

Soviets prepared for 'sad news'

By MONA ZIADE Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The Soviet Union's senior diplomat in Beirut said yesterday he expects "sad news" about three colleagues held by kidnappers who already have killed one embassy employee.



A Druze militiaman with a U.S. built automatic rifle stands guard beside a sandbagged post outside the Soviet Embassy in Beirut.

The kidnappers seized the Soviets on Monday and threaten to kill them unless Moscow forces Syria, its main Arab ally, to stop an offensive by Syrian-backed leftist militias against Moslem fundamentalists in the northern port of Tripoli.

An anonymous caller claimed the kidnappers were members of the Islamic Liberation Organization. Anonymous callers also have said suicide bombers will blow up the Soviet Embassy in the Corniche Mazraa district of west Beirut, the capital's Moslem sector.

the embassy, its staff and their dependents. No details were disclosed.

The Soviet charge d'affaires also delivered a letter to Gemayel from the Soviet government. The state radio said it called the kidnapping "an aggression against the Soviet Union which cannot be accepted."

Katkov's corpse was recovered after an anonymous caller, claiming to speak for the Islamic Liberation Organization, told Western news agencies one diplomat has been executed because the fighting continued in Tripoli, which is 50 miles north of Beirut.

Anonymous callers telephoned news organizations Thursday to repeat the statement that the embassy would be blown up at 9 a.m. Friday, the deadline set in the earlier calls.

They said that if it was not evacuated by then, "We shall mount suicide bombing attacks to level the whole compound upon your heads."

Soviet citizens in Lebanon, estimated to total about 150, had been urged to move into the embassy complex for safety. Diplomats declined comment on reports that Moscow might evacuate the remaining Soviets in Lebanon.

The Soviets now face the same problems that caused the U.S. Embassy to be closed in Beirut last year.

Washington moved its facility after suicide bomb attacks on U.S. facilities in the Moslem sector of the city that blew up the seafloor embassy, an annex and a U.S. Marine base, killing more than 250 Americans.

Only the Soviet Union and a few of its East European allies maintained their embassies in west Beirut after it was taken over by Moslem militias in February 1984.

The area has been plagued since by kidnappings, armed robberies and assassinations.

Fourteen Westerners, including six Americans, still are held by kidnappers who seized them in west Beirut beginning in January 1984.

The four embassy employees were the first kidnap victims from the Soviet bloc.

TMI Unit 1 reactor triggered on after 6 years of dormancy

By BOB DVORCHAK Associated Press Writer

MIDDLETOWN — Technicians triggered a nuclear chain reaction yesterday to restart the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island, dormant since its sister reactor caused the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident 6 1/2 years ago.

"The process went very smoothly. There weren't any problems," Lisa Robinson, spokeswoman for the plant's operator, GPU Nuclear Corp., said after the reactor was restarted.

However, Three Mile Island Alert Unit 1, which will mean a 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia for a stay of TMI operations. The group said the NRC's management integrity questions.

The restart of Unit 1, built in 1974 at a cost of \$400 million, will mean a savings of \$2 million a year by GPU ratepayers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The plant will stay at less than 1 percent of maximum power for several days, officials said. The reactor's 100 tons of uranium fuel could produce enough steam to generate some electricity by next week, and it could at 100 percent of its 800-megawatt capacity in three months.

"The job we have now is to operate it safely and effectively," Clark said. "Only after we have shown that over a period of time can we return to normal and say things are behind us."

"It's a big day," said Earl Showalter, a TMI simulator instructor. "We're going to be in a fishbowl. We're going to be watched more than any other plant in the world."

Sixteen people were arrested Wednesday night when 45 anti-nuclear activists protested at the main entrance to the plant, located on a sandbar in the Susquehanna River 10 miles southeast of Harrisburg. They were released on their own recognizance and income-support programs laid out in the new law, or to instead substitute sharply higher supports coupled with strict marketing and production curbs.

The issue was the focus of sharp philosophical division between grassroots farm groups seeking to shrink production and force farm prices higher, and the administration and more traditional farm groups fearing that to do so would ruin American farm export markets.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Handing President Reagan his first victory in the current farm bill debate, the House yesterday bucked its Democratic leaders and killed a proposal to let grain farmers vote on the future shape of their own subsidy programs.

The chamber voted 251-174 to strike from the bill a farmers referendum on whether to accept price- and income-support programs laid out in the new law, or to instead substitute sharply higher supports coupled with strict marketing and production curbs.

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state news briefs

Thornburgh speaks on divestment

HARRISBURG (AP) — Gov. Dick Thornburgh says the state has to be careful about insisting that state-related universities, public pensions and banks divest themselves of investments in companies that do business with South Africa.

"The commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under our constitutional system, does not have an independent foreign policy," Thornburgh said Wednesday in response to a reporter's question. "Our foreign policy is set by the national government."

Calling himself "an implacable foe of apartheid," Thornburgh said he applauds President Reagan's economic sanctions, such as halting the sale of South African gold coins in this country.

But Thornburgh said this country must be careful not to take actions that would deny jobs to South Africans who are victims of apartheid or hurt businesses in this country.

