

state/nation/world

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Defense minister says army gave power to Aquino

By MIGUEL C. SUAREZ
Associated Press Writer

MANILA, Philippines — Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, whose criticism of government policies has prompted calls for his resignation, said yesterday that he was no more appointee and that he and the military handed power to President Corazon Aquino.

'In the final stages of the revolution, we (the military) had complete control almost of the levers of power in the land. We decided not to accept that power and wield it.'

— Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile

Enrile, who also was defense minister under President Ferdinand E. Marcos but helped lead his ouster, has insisted Aquino call elections to legitimize her government.

But a recently drafted constitution that is to be submitted to a referendum next year would keep Aquino and Laurel in office until 1992.

Aquino maintains she won an electoral mandate in the fraud-

tainted Feb. 7 balloting in which government officials declared Marcos the victor. Marcos fled to Hawaii two weeks later in the face of a military and civilian revolt. Enrile told a nurses convention yesterday, "In the final stages of the revolution, we (the military) had complete control almost of the levers of power in the land."

He said: "We decided not to accept that power and wield it, but instead we handed it to a civilian government headed by Mrs. Aquino. . . . And so, therefore, no one can tell us that they handed to us an appointment of a position because we were holding those positions before any one of them had their positions."

Enrile told the nurses he would resign if Aquino demanded but would first have to consult the military — "the people I represent in the government."

In recent weeks, Enrile increasingly has criticized Aquino's policies, especially that of seeking a negotiated peace with communist rebels.



Philippine President Corazon Aquino talks with Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile before a cabinet meeting in Manila yesterday.

Reagan supports Aquino anti-rebel policy

By DAVID BRISCOE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Reagan administration said yesterday that it fully supports Philippine President Corazon Aquino's anti-rebel policy. The statement, which did not mention Enrile's increasingly political remarks, followed a routine State Department reaffirmation of support for Aquino's government on Monday and a similar statement from the White House on Tuesday.

In several recent public speeches, Enrile has been critical of the Aquino government's efforts to negotiate peace with the rebels.

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., head of the House subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs, said on the CBS Morning News yesterday that he believes Enrile will soon be ousted out of Aquino's cabinet.

"I think this is utterly unseemly," he said of Enrile's public statements. "I think it is completely counterproductive. I think it creates problems for the Philippines in terms of the international image of the country and the efforts on the part of the new president to elicit investment from the United States and other countries, but my guess is that he is not going to be in the cabinet much longer."

The congressman urged the administration to declare the United States will have nothing to do with Enrile if he attempts to seize power militarily in the Philippines.

The State Department spokesman, without mentioning Enrile, said, "U.S. support for Mrs. Aquino is complete and unequivocal."

Reidman made no direct reference, however, to a statement earlier in the day from Philippine Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, who said Filipinos should be given a chance to decide during a Jan. 20 constitutional plebiscite whether they want to add the presidency to the ballot in May. Enrile has called for new presidential elections.

The spokesman said Aquino has "embarked on a well-defined program to restore democracy to the institutions, economic prosperity and national unity."

Cash piling up at USX

By EARL BOHN
AP Business Writer

PITTSBURGH — USX Corp. Chairman David Roderick said yesterday that work might not resume at the company's steel plants until spring unless a contract settlement is reached with the United Steelworkers union within 12 days.

Meanwhile, Roderick said, the energy and steel giant has accumulated \$2.7 billion in cash and may have an additional \$1 billion or more by year's end to fend off a possible takeover bid by New York investor Carl Icahn.

Because of pressure from Icahn to restructure USX, the company is offering modest "golden parachutes" to its top executives, Roderick said.

The USX chief also said Australian investor Robert Holmes a Court, who first fueled takeover speculation in August by announcing USX stock purchases, told him that he has sold his stake in USX for a profit. Holmes a Court had bought more than \$15 million worth of USX stock.

The chairman of the diversified steel and energy concern did not disclose how much Holmes a Court paid for the USX shares. But based on current market prices of about \$26 a share, the stake the Australian had acquired represented less than 1 percent of total USX common stock outstanding.

Icahn, who holds about 29 million shares, or an 11.4 percent stake worth about \$760 million, is negotiating with USX for access to its books and has not agreed to postpone a formal offer to buy the company, he said.

Both issues are under negotiation, said Roderick, who was scheduled to meet Icahn again yesterday afternoon in New York.

Neither Mr. Icahn nor USX is doing anything that might be considered hostile toward the other, he said. "We are still in a friendly mode. Obviously if the discussions are not successful we'll each be making our own announcement."



Sergeant Major Philip Coombes of the Royal Engineers uses a mine detector on Rani the elephant in Sheffield, England, yesterday. The army was called in when the elephant, appearing at a local circus, developed a stomach ache.

Feds make largest cocaine seizure ever: 4,620 pounds

By ANDREA ROWAND
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — U.S. Customs agents inspecting a furniture shipment discovered 4,620 pounds of cocaine, the largest amount ever seized in this country, federal officials said yesterday.

The cocaine, seized earlier this month, had a wholesale value of more than \$46 million and would be worth at least 10 times that on the street, said Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman Jack Hoek.

Customs agents were checking two 40-foot-long containers that held sofas and chairs when they spotted empty,

false compartments inside the merchandise, said George Heavey, commissioner of the Southeast Region of the Customs Service.

Their suspicions aroused, agents then closely examined the containers themselves and found a false floor in one container that covered up hundreds of bundles of cocaine.

