

Black South African students end two-year boycott of classes

By JAMES F. SMITH
Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Black students ended two years of school boycotts yesterday and streamed back to classes to prepare for the new academic year on the strength of a pact parents reached with the white-led government.

Attendance was heavy as schools reopened in urban centers including Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, where boycotts cut attendance for much of 1984 and 1985.

On some days in recent months, more than 200,000 black students boycotted classes out of 1.7 million enrolled in urban areas. The boycotts have been a constant in 17 months of racial unrest that led to the deaths of more than 1,000 people, most of them Blacks.

Outside a school in Johannesburg's huge black township of Soweto, police used tear gas to break up groups of chanting students, residents said. But there were no other reports of trouble, and the fragile accord appeared to have opened the door to normalizing the long-troubled black schools.

Police reported the stabbing deaths of four black men in a fight between rival gangs in a squatter camp outside Cape Town. Police headquarters in Pretoria also acknowledged riot patrols shot dead a 15-year-old girl and a 35-year-old man Monday in Kagiso, west of Johannesburg. The girl was slain after police

broke up a rally to debate whether to return to school, one of several such meetings banned by authorities. The Kagiso youths decided to go to school yesterday, but a black newspaper noted the accord could be threatened by such incidents.

Boycotts over black demands for equal education with white children started in early 1984 as part of the protest against apartheid, the system of legal racial segregation.

A breakthrough came late December, when education officials negotiated with the National Parents' Crisis Committee, a group with widespread backing from activist youths.

Demands included the withdrawal of soldiers from riot duty in the townships, an end to the state of emergency and the release of detained leaders as well as educational grievances.

The department said it could not grant political demands but agreed to allow elected student councils and provide more money for textbooks and other needs.

Education officials, acknowledging that thousands of youths had boycotted end-of-year exams in November, also agreed to set up a second set of exams in February and March for boycotters and to begin the 1986 academic year in April.

The parents group said schools should reopen Tuesday, three weeks after the scheduled date, and the government tacitly accepted that demand to allow community groups time to debate the concessions offered by the department.



These Soweto students were back at school yesterday, as Blacks throughout South Africa returned to classes, ending two years of periodic boycotts.

Philippine cardinal demands independent pollwatchers

By ALEX GAW
Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines' top Roman Catholic church official yesterday demanded that independent pollwatchers be allowed to monitor next week's presidential election in an effort to prevent fraud.

The admonition from Manila Cardinal Jaime Sin came as President Ferdinand E. Marcos campaigned on the island of Mindanao and opposition candidate Corason Aquino stumped in towns south of Manila.

"In my capacity as archbishop of Manila, I demand that what NAMFREL (National Movement for Free Elections) is asking should be given," said Sin.

NAMFREL chairman Jose Concepcion said

Sin, among other things, was referring to demands that the group be allowed to conduct its own "quick count" of returns from the Feb. 7 election.

Sin's statement during mass was followed by the reading of a pointed pastoral letter from all Filipino bishops, who said they see signs of fraud and violence similar to the pattern of past elections.

Fourteen people have been killed in election-related incidents in the month-old presidential campaign.

The bishops did not criticize or endorse Marcos or Aquino and were not explicit about who was committing the alleged abuses, but their criticism supported actions that would tend to help Aquino.

They urged the people to vote for "persons

who morally, intellectually and physically show themselves capable of inspiring the nation towards a hopeful future."

Sin noted in his homily that the National Movement for Free Elections and the election commission were working towards resolving their differences and said, "I think the demands of NAMFREL are good and should be respected."

The organization is supported by prominent business and civic groups and has also been praised by U.S. officials. It claims credit for reducing cheating in the May 1984 National Assembly election.

Sin did not elaborate on the group's demands, but Concepcion said in an interview after the mass that NAMFREL was calling for the creation of special teams in areas

where fraud was likely to occur.

Marcos appeared before a huge rally on troubled Mindanao island, the scene of a growing communist insurgency and a decades-old Muslim secessionist rebellion, and told crowds in Zamboanga his administration had done everything to help the poor.

