

state/nation/world

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2 battles in Middle East; 2 soldiers killed

Israeli battle bloodiest in 7 years

By SUSAN POYAS
Associated Press Writer

MENARA, Israel (AP) — Palestinian guerrillas on a hostage-taking mission sneaked into northern Israel and killed two soldiers yesterday before being slain in the bloodiest infiltration battle in seven years, the army said.

The firefight in an apple orchard followed a week of violence in northern Israel. The army said the strike was linked to a scheduled meeting in Algeria today of Palestinian leaders to map out a new political and military strategy against Israel.

Although the army did not say how many guerrillas were involved, news reports said there were three.

At sundown, two Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets at a Palestinian refugee camp near the south Lebanon port of Tyre, apparently in retaliation for the infiltration. Police said two Palestinians were wounded in the raid on the Rasheedeh camp, the first attack near Tyre since Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982. Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces three years later, but maintains some troops in a buffer strip in southern Lebanon.

The stepped-up violence followed a 14-hour battle Saturday in southern Lebanon, in which Israeli troops killed 18 Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim fighters.

And in the occupied Gaza Strip, about 5,000 Palestinians demonstrated at Islamic University yesterday. Nine students were hospitalized after Israeli soldiers beat them with clubs, Palestinian sources said.

The army identified the infiltrators as members of Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has stepped up military activity recently in an apparent effort to regain the support of hardliners.

The guerrillas penetrated northern Israel in pre-dawn darkness near the isolated Menara kibbutz, or communal farm, where several hundred people live near the Israeli-Lebanese border, the army command said.

The Palestinians crossed electronic fences and security ditches in a light rain to reach the orchards between Menara and the neighboring Yiftah kibbutz, military sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Israeli soldiers spotted the guerrillas' tracks and found them hiding nearby, the army said. All the Palestinians were killed in the ensuing firefight, it said.

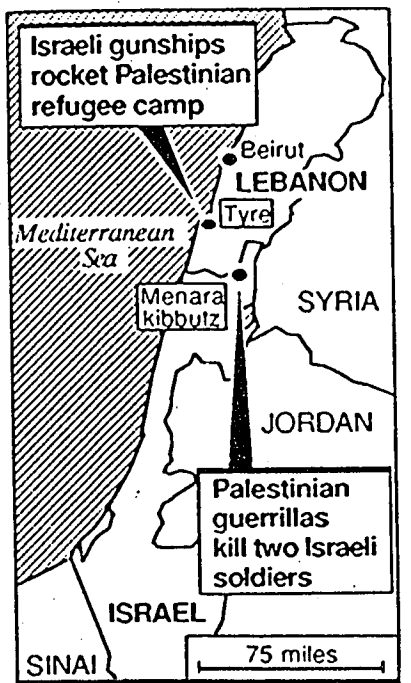
The army declined to say how many guerrillas entered Israel, but Israeli radio and Lebanese reporters said three men crossed the border.

The army said the guerrillas planned to take hostages at either Menara or Yiftah, apparently to negotiate for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The attack was the most serious infiltration since April 7, 1980, when guerrillas entered the border kibbutz of Misgav Am and killed three Israelis, including a 2½-year-old boy. An army anti-terrorist unit stormed a nursery where hostages were being held and killed all five guerrillas.

News of yesterday's border penetration was blocked by the military censor for nine hours, until the army had time to notify the families of the slain soldiers, identified as Sgt. Yosef Allon, 21, of Arad, and Lt. Yoav Sharon, 22, of Haifa.

Soldiers searching the guerrillas' bodies found knives, grenades, LAU missiles and pamphlets calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners jailed in Israel.



Bloody Lebanon battle leaves 18 Shiites dead

TEL AVIV (AP) — Shiite Muslims according to the Islamic Resistance, the guerrilla arm of Hezbollah, about 50 fighters staged the pre-dawn assault. The group said in a statement that "the enemy deployed tanks, helicopter gunships and artillery in the battle."

An army spokesman said four Israeli soldiers suffered minor shrapnel wounds in the battle, one of the bloodiest in the area since Israel established its "security zone" in south Lebanon.

Hezbollah, or Party of God, is made up of Shiite Muslims loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

About 2,000 Israeli troops and 1,500 South Lebanon Army militiamen control the so-called security zone, a 6-to-10 mile belt which Israel established in 1985 after the withdrawal of its occupation army from south Lebanon. The Israelis invaded Lebanon to halt guerrilla attacks on northern Israel.

In another incident, a resident of Marjayoun in south Lebanon was killed when a rocket slammed into the Christian village, Israel Radio reported.

The radio quoted security sources as saying guerrillas have been trying to disrupt Easter celebrations in Christian villages in south Lebanon during the past week.

