



Opposition urges plebiscite on crisis

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) -- Opposition leaders, citing a stalemate in talks with the government on Panama's 3-month-old political crisis, called Friday for a national referendum to let voters decide how to resolve the dispute.

As the negotiations entered a second day, the government announced it had closed public and private schools in three major cities in the aftermath of the fatal shooting Thursday of a 24-year-old student during an anti-government protest at the University of Panama.

The slaying of Luis Gonzales, gunned down by an unknown assailant while marching with several hundred students in an otherwise peaceful demonstration, prompted calls by both opposition and government leaders for an end to political violence and a quick resolution of the crisis triggered by the annulment of the May 7 presidential elections.

It was clear as the talks recessed late Friday, however, that the two sides still were far from a settlement.

"The proposals which we have presented are diametrically opposed," said former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara during an earlier break in the negotiations sponsored by the Organization of American States.

"In view of such fundamental differences, we believe that we won't really arrive quickly at an agreement on these differences," Endara said.

Opposition leaders distributed a written statement proposing that a plebiscite be held Aug. 20 under OAS auspices to allow voters to choose between proposals put forth by the government and opposition for ending the crisis.

At the conclusion of Friday's talks, negotiations were suspended until Thursday at the request of the opposition.

"There is still plenty of time and I also think it's a good idea when these discussions come to a dead end and that both sides take a break," Endara told reporters.

Panama has been in political limbo since the government annulled violence-scarred May 7 presidential elections amid allegations of widespread fraud. Panama's Catholic Church and foreign political observers said the opposition won the election by as much as a 3-1 ratio.

During Thursday's talks, pro-government former presidential candidate Carlos Duque introduced a five-point plan that centered on the establishment of a provisional government and the scheduling of a new round of elections.

The proposal also calls on the U.S. government to halt its "unilateral military exercises and provocations," to end alleged violations of the Panama Canal treaties and to lift economic sanctions against the government of de facto ruler Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The opposition proposal, introduced during the OAS's third visit to Panama last month, calls for a transfer of power to the opposition on Sept. 1, the ouster of Noriega by Aug. 23 and the restoration of civil

liberties, including a free press.

The latest round of talks are the first since a July 16-17 session that brought together the principal leaders of the various factions for the first time.



OPPOSITION SPEAKER — Opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara speaks to reporters. (Photo courtesy of The Associated Press)

Panama closes high schools after student slain

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) -- Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's government ordered schools closed Friday after government plainclothesmen fired on demonstrators at the national university, killing one student and wounding at least six.

An Education Ministry statement

RP opposition to hold talks in S. America

PANAMA CITY, Panama (Reuter) - Two Panamanian opposition leaders Saturday went to Caracas for talks with Venezuela's president after another round of inconclusive meetings with the government to solve Panama's prolonged political crisis.

Ricardo Arias and Guillermo Ford, vice-presidential candidates in annulled elections last May, were to consult with Venezuela's President Carlos Andres Perez. They were also scheduled to meet next week with the presidents of Peru and Colombia, Arias' wife said.

Opposition leader Guillermo Endara said the trip had been planned and did not reflect what occurred during the talks Thursday and Friday when the opposition insisted on the removal from power of military leader Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

said public and private schools were being closed nationwide "until further notice ... for the safety of students, to preserve the peace of mind of their families and peace throughout the community in general."

The order did not affect the University of Panama, but it announced earlier it was closing down its campus to protest the Thursday night shootings.

University officials in a statement Friday accused Panama's Defense Forces of acting "brutally against unarmed students" and for "the excessive and indiscriminate use of toxic gases and shotguns."

In a veiled reference to foes of Noriega who have been pressing for his ouster, the Education Ministry statement accused "those who have been advocating violence and

confrontations among Panamanians" of encouraging the students to demonstrate.

An estimated 700,000 students were left without classes. About half of them were in Panama City and the port of Colon, located across the isthmus at the northern entrance of the Panama Canal.

Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said plainclothes members of the Defense Forces fired shotguns at a student protest.

Demonstrators were protesting an Organization of American States proposal to end Panama's political turmoil by holding a plebiscite Aug. 20.

The students and opposition parties insist that elections May 7, which their candidate Guillermo Endara won overwhelmingly, should be declared valid. The Noriega-

controlled government annulled the elections, claiming fraud.

Noriega runs Panama through his command of the Defense Forces, which include both soldiers and police.

Student leaders said in a news release that Ecuador's foreign minister, Diego Cordovez, "was not welcome any more" in Panama because of the plebiscite proposal. Cordovez heads an OAS mission of diplomats trying to mediate here.

In July, the Washington-based OAS voted to give Cordovez's mission until Sept. 1 to mediate a solution.

The United States has tried to oust Noriega since he was indicted in February 1988 on U.S. drug trafficking charges, but trade and economic sanctions have failed to budge the general.

U.S. conducts security operation at Amador

QUARRY HEIGHTS (USSOUTH-COM PAO) — U.S. Forces conducted a reconnaissance and security operation during the early hours Friday morning in the area of the U.S. Army housing section of Fort Amador, which is a Military Area of Coordination.

Conducting the defense operation at night were Company B and the Anti-Tank platoon of the Fort Kobbe-based 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry under U.S. Army South's 193d Infantry Brigade (Light).

Transported by five UH-60

Blackhawk helicopters from USARSO's 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, Company B conducted an air assault at Fort Amador at about 4 a.m. and rapidly secured designated U.S. housing. The Anti-Tank platoon air assaulted into Fort Amador to establish blocking positions at the intersections in the vicinity of the Amador Officers' Club and the Golf Club.

Combat-equipped soldiers, accompanied by anti-tank (TOW) vehicles, conducted the operation which lasted about five hours. Upon completion of the security operation

at mid-morning, 1/508th soldiers were airlifted back to Fort Kobbe.

One of the purposes of this operation was to refine contingency operations for the protection of U.S. lives, property and interests. Like all other exercises conducted by the U.S. Forces, this operation was in compliance with the Panama Canal Treaty.

Such exercises, in addition to reassuring U.S. families for their security, are necessary in order to reassert U.S. Forces treaty rights in the wake of repeated violations of those rights by the Panama Defense Forces over the past 18 months.

U.S. news

Columbia scheduled for liftoff tomorrow

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (UPI) — With countdown clocks ticking, the five-man crew of the veteran shuttle Columbia arrived at the Kennedy Space Center Saturday for blastoff Tuesday on a military mission, the spaceplane's first flight since the Challenger disaster.

"We're real excited," commander Brewster Shaw, an Air Force colonel who flew aboard Columbia in 1983, told reporters. "We need to get Columbia flying again and we're going to have the opportunity to do that. I love her. I flew her a long time ago, it's a great machine. It's a really solid vehicle."

Columbia's launch on the fifth post-Challenger flight, the third of 1989, is scheduled for between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tuesday. The exact time is classified, but sources have said liftoff is planned for around 8 a.m.

The goal of the flight, sources say, is the deployment of an advanced imaging reconnaissance satellite to spy on the Soviet Union. A small, "secondary" payload also is believed to be mounted in Columbia's cargo bay.

Columbia's 80-hour countdown, began on time at 12:01 a.m. Saturday and the ship's all-military crew

arrived at the Kennedy Space Center about 4 p.m. after a flight from the Johnson Space Center in Houston. They were greeted at the shuttle runway by family members holding up a banner that read: "Go Columbia!"

Asked if he had confidence in Columbia, which has not flown in 43 months, Shaw said: "Absolutely. You bet I do. If I didn't we wouldn't climb in it. It will fly well."