Marcos announced the establishment of a college, the improvement of another school and the issuing of land titles. Marcos has doled out millions of dollars worth of government benefits at his campaign rallies.

Aquino drew an estimated 150,000 people on a day-long motorcade through Cavite province, just south of Manila.

In Manila, about 1,500 leftists called for an election boycott, saying a clean election was impossible under Marcos.

Scientology founder dies

By CAROLYN SKORNECK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — L. Ron Hubbard, the science fiction writer who founded the often-battled Church of Scientology three decades ago, has died of a stroke, the church said Monday night. He was 74.

Hubbard, who had not been seen in public since 1980, died Friday at his ranch near San Luis Obispo, 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles, said Heber Jentsch, president of the Church of Scientology International.

Hubbard's eldest son, Ronald E. DeWolf, in a lawsuit filed in 1982, had claimed that Hubbard was either dead or mentally incompetent, but a judge ruled Hubbard was alive.

Church officials said Hubbard's ashes were scattered at sea after his body was examined by the San Luis Obispo county coroner's office.

Hubbard did not control the organization and its corporations for the past few years, said Jentsch.

Scientology is based on Hubbard's 1948 book "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," which has sold millions of copies. Hubbard and his third and surviving wife, Mary Sue Hubbard, founded the church in 1954.

Through the use of a so-called E-meter, somewhat like a lie detector, church members undergo exercises and counseling to eliminate negative mental images and achieve a "clear state."

The wealthy church has claimed up to 6 million members worldwide since the height of the movement in the 1970s. Defectors, however, have put the number at closer to 2 million.

At its peak, the church reportedly earned \$100 million a year.

The group has often been on the defensive. In 1979, Mary Sue Hubbard and 10 other Scientologists were convicted of burglarizing and burgling government agencies, which group leaders claimed had harassed the church for decades.

The following year, the IRS took the group to federal Tax Court in Los Angeles challenging its tax-exempt status from 1970 through 1972, saying the California branch of the church owed \$1.4 million in income taxes for the period.

In 1984, the court decided against the Church of Scientology, ordering payment of back taxes and penalties.

DeWolf in his lawsuit sought to be appointed trustee of his father's financial affairs, claiming that Scientology officials were mismanaging Hubbard's estate.

A judge dismissed the probate case in 1983 after the group presented a letter, purportedly written by Hubbard, saying he was in seclusion by choice.

No autopsy was performed, in accordance with Hubbard's will, said Earle Cooley, the church's chief counsel. He said the coroner's office took blood samples and Hubbard's fingerprints.

Hubbard left most of his estate to Scientology, Cooley said.

Court documents filed in a civil case against the church revealed that Earth was called "Teegach 75 million years ago and was among 90 planets ruled by Xemu, who spread evil by thermonuclear bombs.

state news briefs

More flocks hit with avian flu

HARRISBURG (AP) — Two more chicken flocks in Pennsylvania will be destroyed as state officials try to control an outbreak of the deadly avian flu. Six flocks have been ordered killed this month. State Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Grubb said yesterday a flock of 121,000 chickens near Winfield, Snyder County, and a flock of 17,000 chickens near Pittman, Schuylkill County, will be killed. Both flocks had been quarantined for more than a week.

Although the flu situation is serious, Grubb said state officials still hope they can contain the latest outbreak, which started earlier this month.

In the 1983-84 outbreak, 16 million birds were destroyed in Pennsylvania and another 1 million in New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. The flu does not harm humans, but is easily spread by people to poultry.

"Our studies still indicate that the disease was reintroduced into Pennsylvania from outside the commonwealth through unsanitary cages and equipment," Grubb said. "We are attempting to locate all possible areas where the virus could have been carried."

A poultry industry committee was formed Monday to advise the department on avian flu control methods, the secretary said.

nation news briefs

Erie native charged with spying

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — An Air Force enlisted man who worked with the aviation wing that operates super-secret SR-71 spy planes has been arrested and charged with trying to pass intelligence information to the Soviet Union, officials said yesterday.