No arrests have been made and none are expected immediately, but an investigation is continuing, said Diogenes K. Galanos, head of the DEA office in Miami.

School leader reported dead, but she was playing hooky

By JAMES REINDL
Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — Students at Washington High were shocked when school officials announced over the public address system that a girl who was a top campus personality had died of a drug overdose.

The mixup began last Thursday when school officials received a call from someone identifying herself as the girl's aunt, Harold Pollnow, resident assistant school administrator, told The Milwaukee Journal.

The caller said the girl, a senior whose identity is being withheld, had died of a drug overdose.

Academy calls for AIDS commission

By WARREN E. LEARY
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Academy of Sciences, lamenting "woefully inadequate" federal programs to cope with America's new health threat, called yesterday for creation of a National Commission on AIDS.

The prestigious academy, in a major report on the increasing problems of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, said the only way to avoid a health catastrophe in this country was to launch "perhaps the most wide-ranging and intensive efforts ever made against an infectious disease."

A panel of experts convened by the academy said the nation should be spending about \$2 billion annually by 1990, most of it new federal money, in a multipronged effort to thwart the deadly disease.

Research into the nature of the viral disease, treatments and vaccines should get \$1 billion a year by the end of the decade, said Dr. David Baltimore, the other co-chairman, who is co-chairman of the study.

"It sounded so authentic," Pollnow said. "I had no qualms that it was an adult at the time. Knowing the family and knowing how well-liked the girl was, I never thought there would be any pranks."

School officials tried to verify the report, but could not reach any relatives. Principal Jerome Brandl said he was merely playing hooky. And because the incident occurred before a long weekend, it was three days before the students were told the truth.

Brandl said he told students that afternoon that he couldn't confirm the girl's death, but it wasn't until Thursday evening that she called him to say she was all right.

Throughout the day Thursday, students and teachers dealt with grief over the girl's death. Counselors were made available and some students

curbing it is education. AIDS most commonly is spread by sexual activity and sharing contaminated needles during drug abuse, behavior people can influence, he said.

"People should be told that they can protect themselves against the disease by using condoms during sexual intercourse — either anal or vaginal — with an infected or possibly infected persons, and by not sharing needles and syringes," Wolf said.

Stopping AIDS cases through education and public health programs will only cost a fraction of the price of caring for patients with the disease, estimated to rise to between \$6 billion and \$16 billion by 1991, he said.

The panel said a vaccine to prevent AIDS, or developing safe and effective drugs for long-term treatment, is at least five years away. This means that prevention through education presently is the best way to slow the disease, it added.

Federal education efforts to date have been "woefully inadequate," the panel said, more so because the messages have not been frank and clear than because of inadequate funding.

state news briefs

Dauphin county man escapes

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A Dauphin County murderer in a Pittsburgh hospital for a hernia operation escaped from his bed early yesterday wearing only his hospital gown, authorities said.

George Brown, 38, who was sentenced to life in prison for a 1978 murder in Dauphin County, escaped from West Penn Hospital, several hours before scheduled surgery. Brown was an inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh.

Numbers kingpin gets 14 years

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A federal judge sentenced reputed mobster Anthony Grosso to 14 years in federal prison yesterday after Grosso pleaded guilty to running an illegal gambling organization that netted him \$1 million a year.

Grosso, 72, long reputed to be the illegal numbers boss of western Pennsylvania, faces additional prison time for his guilty plea to gambling charges in state courts.

He pleaded guilty Monday to a 68-count federal indictment charging him with running an illegal lottery, evading payment of a \$30 million tax lien and failing to pay a federal excise tax on gambling profits.

Grosso had faced a maximum 340 years in prison and an \$8.2 million fine on the federal charges.

He must serve up to 68 months of the federal sentence before he becomes eligible for parole, authorities said.

Grosso also pleaded guilty in Common Pleas Court Tuesday to maintaining a corrupt organization, criminal conspiracy, gambling and 14 counts of lottery violations.

According to the charges, Grosso and his second-in-command, Norman Pabec, 44, supervised a numbers operation that had gross profits of at least \$2 million annually and perhaps as much as \$5 million.

Farmers move cows

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Officials plan a series of surprise inspections of farms in a state-subsidized dairy project because farmers have been playing "musical cows," moving them from barn to barn to meet production deadlines.

"It's like the old story of the general who convinced the enemy not to fight because he took his small army and paraded around and around," said Dean Brown, deputy director of agriculture.

When the Point MacKenzie dairy project was begun, the state set deadlines which farmers were required to have certain numbers of cows milking in order to qualify for low-cost land and low-interest loans.

Farmers argued that the deadlines were unrealistic and too rigid.

Inspectors began noticing familiar faces as they went from farm to farm to see if the required number of cows were present. They discovered farmers were shuffling the cows just ahead of the inspectors so each farm would have the required number.

Assistant Attorney General Lance Nelson said farmers must consistently milk the same cows on the same farms to meet the requirements.

But Milburn Tucker, largest operator on the project, admitting loaning cows to other farmers and insisted there was nothing wrong with that.

He said the law only requires cows be milked on the property, "regardless of whether the cows have wings."

Federal shutdown cost disputed

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A House subcommittee estimates the half-day shutdown of the federal government on Oct. 17 cost the taxpayers \$33 million, but the Reagan administration rejected the figure yesterday.

"There has never been an accurate figure for the costs of these things and there never will be," said Office of Management and Budget spokesman Ed Dale.

Dale said the estimate by the House civil service subcommittee was misleading because "they are trying to put a value on the price of work lost. It's not a cash cost."

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