Two Israeli helicopter gunships rocketed a Palestinian refugee camp yesterday, police said. In a separate incident, Palestinian guerrillas on a hostage-taking mission sneaked into northern Israel yesterday and killed two soldiers before being slain in the bloodiest infiltration battle in seven years.

Japan warns U.S.: trade move may be copied

By STEVEN K. PAULSON
Associated Press Writer

OISO, Japan — Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari warned yesterday against the United States becoming protectionist lest other nations follow suit, but two U.S. government officials predicted tougher American trade policies in the future.

"It is obvious that if the U.S. turns protectionist, it would not only have enormous consequences in itself for the free trade system, but would most likely make other countries take similar steps induced by the American action," Kuranari told

the Shimoda Conference, held to promote relations between the U.S. and Japan.

The Shimoda Conference began one day after President Reagan slapped punitive 100 percent tariffs on Japanese electronic goods — allegations of a semiconductor accord — allegations Japan denies. The sanctions affect televisions, desk and laptop computers, calculators, and rotary and other power tools.

Also attending the conference are U.S. trade representative Clayton Kretzler, former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, House Majority Leader Thomas Foley, Sens. William Roth and John Rockefeller, and former Japanese ambassador to the United States, Yoshio Okawara.

"There is, frankly, a dangerous disparity of attitudes in the United States and Japan at the moment," said Foley, a Washington Democrat. "Japan feels its actions to open its markets have not received sufficient attention in the United States, and the United States feels Japan isn't taking enough action to solve the problem."

Foley said Congress is almost certain to pass a tough trade bill and that the House wants "much tougher procedures than the administration is willing to accept."

Mayor: oil rig moved but still a problem

GRAND ISLE, La. (AP) — A 3,000-ton barge of garbage from New York was moved from an oil rig where it was moored, but it will be a hazard as long as it is in the Gulf of Mexico, an official said yesterday.

"According to the captain, it's going to stay approximately 17 miles south of Grand Isle until sometime early in the morning (today), at which time they'll take off," said Grand Isle Mayor Thomas A. "Tommy" Marullo. He said he did not know the barge's destination.

The barge appears to be in good shape and the water around it looks

clean, said Marullo, who flew over it in a helicopter.

However, he said, it will be a hazard while in the Gulf.

"If they're offshore and a little front comes through, I shudder to think what will happen. The garbage will roll off," he said.

The garbage came 1,400 miles from Islip, N.Y., which is running out of room in its landfill and no longer accepts commercial solid waste. Officials in North Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana have said they don't want it in their states.

An April 23 hearing has been scheduled on whether the garbage could be disposed of at a Louisiana dump, but the barge was moved out of Louisiana water late Friday, at the request of the state Department of Environmental Quality.