Airman 1st Class Bruce P. Ott, 25, of Erie, Pa., was arrested by Air Force and FBI agents in Davis, Calif., on suspicion of attempted unauthorized release of national defense information, said Capt. Joseph Saxon, the public information officer at Beale Air Force Base, where Ott was assigned.

The spokesman said the arrest occurred on Jan. 22, and that Ott was now in pre-trial confinement at the base. He refused, however, to discuss any further details of the case or say to which country Ott was attempting to pass information.

But a number of military and government sources who demanded anonymity said Ott had been singled out by federal investigators after making an attempt to pass secret information to the Soviet Union.

One source said Ott had been charged with attempting to pass information "that concerned the SR-71." Another said he was thought to have been operating alone and that the investigation "was fairly recent," adding authorities think they arrested Ott before any information actually changed hands.

Another government source said the FBI tagged Ott after he allegedly made his first contact with the Soviets, apparently through a phone call monitored through a wiretap.

The SR-71, unofficially known as the Blackbird, is a long-range reconnaissance jet that can fly more than three times the speed of sound at altitudes above 80,000 feet. The plane is routinely used by the United States for classified intelligence-gathering missions.

According to Saxon, Ott was an administrative clerk in the orderly room of the 1st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron, which is part of the 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.

Air Force officials refused to disclose what type of security clearance Ott held, but "even a junior enlisted guy working with that wing has some kind of clearance," one source said.

Although Pentagon officials refused to discuss it, Ott could conceivably face the death penalty if convicted of espionage under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Ott attended LeBoeuf High School near Erie, Pa., relatives said, where he was a well-liked honors student.

Congress urged to aid Savimbi

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The Reagan administration urged Congress yesterday to support rebels fighting the Cuban-backed government of Angola, but cautioned there is "no possibility" of an outright military victory for either side.

And conservative groups, who hailed the forces of guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi as "brave anti-communist freedom fighters," renewed their call for U.S. companies to close their operations in the African country.

Savimbi, arriving yesterday for a press agent-guided tour including meetings with President Reagan and leaders of Congress, will be trying to drum up backing for his military group, UNITA, which is fighting a government aided by Cuban troops.

The administration has been vague in public about whether it wants to send financial assistance to UNITA, though it reportedly has asked the Senate Intelligence Committee for \$10 million to \$15 million in covert assistance to be administered by the CIA.

Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, told reporters "we would welcome an expression of support from the congress for UNITA," but he would not say in what form — only that it be "effective and appropriate."

He said the Angolan authorities have tried to "deal a body blow" to UNITA and "they have failed. It is important in our view that they continue to fail."

At another news conference, Howard Phillips, chairman of the Conservative Caucus, said 25 groups have joined a campaign to force Chevron, the parent of Gulf Oil Co., to close its operations in Angola.

Chevron should "end its alliance with the Soviet Union, stop furnishing fuel and revenues for the Soviet war machine," Phillips said.

Crocker said the administration was taking no position on the call for companies to pull out of Angola, but said "it is important that our companies take into account what has taken place there."

world news briefs

American Indian activist wounded

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — American Indian activist Russell Means was slightly wounded while traveling with Indian rebels inside Nicaragua, a spokesman for the Misurasata rebel group said yesterday.

Delano Martin, executive secretary of the Nicaraguan Indian guerrilla organization, said the Sandinista rebel group bombed an aerial bombardment of Laya-Siska on the isolated Caribbean coast of Nicaragua. He said Means suffered slight arm and leg wounds, and remained in Nicaragua.

Others traveling with Misurasata leader Brooklyn Rivera were Clem Chartier of Ottawa, Canada, president of the World Council of Indigenous People; Hank Adams of Olympia, Wash., director of the Survival of American Indians Association, and Bob Martin, a freelance journalist from Albuquerque, N.M., the rebel spokesman said. Only Means was reported injured.

Means had told reporters here that he would visit the Nicaraguan coastal region to assess conditions there.

Nicaraguan Indians have been fighting the leftist Sandinista government for four years, resisting the application of government policies in the remote region and seeking autonomy.

