

U.S., Soviets: High-level officials talk

By BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — South Africa and the Middle East dominated a daylong discussion of regional issues by high-level U.S. and Soviet delegations yesterday at the State Department.

The U.S. side probed the Soviets about their intentions in Angola and whether Moscow expected to establish limited diplomatic relations with Israel, said a U.S. official who described the talks as "serious and businesslike."

Soviet technicians and more than 30,000 Cuban troops are supporting the Marxist government in Angola in a guerrilla war with pro-Western insurgents led by Jonas Savimbi.

The Reagan administration is seeking a withdrawal of the Cubans as part of a regional settlement that would also lead to independence of Namibia, the territory held by South Africa.

The Soviets have held tentative talks with Israel about reviving the ties cut by Moscow after the 1967 Middle East war. The administration would like to see relations restored.

The official, who demanded anonymity, said "the differences of both sides were clearly identified," and that southern Africa received "a heavy degree of attention."

The Soviet delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin, was known to be eager to focus on U.S. policy toward South Africa's white-minority government.

The administration, trying to withstand an international tide, has declined to impose economic sanctions on Pretoria as a way to force an end to the apartheid system of racial segregation.

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He said the idea was to exchange views, not to negotiate. "It doesn't seem like these things even if the other side knew at the start what you were going to say," the official said.

State Department deputy spokesman Charles E. Redman said earlier that "the fact that we've had a number of talks, conversations, discussions with the Soviet Union over the past month and more are scheduled is indicative, in a positive way, of the current state of relations."

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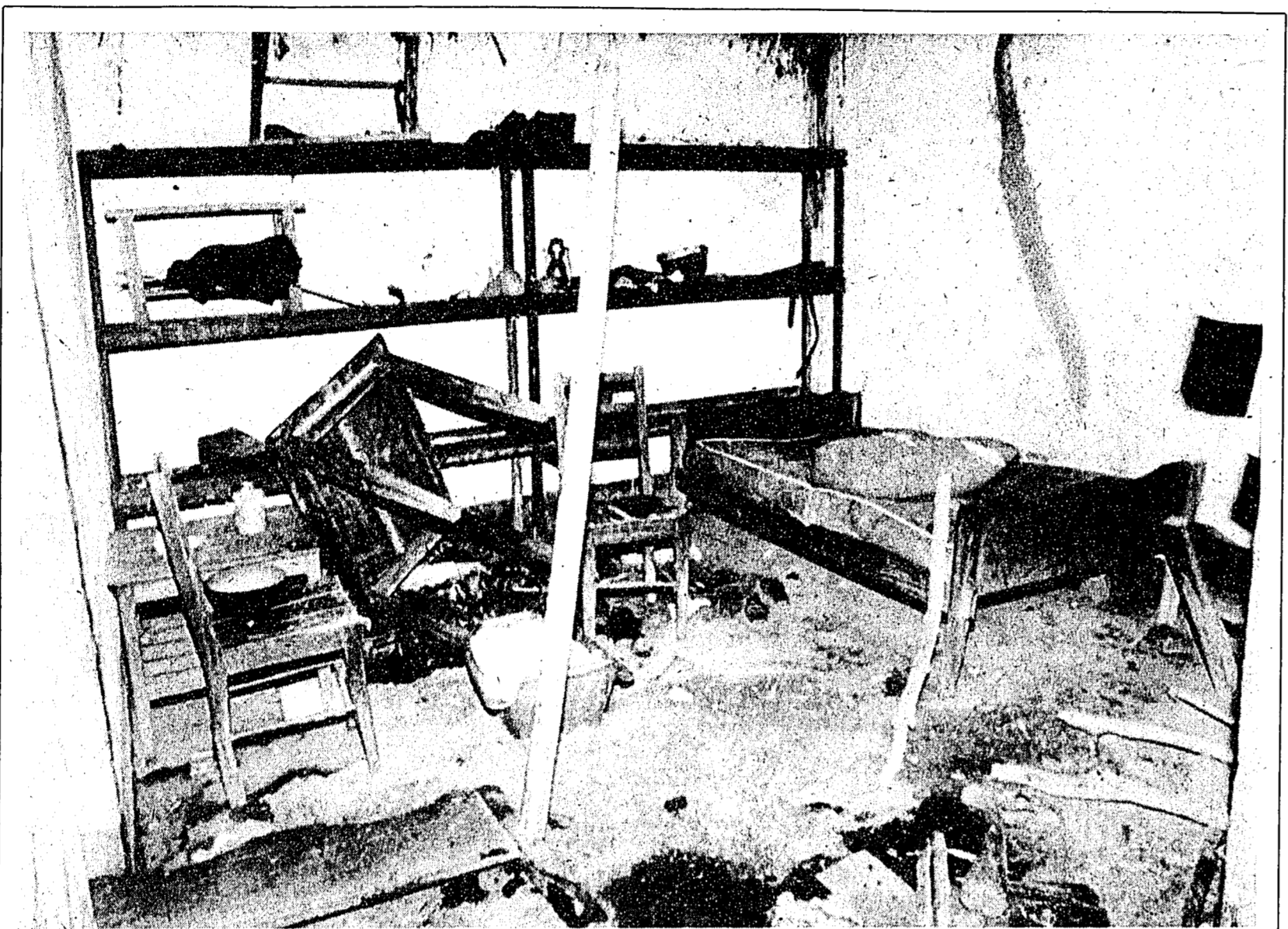
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This house in the village of Souboun, Cameroon, lies empty after all its inhabitants died last Thursday in the cloud of deadly gas that erupted from nearby Lake Nios. For those who survived, food, medicine and other relief supplies began arriving in Cameroon yesterday.