Shaw's crewmates are co-pilot Richard "Dick" Richards, 42; Army Lt. Col. James Adamson, 43; Air Force Maj. Mark Brown, 37; and Navy Cmdr. David Leestma, 40.

As usual with such military space flights, NASA is keeping most details about the mission secret at the request of the Air Force.

All air-to-ground communications between mission control and the astronauts will be blacked out throughout the flight and the landing date will not be announced until 24 hours after liftoff. The flight is expected to last about four days, with landing scheduled for Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Columbia's 43-hour countdown, which includes about 36 1/2 hours of built-in "hold time," began on time Saturday even though work to "close

out" the spaceplane's engine compartment was not complete.

NASA managers debated delaying the start of the countdown — and launch — by 24 hours because of concern technicians would not be able to get the engine room ready for flight before the countdown required engineers to begin loading fuel aboard the shuttle to power its electrical generators.

That procedure, scheduled to begin shortly after midnight Saturday, is a hazardous operation that requires non-essential personnel to leave the launch pad.

But by early Saturday, NASA officials were confident the engine room work would be finished before or shortly after the start of an eight-hour hold in the countdown at 4 p.m.

Columbia has only flown once in the past six years, blasting off just 16 days before Challenger's destruction Jan. 28, 1986.

Since then, the original space shuttle has been virtually rebuilt with some 250 modifications to improve flight safety and performance, including the replacement of more than 2,300 heat-shield tiles with more efficient insulation blankets.

Columbia's return to flight, then, marks the end of the Challenger

recovery process, with three fully operational space shuttles now available for service.

Four of the first seven post-Challenger shuttle flights were booked to carry high-priority military payloads grounded by the Challenger accident, and Columbia's mission is the second in that series.

The identity of the shuttle's payload is classified but it has been widely reported to be an advanced imaging reconnaissance satellite, possibly identical to a "Lacrosse" radar station launched from the shuttle Atlantis in December to spy on the Soviet Union.

Such spacecraft use radar beams to take photo-like images regardless of cloud cover or lighting conditions. Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine, however, has reported that the payload is a photo-reconnaissance satellite that uses an optical telescope to take high-resolution pictures.

In either case, Columbia would have to be launched on a sharply northeasterly trajectory to put the spaceship in an orbit that would allow its satellite cargo to fly over as much of the Soviet Union as possible.

Over 100,000 phone workers set up pickets

Other workers negotiate future

by United Press International

Two unions representing about 60,000 workers at NYNEX, the telephone company serving New York State and most of New England, and 42,500 Pacific and Nevada Bell workers began a strike early Sunday as negotiators failed to reach an agreement over health care costs. Talks continued on the fate of another 100,000 workers elsewhere.

A Communications Workers of America spokesman said that bargaining was continuing in an effort to reach an agreement on the West Coast. There was no indication of whether the bargaining teams were near agreement.

Negotiators in New Jersey agreed to continue talking into Sunday morning on a contract covering another 40,000 workers.

Meanwhile, some 64,000 workers at BellSouth telephone company, based in Atlanta, reached a tentative contract agreement late Saturday.

Although the strike deadlines for the four "Baby Bell" operating companies — NYNEX, BellSouth, BellAtlantic and Pacific Telesis — were set to take place at about the same time and health care costs were generally among the most

contentious issues the negotiations themselves were conducted separately.

"We are on strike, as of 11:59 p.m.," said Jan Pierce, vice president of the local for the Communication Workers of America, which was negotiating with NYNEX in New York.

"The pickets are out. There may be hundreds of places in New England where there'll be pickets," said Kara Mulvey, a spokeswoman for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Boston.

"Negotiations really never blossomed into full well-rounded discussions because NYNEX insisted that employees pick up a portion of the health care premium," Pierce said.

"That proved to be the blockbuster issue," he said.

NYNEX officials insisted the walk-out would not affect basic phone service to its customers.

"We hope this strike can be settled soon," Bob Eastwood, executive director of labor relations for PacBell, said in a statement.

