he ran. He outran the bank guard and escaped in a car, Keller said.

The Jordanian news agency said Sati was shot in the chest and had stopped for a traffic light.

Spokesmen refused to respond directly to a New York Times report that the administration considered attacking a Nicaraguan training base in retaliation for the murder of six Americans in El Salvador last month.

In a report similar to others published earlier elsewhere, the Times quoted unidentified State and Defense Department officials as saying a plan was discussed at senior levels in the White House to launch an air strike against a Nicaraguan base where American officials believed one or more of the gunmen were trained.

The plan was rejected in favor of issuing the Sandinista government a warning.

Meanwhile, the United Steelworkers' chief negotiator says the gap between the union and the company was wider than he first thought.

"The gulf between us is humongous," USW bargainer Paul Rusen said in a telephone interview Tuesday evening.

The union struck Sunday to protest Wheeling-Pittsburgh's decision to cut hourly labor costs from an average of \$21.40 under their voided contract to what the company said would be \$17.50. Rusen said the revisions actually lower total labor costs to \$15.60 per hour.

Wheeling-Pittsburgh dissolved its labor contract as a step toward reorganizing nearly \$300 million in debts under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy law.

Company officials declined comment on the matter.

Federal mediators said on Saturday they would ask the company and union to resume bargaining within several days if neither side asked first. Mediator Robert Housholder said yesterday morning that no bargaining was scheduled.

Three arrested in Italian dam collapse

By JENNIFER PARMELEE
Associated Press Writer

TRENTO, Italy — Authorities investigating last week's dam collapse which killed more than 200 tourists and villagers announced yesterday the arrests of three men, including two brothers who own the dam.

Prosecutor Francesco Simeoni said more arrests were likely as investigators questioned dozens of people, many of them local government officials, for possible criminal negligence in last Friday's tragedy.

Two local government officials who received judicial notices regarding the dam's collapse and administrative steps in determining if the brothers took proper legal and administrative steps in obtaining permission for expanding the two artificial lakes the dam supported. The lakes filtered water from mining.

They said investigations were proceeding to find out if any work was done without authorization and if municipal officials, including dam inspectors, ignored reports of illegal construction at the dam.

Simeoni, accompanied by a team of engineers, officials and investigators, later toured the disaster area and heard an expert call for the prompt removal of the mud that had been piled up.

"I don't like what I see here... If it rains, the mud will slide down the valley, and cause further damage farther down," said Claudio Datali, a professor of hydraulic engineering who took part in the survey.

A young man, Renato Trettel, yesterday dug out two chickens from under the remains of his house. "I don't know how they survived," he said. "They... started pecking immediately when I gave them some biscuits."

Trettel's mother was missing and may be buried under the house, he said.

Simeoni has served judicial notices on more than 60 people in connection with his probe. Yesterday, two of them resigned their provincial government posts.

Authorities said Aldo Rota, 63, was ordered confined to his hospital room in Como, north of Milan, last week. Rota's brother, also arrested, was a forestry inspector for the Stava area.

The Rota brothers were charged with multiple manslaughter and causing a disaster. Charges against Tomasi were not immediately announced.

Rota and his brother Aldo bought the mine in 1967, officials said.

The brothers can be held in jail for 40 days while authorities determine the next step in the criminal process. Custody could bring 12 years in prison.

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Admin. warns terrorists again

By MICHAEL PUTZEL
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Reagan administration said yesterday it is contemplating any imminent action to avenge recent attacks on Americans in El Salvador and elsewhere.

In yet another warning similar to those issued in the wake of terrorist incidents in the Middle East and Central America, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said, "The United States will not tolerate terrorist actions against our citizens. We will be prepared to take steps."

Asked if his use of the term "proportionate response" indicates the United States would avenge "an eye for an eye, a life for a life," Speakes said, "We'll make those judgments at the time."

Asked when the United States might act, he replied, "Wait and see."

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Two arrested in bombings

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — The investigation widened to Switzerland yesterday in the bombing of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior, a French-speaking couple accused of murder in the case was denied bail here.

The defendants were identified in court as Sophie Frederique Claire Turenge, 36, and Alain Jacques Turenge, 33. Their relationship was not known.

They were charged with murder, arson and conspiracy to commit arson in the July 10 bombing of the environmental group's flagship in Auckland harbor. The arson charges relate to the use of explosives to sink the Rainbow Warrior, a converted Scottish trawler, was to have left New Zealand this week to lead a flotilla to protest French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

The Turenages said they were Swiss citizens, and denied charges by authorities that they entered New Zealand on false passports.

Neither entered a plea during brief appearances in Auckland District Court Wednesday, when Judge Ron

ald Gilbert denied them bail.

Two detectives flew to Switzerland yesterday after bail was denied.