Cameroon gets relief; lake probed

By ARTHUR MAX
Associated Press Writer

YAOUNDE, Cameroon — Food and medicine yesterday reached refugees who fled the gas-tainted mountains of northwest Cameroon, and scientists probed the muddy lake that had spewed a killer cloud of fumes.

International relief supplies began arriving to help this tropical West African nation cope with the natural disaster that killed more than 1,500 people.

Officials said nearly all of the dead had been buried, most of them near where they were found. The biggest remaining concern, they said, was burying thousands of dead animals putrefying in the stifling heat.

The rugged terrain, upward roads and unreliable communications hampered relief efforts. Army troops evacuated about 3,000 survivors of the gas explosion, but had trouble sealing off the area from people who wanted to return to their homes. About 2,000 soldiers have closed off the area, which is about 200 miles northwest of Yaounde.

"Our first priority is to set our priorities," said Jean-Marcel Mengue, chairman of the government's crisis committee.

Scientists believe that a volcanic tremor under Lake Nios released a bubble of deadly gas that rose to the surface and spread over the area last Thursday night.

Until now, rescue operations, burial details and the transport of relief supplies were the responsibility of the Cameroonian army.

One Western diplomat said the army, which has three U.S.-built Hercules transport planes and a few smaller aircraft, was having difficulty dealing with the influx of supplies.

"It's a problem," said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "This government never faced anything on this scale before."

Most of the refugees moved in with relatives outside the stricken district. A few hundred homeless people were evacuated to the town of Wum, about 20 miles from the disaster area, said Ivo Yenko, an aide to President Paul Biya.

Scientists began analyzing the water of Lake Nios, which the eruption turned from a brilliant blue to a murky reddish brown.

"I sent a team yesterday to take samples of the water," said Bienvenu Fouda, secretary-general of the Ministry of Mines. "They will report and make proposals."

Fouda said residents of the disaster area had been warned not to drink local water. He said the army had provided tanks of purified water and that bottled water was an urgent need.

A 17-member Israeli medical team that arrived in Cameroon on Monday reached the hospital in Nkambe, 60 miles east of Wum.

A six-member French scientific team flew to the provincial capital of Bamenda on Tuesday but was unable to reach the disaster area 70 miles away.