The situation must be watched closely, the governor said. "But I think for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take steps independently of what is being done in matters of foreign policy of the government would be risky," he added.

Electric rates going up slightly

HARRISBURG (AP) — The Public Utility Commission indicated yesterday that it will likely reduce rate increases proposed by Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.

The PUC, in a non-binding poll, indicated that it will reduce Met Ed's proposed \$47.3 million rate increase to approximately \$30 million, according to preliminary calculations by the state consumer advocate.

Pennsylvania Electric Co. may end up with about \$42 million of its requested \$55.3 million boost in annual revenues, according to the calculations which could vary by the time a final vote is taken.

The indications came from informal voting in which commissioners announced their stands on various issues involved in the Met Ed and Penelec rate cases.

nation news briefs

Natural gas marketing changing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A plan by federal energy regulators to take as much as \$3 billion from natural gas producers and turn it over to consumers in lower bills is stirring a bitter regional fight in the Senate.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced yesterday it intends to vote final approval next Wednesday on a long-awaited set of rules regulating the way natural gas — a fuel that provides one-fourth the nation's energy — is marketed.

The current arrangement has been in place for nearly a half-century. The proposed rules, aimed at breaking up pipeline monopolies and revising their purchasing practices, were approved unanimously by the agency in draft form last May in what one industry commissioner, Oliver Richard, called the "Magna Charta of the natural gas industry."

Most of the nation's 10,000 gas producers and some Wall Street analysts counter that the estimated \$1 billion to \$5 billion in consumer savings will stymie drilling for new gas supplies.

Reagan wins farm bill debate

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Meteorite may have killed dinosaurs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A giant meteorite striking the Earth 65 million years ago may have started worldwide fires that killed the dinosaurs by plunging the planet into a dark period similar to the "nuclear winter" some suspect might be started by a nuclear war, scientists say.

University of Chicago researchers say they found surprisingly high amounts of soot and charcoal in clay samples from that time, an indication that worldwide wildfires may have contributed to the global extinction of dinosaurs and half the species then alive on the Earth.

In a report to be published Friday in the journal Science, chemists say smoky soot from the fires would have added to the dust thrown up by the meteorite impact to block out sunlight.

This would have plunged the Earth into a cold, dark period lasting for months that soon killed some plants and animals, and eventually others that depended on them, said Dr. Edward Anders, a study leader. Wolbach and Roy S. Lewis said the findings indicate soot yield from widespread vegetation fires is higher and more uniformly distributed than previously assumed.

world news briefs

Peres calls on Hussein for peace

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that Israel will forge ahead with efforts to start Middle East peace talks and that the Israeli raid on PLO headquarters in Tunisia would not disrupt peace efforts.

Peres also called on King Hussein of Jordan to say "publicly and clearly" that he favors eliminating a state of war between the two countries.

Peres, replying to foreign reporters' questions in Jerusalem, rejected European and Arab statements saying that Tuesday's bombing raid would harm prospects for peace.

He accused the Palestine Liberation Organization of sabotaging peace by killing three Israelis in Larnaca, Cyprus, on Sept. 25. Israel said the air strike was in retaliation for the slayings of the Israelis, which Peres called "part of a policy of the PLO to torpedo the mission of other Arab leaders that may seek peace."

El Salvador rebels released

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Four or more prisoners have been released to the Red Cross and taken to a rebel-held area, apparently as part of an exchange for the president's kidnapped daughter, sources said yesterday.

At least 37 people were killed on both sides in fighting between soldiers and leftist guerrillas in eastern El Salvador, and leftist guerrillas announced their ninth ban on highway traffic this year in a continuing campaign to wreck the economy.

Government and Red Cross spokesmen did not answer or return telephone calls about the reports that the prisoners were taken to rebel territory in Chalatenango Province. The reports came from unofficial but knowledgeable sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rebels who claimed responsibility for the kidnapping have demanded the release of 34 prisoners in exchange for their daughter, said sources. The release of the prisoners, said sources, was announced by the president's spokesman on Oct. 3.

In the last accounting, the Treasury was within about \$25 million of that level. As long as the government depends more than it takes in, it must continue to borrow to operate. Outlays recently have been running at about \$20 billion a month above receipts.

Atlantis blasts off into space

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Atlantis joined America's space shuttle fleet yesterday with a dazzling liftoff on a mission of mystery, carrying five astronauts and a pair of military satellites built to withstand nuclear radiation.

Except for the launch, which could be seen from much of central Florida, the flight had as much secrecy as the Air Force could muster.

"The crew is doing well and all systems on board the orbiter are performing satisfactorily," said NASA's Billie Deason after the shuttle had been in orbit nearly five hours.

That was one of two announcements promised for the hush-hush flight. The other is to be a 24-hour notice that the shuttle will land at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

There was no word when the satellites would be deployed, but it has been NASA's policy to get payloads out of the cargo bay at the earliest opportunity, usually on the first day aloft.

Atlantis' maiden flight, the 21st of the shuttle program, was the second all-Pentagon mission. A spy satellite was delivered to orbit on the first and it was deployed 16 hours after liftoff.