The Swiss investigation adds to those already underway in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia. Police arrested the Turenages last week for alleged passport violations and rearrested them Tuesday night in the bombing. They are to appear in court today on the passport charges.

Police have not said how they linked the two to the bombing.

state news briefs

State College policeman resigns

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — A suspended officer has resigned from the State College police force in exchange for assurances that he will not be prosecuted for drunken driving, officials said yesterday.

Steven T. Stary, 25, had been charged with driving under the influence in June, but a district justice dismissed the charge last week, saying police waited too long after the arrest to file charges. That prompted Chief Elwood G. Williams to threaten to refile the charge.

"It's over, finished, closed file," Borough Manager Carl Fairbanks said. "In my judgment this action is in the best interest of his career, the morale of the police department and the community as a whole."

Stary was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident May 12 while he was off duty. He was suspended shortly after the accident, but not charged with drunken driving until June 7.

Police said they waited until June 7 to arrest Stary to give him time to recover from his injuries.

State holds hearing on seatbelt laws

HARRISBURG (AP) — Hundreds of lives and millions of dollars could be saved annually if Pennsylvania follows 15 other states in adopting a mandatory seat belt law, witnesses told a state Senate committee yesterday.

In a daylong hearing, witness after witness told the Senate Transportation Committee that bucking up would cut down the incidence of death and injury on Pennsylvania highways.

"The motor-vehicle fatality is the fourth major public health problem in the United States today," Dorit Stein of the Allegheny County Health Department testified. "We need to immunize and protect the public from this carnage."

About 260 lives could be saved annually and 6,340 injuries prevented if only half of Pennsylvania's drivers and passengers used safety belts, said Peter Strauss of the Alliance of American Insurers.

Three different bills have been introduced in the Senate mandating seat belt use by drivers and front-seat passengers. Under the bills, violators would pay fines of \$20 to \$25.

Pennsylvania lawmakers, like their counterparts in nearly all other states, are considering such legislation because of U.S. Department of Transportation regulations issued last summer.

nation news briefs

NBC, ABC to aid Justice Dept.

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News and ABC News said yesterday that they would cooperate with the Justice Department, which earlier this week subpoenaed all material, aired and unair, about the TWA hijacking and hostage ordeal.

CBS News, which also was subpoenaed, said it had not yet decided on a response.

ABC and NBC said they would allow the Justice Department access to all material that had been broadcast, and some material not broadcast.

Carol Olwert, director of information for ABC News, said the network's lawyers were told by Justice Department lawyers "that the scope of this investigation is criminal in nature."

"In view of this, it is consistent with ABC News policy to give them everything which appeared on the air," she said. Off-air material, she said, would be provided "in a manner consistent with the constitutional protection afforded a news organization."

She said it was not clear if that meant some or all of ABC's off-air material would be shown to the government.

Alaska governor hearing continues

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Gov. Bill Sheffield's former chief of staff testified yesterday in impeachment proceedings, saying he made errors in judgment only in trying to patch up his boss's tattered public image.

"Negative press" about Sheffield on a variety of issues "led me to do a lot of things I obviously regret," said John Shively, who resigned as Sheffield's chief aide July 10.

Shively has admitted lying to investigators and destroying documents in connection with a state grand jury probe of the way the state negotiated a lucrative state office lease in Fairbanks.

Under vigorous questioning from a Senate committee which is hearing the impeachment proceedings, Shively said the governor was blameless in the affair, and that he, Shively, tried to cover up actions in connection with the negotiations to avoid "one more beating by the press."

Shively's testimony before the grand jury sparked the impeachment proceedings, which entered their third day yesterday.

Shively is tentatively scheduled to testify before the committee today.

He is accused of manipulating state office lease specifications to steer a \$9.1 million contract to a friend and campaign fund-raiser, and then lying about it to a grand jury. The lease has since been voided.

world news briefs

Officers convicted of espionage

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Three retired Indian military officers were convicted yesterday of selling information about Soviet military equipment to the United States, and were sentenced to 10 years each in prison.

High Court Judge K.B. Andley said in announcing the judgment that the three men arrested in November 1983 were guilty of a "conspiracy" involving the leakage of top state secrets.

It was the first time since the spy case came to light in 1983 that a public announcement was made as to which country was involved in the espionage.

Local news reports had speculated that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was the recipient of classified information on India's Soviet-supplied arms.

The three convicted were Army Maj. Gen. F.D. Larkins, his elder brother Air Vice Marshal K.H. Larkins, and Lt. Col. Jasbir Singh. A fourth suspect, civilian arms dealer Jaspal Singh Gill, was sentenced to two years in jail in connection with the espionage.

An air force officer reportedly tipped off the government after K.H. Larkins asked him for classified manuals detailing Soviet MIG jets used in the Indian Air Force.

Rebels attack boat in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Anti-government rebels attacked a riverboat in eastern Nicaragua and killed one soldier and wounded 17 people, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

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