The government asked the United States to send technical experts, tents, acid-proof suits, gas detectors and food supplies, according to the State Department. Deputy spokesman Charles Redman said Washington has initially invested about \$250,000 and expects that figure to rise.

Redman said a team of U.S. doctors and another of scientists were en route to Cameroon. A Spanish Air Force cargo plane left Madrid for Cameroon with six tons of medicine, clothes and tents, the Spanish Health Ministry reported.

Officials said Italy and the European Common Market were also sending aid. It still was not known exactly what gas killed nearly all life around the small lake.

Officials said the bodies of several victims were flown to Yaounde for autopsies.

Fouda said he planned a study to determine areas of high risk and to encourage people to move away from areas of frequent volcanic activity.

state news briefs

\$250,000 drug bust made

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A north Philadelphia man was indicted yesterday on charges of trying to sell almost \$250,000 in cocaine and methamphetamine to an undercover agent.

Ronald C. Daniel, 37, was arrested July 29 after trying to sell 1½ kilograms of cocaine and one-half pound of methamphetamine, the federal indictment said.

Officers from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and Philadelphia police found another half kilogram of cocaine in Daniel's home, the indictment said. The drugs would have brought \$250,000 on the street, officials said.

Daniel was being held without bail, Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul A. Sarmouskis said. If convicted on all counts, Daniel faces a maximum penalty of 66 years' imprisonment and a \$500,000 fine.

A representative of the DEA called the seizure substantial.

"Anyone who has the ability to present 2 kilograms of 90 percent pure cocaine would certainly be considered a major supplier," DEA agent Walter Jenkins said.

Pittsburgh priest bound, robbed

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A Pittsburgh priest says two intruders threatened his life and tied his hands and neck with an electrical cord before they robbed his rectory.

The Rev. John Ropke, 42, a priest at the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, told police several versions of the Tuesday morning incident.

"I'm still confused," Ropke said. "I'm still trying to put the pieces together."

Police said missing from the North Side neighborhood rectory was \$650 in cash, Ropke's suitcase and camera, three telephones and a personal computer.

Ropke said he returned to the rectory Monday night to find two men in his office. He said one had a knife and held it to his throat.

"Give us whatever money you have in the house or we'll kill you," Ropke told police the men said.

The priest said the men wanted him to open one of two rectory safes, but Ropke said he doesn't have the combinations.

nation news briefs

AID withholds family-planning funds

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The Agency for International Development has decided to withhold its \$25 million contribution from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, congressional sources and interest groups said Wednesday.

The decision to withhold the money was made public by the Population Crisis Committee, a private group that supports family planning activities. It termed the action an "unmitigated disaster."

Questions about U.S. funding for the agency were raised last fall following attacks on the family planning program in China.

Opponents charged that the Chinese program, designed to encourage each family to have only one child, had engaged in coercion and had encouraged an increase in abortions and involuntary sterilizations in that nation.

The decision to withhold money from the U.N. agency "is basically an affirmation of the overwhelming evidence that the People's Republic of China is using coercion" in its family planning program, said congressional aide Martin Dannenfelser.

Fire hits Treasury building

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — An electrical short circuit was the apparent cause of a fire at the Treasury Department yesterday that sent potentially hazardous fumes into the air, causing 20 firefighters to be treated for smoke inhalation, authorities said.

The blaze was discovered in a sub-basement of the federal building across the street from the main Treasury Department building and the White House at 7:15 a.m. and brought under control within half an hour, said Brenda Fenton, a spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Fire Department.

The fire, which started in an electrical cabinet in the back-up electrical system, caused polyvinyl chloride (PVC) products to emanate into the air, Fenton said.

"They are considered hazardous materials when inhaled," she said.

The substance is used for the plastic wrapping on electrical products, the spokeswoman said.

A spokesman for the Treasury Department said damage was minor and restricted mainly to circuits in the electrical system. The spokesman said workers with the department's Financial Management Services, which is housed in the annex, were not sent home because of the fire.

world news briefs

20 killed in Peruvian violence

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Leftist guerrillas bombed three government ministries in the capital yesterday, and officials reported 20 people were killed in political violence in Peru's highlands.