Despite the news blackout, there was reliable information that the astronauts will deploy two Defense Satellite Communications System satellites, an advanced model known as DSCS-3. The \$100 million satellites are designed to provide an enemy with jamming their communications and for use by the president to send emergency instructions to nuclear forces around the globe.

The satellites also have been shielded against the radiation and electromagnetic pulse effects of nuclear explosions, which could short out or overload unshielded electronic components.

The DSCS-3 satellites are not classified as secret, but the Defense Department has decided to black out information about most military flights of the space shuttle to "protect the identity, mission and operation of DOD cargo" and "protect information concerning vulnerabilities of the shuttle and facilities."

Rescue workers search for boy in quake rubble

By CARL MANNING Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Rescue workers digging with picks, shovels and their hands tried frantically yesterday to reach a 9-year-old boy believed trapped alive under tons of earthquake rubble for 14 days.

Rescue workers, covered with grime and dirt from hours of digging, said they still hope to reach Luis Ramon Navarrete Maldonado, whose relatives say he is trapped in the debris along with his 57-year-old grandfather, Luis Maldonado.

The workers believe the boy has communicated with them by tapping on the debris surrounding him. Doctors at the scene say the child is too weak to talk. Rescue workers emerging from the old three-story colonial building said there has been no voice contact.

Carlos Malbran, an Argentine engineer who is one of those in charge of rescue efforts, said he could not estimate when rescuers would tunnel through the rubble and reach the point where the child is believed trapped under an estimated 20-ton mound of debris. Rescuers think they were within five feet of the location.

One worker said rescuers have dug two primary, parallel tunnels and believe the boy is between the two paths. The workers say they must take a circuitous route to reach the spot where the child is believed trapped because of the way a wall had fallen around the area.

Rescuers at the site say the building collapsed during the Sept. 19 quake, apparently trapping the boy in the patio area as he was trying to flee.

Alberto Maldonado, 30, said earlier Thursday that he believes both



Standing behind a police line, a Mexican woman waits outside an apartment building in Mexico City for rescue workers to free her son under the rubble.

his father and nephew have responded to rescuers tapping on the rubble. "I know my father is alive," he told the AP, adding that the older

man is "very strong. He plays jai alai all day on Wednesdays and Saturdays." Rescue worker Jorge Sanchez Zermeno on Thursday said res-

cue workers, keeping their own figures, estimate the death count much higher. El Universal, for instance, said more than 7,000 have died.

U.S. government about to go broke once again

By TOM RAUM AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The government of the richest nation in the world is again on the verge of running out of cash. It's become an annual ritual, one that dictates that Congress come to the rescue — protesting and barely in the nick of time — with the renewed borrowing authority.

True to the script, jittery administration officials already have begun issuing warnings of dire consequences if Congress fails to raise the national debt limit — a deadline officials say will come sometime on Monday.

The Treasury would be left with insufficient funds to operate the government, they warn. Federal workers wouldn't get paid. Benefit checks would bounce, defense contractors be left in the lurch, agencies start to close. The wheels of government would grind to a halt.

But while Congress frequently marches to the brink in its annual debt-limit debate, each year fiscal chaos somehow manages to be averted. The government lumbers on.

The two times the government actually did start to shut down — in November 1981 and October 1984 — it was because Congress failed to pass emergency stopgap funding measures, not because of a debt-limit impasse. And those shutdowns lasted only a half-day each.

The Reagan administration has asked Congress to increase the debt limit to \$2,078 trillion, breaking the symbolic mark of \$2 trillion. The new level would be more than twice the limit when Reagan took office in 1981.

While the House has already approved the debt limit increase, the measure is currently bogged down in the Senate, where several amendments have been offered, including one by Sens. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, and Warren Rudman, R-N.H., to force the president and

Congress to have a balanced budget by 1991. Any Senate amendment would send the issue back to the Democratic-run House, with the prospect of touching off further prolonged debate.

The current limit on U.S. borrowing is \$1,824 trillion and it is this level that the Treasury says it expects to bump against on Monday.

In the last accounting, the Treasury was within about \$25 million of that level. As long as the government depends more than it takes in, it must continue to borrow to operate. Outlays recently have been running at about \$20 billion a month above receipts.

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CORRECTED VERSION In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful WHO WILL WIN THE PERSIAN GULF CONFLICT? The sometimes "forgotten" and sometimes "bloody" war between Iran and Iraq still continues. It is now five years old. There is a lot of speculation on how the war will end, when it will end, and who will win. There are those who blindly condemn any war, even a defensive struggle. There are those who question why the war should continue while one side is offering peace, and finally there are those who condemn this particular war since "Muslim" blood is being shed. Furthermore, the aims and goals of each party involved in the conflict may now seem vague, and the role of other countries may not be crystal clear.

- 1. Jody Powell, the Press Secretary during the Carter Administration. Interview in ABC's "Night Line" program on Nov. 1, 1984. 2. Wall Street Journal, Feb. 8, 1980. 3. Pacific News Service, Aug. 1980. 4. An AP dispatch at the time. 5. Nation, Oct. 25, 1980. 6. New York Times, March 27, 1982.