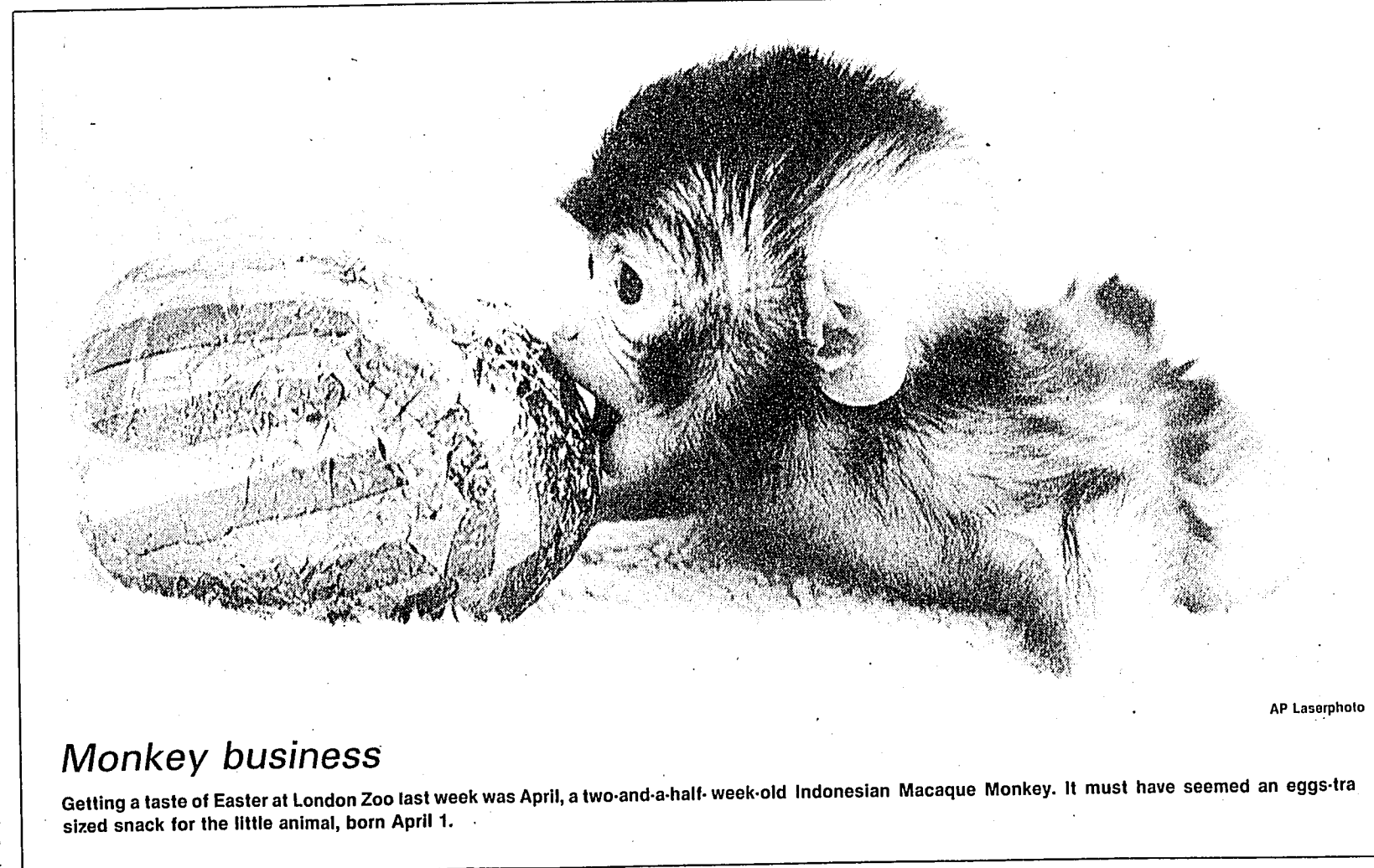
Dark, smelly puddles were seeping over the side of the barge and into the water, violating state water quality regulations, according to Dale Giveens, assistant secretary of the department.

In addition, he said, inspectors found bedpans and syringes in the garbage Friday, increasing concern that the load might carry infectious material.

National Waste Contractors, a com-



Last one left
The last known California condor identified by researcher as AC-9 was captured yesterday in the Ventura County backcountry.



Monkey business
Getting a taste of Easter at London Zoo last week was April, a two-and-a-half-week-old Indonesian Macaque Monkey. It must have seemed an egg-sized snack for the little animal, born April 1.

TWA hijack victim lives to write about it

By MARYANN MROWCA
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — The picture of an Arab hijacker waving a gun in front of John Testrake's face as the airline captain peered from the window of his cockpit in Beirut shocked the world with the horrors of terrorism.

Nearly two years later, the Trans World Airlines pilot almost smiles as he recalls the incident, which he says was staged by his captors.

"It didn't bother me then and it doesn't bother me now," he said in a recent interview here. "Everybody else thought it was a big deal, but I didn't."

Testrake said he wrote a book, released this month, about the hijacking of TWA Flight 377 shortly after it left Athens on June 18, 1985, because he wanted "to correct some of the misconceptions which are so prevalent in the United States regarding" the Midwest.

"I have no maudlin desire just to perpetuate the thing in itself," said the 59-year-old pilot from Richmond, Mo. He calls his Shiite Muslim captors "the bitter harvest of the Palestinian tragedy."

Like many other Americans, Testrake said, he had "pretty minimal" knowledge about the conflict in the Midwest before the hijacking.

"I learned the other side of the story" during the hijacking and 17 days in captivity, said Testrake, who recounts the ordeal in "Triumph Over Terror on Flight 377," published by Fleming H. Revell Co.

"While I can't sympathize with the specific actions which they used, still I can understand the desperation that causes (them) to do these things," Testrake said.

He said it bothers him that the United States does not appear to have made any positive moves since the hijacking to resolve the Midwest conflict. "Our government persists in maintaining this totally hostile attitude by treating this whole problem as if it's some violent criminal plague which needs to be ruthlessly eradicated," Testrake said.

state news briefs

Coroner confirms police suspicions

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Human remains recovered from a kitchen freezer belong to one of two women killed in a basement dungeon, according to a ruling that confirms police suspicions. Dr. Paul Hoyer, assistant Philadelphia medical examiner, said he made the ruling based on X-rays of 24 pounds of mostly burned limbs found in Gary Heidnik's north Philadelphia home. The pictures were compared to X-rays taken of Sandra Lindsay's wrist and elbow after a fall last spring, Hoyer said.