Officials said the attacks on the government ministries appeared to be part of a campaign to disrupt November's municipal elections.

Bombs made of sticks of dynamite exploded at midday in bathrooms in the economy, labor and energy ministries. The explosions damaged water pipes, inner walls and doors of the bathrooms, but no one was reported hurt, police said.

Police said the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, a Cuban urban guerrilla group active since 1984, left behind fliers taking responsibility for the bombings.

Guerrillas of the Maoist Shining Path movement exploded two sticks of dynamite early yesterday near the Peruvian Investigative Police headquarters in the Andean city of Ayacucho, police said. They said the explosion did no damage and no one was hurt.

Police also reported the discovery yesterday of the bodies of two peasants with their throats cut alongside a road 25 miles north of Ayacucho. They said the Shining Path was suspected of having killed the men.

Libya bypasses U.S. embargo

PARIS (AP) — Libya has acquired two Airbus jetliners, powered by American-made engines, in a U.S. embargo of high technology exports to Libya, industry officials said.

The delivery two weeks ago of two used European Airbus Industrie A310-200 jetliners apparently involved aviation companies and brokers in France, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Algeria, the officials said Monday, confirming a report in the current edition of the French news magazine *Le Point*.

The airplanes, worth \$100 million, apparently were unknowingly sold to Libya by British Caledonian airlines, which has since filed suit in a Paris court seeking to untangle the April 24 sale.

British Caledonian spokesman Tony Cocklin said that according to the contract, the airline was selling the two planes to Services Airlines Ltd., a Hong Kong-registered company, which was to resell them to another Hong Kong-based company, Cobra Airways Ltd.

Cocklin said by telephone that British Caledonian demanded assurances that the planes would not fall into the hands of certain proscribed countries, and that he was told by the "end user" was Europe Aero Service, a regional airline based in Perpignan, France.

Cocklin said British Caledonian later became suspicious when it learned the planes sat on the runway at Dubai for several weeks before being flown to Amman, Jordan, by a West German crew. Algerian pilots then flew the aircraft to Tripoli, Libya, he said.

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But Kremlin wants arms progress before summit

By CAROL J. WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — A Soviet specialist on U.S. affairs, Georgy Arbatov, said yesterday that the Kremlin wants progress on arms control before setting a summit date. He warned that superpower relations seem headed for further trouble.

Arbatov, the head of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute and a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, suggested at a news conference that a summit this year should not be taken for granted.

He interrupted a West German reporter inquiring about European support for the summit by asking, "Are you sure there is going to be a summit?"

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and President Reagan agreed during their first meeting in Geneva in November to meet in the United States this year.

But Soviet officials repeatedly have said a second summit will be scheduled only when the "appropriate political atmosphere" exists between the two countries and when the leaders are ready to sign an arms control accord.

Kremlin officials say the Americans have ignored the most important promise made by Reagan and Gorbachev last year — to work toward disarmament and more stable ties.

"In the United States there is a desire to substitute the main Geneva agreement — to improve relations — with questions about how to go about this process," Arbatov said. "This is falsification of the agreement."

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Rocket destroyed in flight

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. (AP) — A small rocket carrying a scientific payload for NASA was destroyed 50 seconds after launch because guidance system failed, officials said yesterday.

The destruction of the 40-foot Arias rocket was the latest in a series of American rocket failures that began with the loss of the space shuttle Challenger and its seven-member crew on Jan. 28.

On April 18, an Air Force Titan 34D rocket carrying a military satellite exploded seconds after liftoff, and on May 3 a Delta rocket went out of control and was destroyed by the range safety officer shortly after it lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., with a weather satellite.

Another small rocket, a Nike Orion, failed as it lofted a science payload on a sub-orbital flight from White Sands on April 25.