The report Martin sent out by radio said more than 30 rockets were fired into the village, the Misurasata spokesman said.

A tribal council of Nicaraguan Indians held in Honduras last year ordered Misurasata to join the larger rebel group Misura in a new organization called Kisan, which means Nicaraguan Coast Indian Unity in the Miskito Indian language. Rivera refused.

Some Indian leaders say they want an independent state but others feel an autonomy agreement with the Sandinistas is possible.

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Ramona Africa defends herself

By MIKE OWEN
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — In courtrooms, her head ground in a system they despise, members of the radical MOVE group have broken rules and been ejected. But Ramona Africa is "nothing other than lawyerly" in presenting the defense in her own criminal trial.

The only known adult survivor of the May 13 confrontation between police and MOVE retains the group's defiant look, appearing in court in blue jeans, her thick dreadlocks dwarfing her face.

She says she's making points while representing against aggravated assault, riot, conspiracy and other charges arising from the mayhem that left 11 people dead, 61 homes destroyed and the city shaken.

"MOVE is against the system," Africa, 30, told Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Stiles recently while claiming the right to represent herself at trial. "If I put my life in the hands of an officer of the system, it would be as irrational as a Jew putting himself in the hands of a Nazi."

Daniel Stevenson sits next to Africa in the courtroom as back-up counsel to give help if she requests it, and he acknowledged, "It'd be a lot more comfortable with this case if I were trying it myself."

Africa, who reportedly was in an undergraduate pre-law program at Temple University and once worked as a paralegal, lets the prosecution get away with too much, he said.

At the same time, Stevenson said, she is bright and often displays "good instincts" favoring a sequestered jury, for example.

On Friday, she called Mayor W. Wilson Goode to the stand, demanding first, "Are you a liar?" but then resuming her monotone while haring her fire-scared left arm to the jury.

On Monday, 14-year-old Michael Ward, once known as Birdie Africa and the only other known survivor of the confrontation, testified he did not see any of the club members shoot a gun or strike anyone.

And yesterday, former Police Commissioner Gregory Sambor testified that the bomb explosion dropped on MOVE's headquarters was intended

to drive MOVE members from the house, not kill people.

Except for a loud reaction earlier in the proceedings to entry of testimony about a 1978 confrontation between police and MOVE, in which a police officer was killed, she has controlled her emotions, observers said.

"She's been nothing other than lawyerly in this case," Stevenson said.

The Supreme Court in 1975 established the right of defendants to represent themselves, provided a judge finds them competent. The court ruled in 1984 that a trial judge can appoint a lawyer to act as back-up counsel for such defendants.

Africa, one of only about 10 people representing themselves out of 12,000 defendants in the Philadelphia courts in the past year, is not just an anomaly but an irony, Stevenson said.

The right to have a lawyer "is a hard-won gain for criminal defendants," said Stevenson, a member of the Defenders Association, a group of about 120 lawyers who handle the bulk of the city's criminal cases.

He said he lobbied to get the case, because "I thought I could convince Ms. Africa to let me try it." She has done her own legal research, leaving Stevenson "sitting there with my mouth closed."

Assistant District Attorney Joseph McGill said Africa has been a thorough questioner and well-prepared. He said she has an advantage acting as her own attorney because she can testify through her questions but not have to face cross-examination.

"In most cases and most people it would be unwise to represent yourself," McGill said. "In this case and this way that she's operating, it can be viewed as the primary way she can get sympathy for her cause."

He said for defendants wanting to use a trial as a political platform and he includes Africa in that group — "it would be a very public, vocal and visible platform."

Unlike Africa, some MOVE members have run afoul of court procedure and judges' patience while acting as their own lawyers. Senior Judge Edwin Malmed ejected a defendant for making speeches during cross-examination in a 1980 murder trial.



Papal advertising
Two motorcyclists drive past an advertising billboard featuring Pope John Paul II in Cochín, India, a stop among the 14 cities the pope will visit beginning this weekend. Local Catholic businesses have put up many billboards to welcome the pope and advertise their companies.

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