Acquitted wrestler returns charges

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Professional wrestler James "The Anvil" Neidhart sued a USAir flight attendant for slander and libel a day after he was acquitted of assaulting her.

Neidhart, 31, of Land O' Lakes, Fla., said Ava Winston lied when she told investigators he punched her during a dispute over two beers he ordered on a flight from Tampa, Fla., to Pittsburgh in January.

Neidhart was acquitted Thursday in U.S. District Court on charges of assault and interfering with a flight attendant after his attorney called 18 witnesses who testified they never saw any punches thrown.

Easter Mass shared with Soviets

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — While Christians across the state attended Easter services, about 1,600 Ukrainian Catholics in Philadelphia shared a mass with their Soviet brethren through a Voice of America broadcast.

"It was a very joyful and emotional service since this was the only live contact about 30 percent of the congregation would have with their loved ones behind the Iron Curtain," said Monsignor Michael Fedorovich, one of the concelebrates at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

The Soviet officials abolished the Ukraine Catholic Church in the country more than 40 years ago and prohibits members from openly praying, according to Fedorovich.

"It was a message of hope, that despite persecution at the Ukrainian Church, the Ukrainian people will rise again from their subjugation and slavery as did the Christians with the resurrection of Jesus Christ," he said.

Shimoda Conference

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California condor

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TWA hijack

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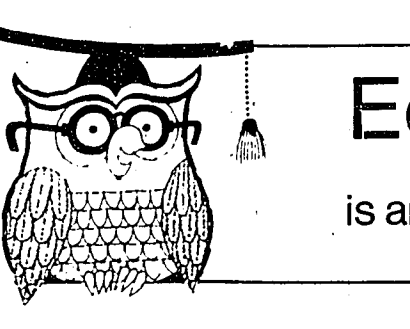
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nation news briefs

Smithsonian: TV dinners historic

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — If you are old enough to remember balancing a TV dinner on your lap and watching Gunsmoke or I Love Lucy you were eating from a piece of history.

An aluminum tray that contained one of the first Swanson frozen dinners to hit the market in 1954 was presented recently to the Smithsonian Institution.

"Everyday items that you or I don't even think about will be history tomorrow," said Dr. Terry Sharer, a curator at the National Museum of American History.

"Just like the shoehorn or butter churn, these items represent popular culture," Sharer said. "This metal tray is a piece of Americana. It is something many of us grew up with."

By giving the TV dinner tray to the Smithsonian, Revella said, his company "hopes to show future generations how 20th century Americans really lived."

Judge: open mind on Hinckley

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker said yesterday he can't help but think of John W. Hinckley Jr.'s victims but said he could rule impartially on the presidential assassin's release.

"It is an awesome decision to make. No one can predict with any degree of certainty what the result will be," said Parker, who was interviewed on CBS-TV's Face the Nation.

Parker presided at a hearing last week in which St. Elizabeths Hospital sought a 12-hour pass for Hinckley to make an unescorted Easter visit to his parents in Northern Virginia.

The federal mental hospital withdrew the request Wednesday after the unexpected disclosure in court that Hinckley exchanged letters last year with triple-murderer Theodore Bundy, who awaits execution in a Florida prison.

Civil disobedience to return

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Groups opposing American policy in Central America and Southern Africa are planning a demonstration next weekend — perhaps the largest since the Vietnam protest days — culminating in what is billed as "civil disobedience" at the entrances of the CIA.

"As of now, there are 1,000 buses scheduled to arrive Saturday and, we have 200 coalitions nationwide sending people," said Ned Greenberg of the National Mobilization for Justice and Peace in Central America and Southern Africa.

A similar program is planned for San Francisco.

The Washington demonstration will extend over three days. Saturday is taken up with two rallies, one on the ellipse behind the White House in the morning, the other at the Capitol after a mile-long march.

Manila in the dark after outage

MANILA (AP) — A power failure yesterday darkened Manila and much of the island of Luzon, affecting millions of homes and businesses and prompting increased security around the presidential compound.

A spokesman for the National Power Corporation blamed it on line trouble, but an engineer said that couldn't be determined until power was completely restored, probably by early today.

Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo blamed the outage on local failures in central Luzon that he said sparked a "chain reaction" affecting the entire island grid.

Arroyo said there was no indication of sabotage.

Sinhalese resettlement scheduled

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Thousands of Sinhalese will be armed and trained by the army today, then resettled in the area where Tamil rebels slaughtered 127 Sinhalese three days ago, the government said yesterday.

The action was triggered by the Good Friday massacre on a jungle road in the eastern Trincomalee District.

An official spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said more than 5,000 people, mostly Sinhalese, would be involved in the resettlement program. He said they would be given shotguns and other weapons and trained by the army.

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