The Challenger, Delta and Atlas-Centaur rockets — the only U.S. boosters capable of orbiting heavy payloads — have been grounded by the failures. The Atlas-Centaur is not flying because it has an electrical system similar to that blamed for the Delta problem.

The Delta is expected to be flying again next month, the Atlas-Centaur in November and the Titan early next year. The shuttle will not bear trouble again before 1988.

White Sands Missile Range spokeswoman Debbie Bingham said the sub-orbital Arias rocket had reached an altitude of 77,000 feet Saturday when it was destroyed over a deserted part of the government range in southern New Mexico. The missile range is closed to the public.



Picture purrfect
These three kittens peering out of a basket were among more than 40 strays found at the General Dynamics Shipyard in Quincy, Mass., and cared for by plant worker Donald Pizzi of Braintree, Mass. The shipyard closed this summer.

Gunmen hit U.N. forces in Lebanon

By MOHAMMED SALAM
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Gunmen attacked U.N. forces in south Lebanon yesterday amid growing indications that two factions, the Syrian-backed Shiite Muslim moderates and pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalists, hold conflicting views over the peacekeepers' mission.

No casualties were reported from the attacks yesterday, which came as Shiite moderates staged a daylong strike in support of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The Iranian-backed factions have denounced UNIFIL's role.

A four-vehicle supply convoy of UNIFIL's French contingent was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifle fire on a road between the southern villages of Abbassiyeh and Teir Dibba, U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said.

Goksel spoke by telephone from UNIFIL's logistics office in the southern port city of Tyre.

The southern Lebanese border town of Naqoura around noon yesterday, but no casualties were reported.

Residents loyal to Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstream Shiite Amal militia protested against UNIFIL attacks by radical Shites of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, local reporters said.

Shops, schools, restaurants and businesses were closed in the inland town of Tibnin, Berri's hometown, as residents went from village to village collecting signatures for a petition "declaring support for UNIFIL."

Reagan maid indicted in ammo-smuggling

By JEAN McNAIR
Associated Press Writer

NORFOLK, Va. — A federal grand jury yesterday indicted Nancy Reagan's personal maid and three men on charges they conspired to illegally export ammunition without a license from Richmond to Paraguay.

Anita Sanabria Castelo, 45, of Takoma Park, Md., was charged with conspiracy to export ammunition without a license and exporting ammunition without a license.

Also named in the seven-count indictment were Julio Cesar Baez Acosta and Hernan Perdomo Duarte, Paraguayan residents who worked aboard a Paraguayan freighter, and Eugenio Silva, a Richmond automobile mechanic.

The indictment charged that Silva and Castelo bought ammunition that Acosta and Duarte took to Paraguay aboard a freighter that left from Deepwater Terminal in Richmond.

Castelo, a Paraguayan native who frequently traveled with the first lady on foreign trips, was charged earlier this month by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms with aiding and abetting the export of munitions without an export license.

That charge was issued in a complaint, and the additional charges were handed down by a grand jury that met in Norfolk.

No arraignment was scheduled, said Gregory Welsh, assistant U.S. attorney in Richmond.

The White House put Castelo on administrative leave Aug. 7 after hearing that she had been charged in the complaint.

Michael Morchower, Castelo's Richmond attorney, said he was not surprised by the additional charges against his client, who he said was on vacation at an undisclosed location.



Anita Sanabria Castelo

He said she would plead innocent to all the charges.

"She is leaving everything up to me and is not disturbed in the least," Morchower said. The lawyer had said earlier that Castelo merely acted as an interpreter for the men.

The indictment charged that Castelo and the three men conspired from November 1985 to Aug. 5 to buy 22-caliber ammunition in Richmond and export it to Paraguay aboard the freighter. Castelo, Silva and Acosta were confronted by federal agents near the docked freighter Aug. 5.

The indictments were handed up in Norfolk because the grand jury met there this month and an indictment had to be issued within 30 days of the initial complaint, Welsh said.

Castelo, Baez Acosta and Silva are free on bond, and a warrant has been issued for Duarte's arrest, Welsh said.