"We will continue to meet with the union to try to work on the unresolved issues."

The CWA represents about 700 Nevada Bell employees in Nevada with the rest of the strikers in California. PacBell serves most of California and Nevada Bell most of Nevada.

In New York, no face-to-face talks

took place Saturday between negotiators from NYNEX, the CWA or the second union local involved in discussions, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Pierce said.

Bargaining negotiations in Boston broke down shortly before noon Saturday and never resumed again.

CWA represents 40,000 telephone employees in New York State and IBEW represents 20,000 in New England, and the strike is a joint effort.

"We'll be hitting the bricks together," Pierce said.

In New Jersey, Bell Atlantic officials and CWA representatives agreed to continue negotiating indefinitely at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, and were still talking an hour later, said Larry Plumb, a Bell Atlantic spokesman.

In Atlanta BellSouth spokesman Terry Johnson said, "We are very happy. We reached an agreement in 1986 before the deadline, and we hoped and expected to reach an agreement on this one before the deadline."

Johnson said the company would release details of the agreement

Sunday.

Union spokesman Tim Ryles said he had not seen the agreement.

"If there are differences, they're not of great magnitude," Ryles said earlier in the night. "The last minute, you really want to be sure that you've done what you intended to do."

Spokesmen from both sides had predicted all along that negotiators would come to an agreement.

Congressman blows his stack

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A loud crash from across the room interrupted remarks by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who wanted a report from the Pentagon and the CIA on efforts to locate U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Two three-foot stacks of paperwork tumbled off the desk of Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., causing the commotion.

"It seems like the senator from Minnesota has lost his stack," quipped Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga.

Boschwitz, an aide and two congressional pages scrambled with outspread arms to contain the sprawling pile of papers, binders and booklets.

Boschwitz then withdrew an amendment he was supporting, without seeking a vote. The proposed amendment: to reduce the number of reports the Pentagon must provide.



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U.S. news

Drugs trade structured like companies

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The first federal report on the corporate structure of the illegal drug trade identified 43 major groups operating in the United States, ranging from salaried operatives of Colombian cartels to one-time moonshiners of the "Dixie Mafia."

Sometimes working in combination, the drug traffickers have advanced beyond city streets to the nation's heartland, bringing heroin to Iowa, major cocaine operations to Wyoming and LSD to rural south Georgia, the report said last week.

Los Angeles street gangs have extended their reach to Sioux Falls, S.D., and Baltimore; Haitian crack dealers have set up shop in Delaware, and Wichita, Kan., is home for two separate Dominican cocaine groups, the report said.

"If you read through this report you cannot but come to the conclusion that most of the United States of America is a high-intensity drug trafficking area," federal Drug Policy Director William Bennett said after receiving a copy of the survey from Attorney General Dick Thornburgh at a news conference.

Thornburgh last fall commissioned what he dubbed the "Dun and Bradstreet" report, prepared by the nation's 93 U.S. attorneys. It identified 43 "serious" drug organizations, all now under "intense" investigation, he said.

In a letter to President Bush, Thornburgh said the study "painted a new portrait of organized crime," with a new cast of characters including, most significantly, the Colombian cocaine cartels, the Bloods and Crips of Los Angeles, motorcycle gangs, Asian Triad and Tong gangs and Jamaican posses.

"New ones are springing up every day. One of the salient features of this report is the changing nature of

organized crime in this country. No longer are we talking about the traditional organized crime families only," he said.

Thornburgh said he did not think the report suggested any changes were needed in Justice Department operations but believed it would be helpful to Bennett, who is scheduled to present his anti-drug strategy Sept. 5.

In addition to detailing the growing number of drug groups, the report also said new alliances have emerged among organizations.

New York Mafia families now "have strong ties" to Colombian and Cuban dealers in the Miami area and also work with Asian groups and motorcycle gangs. The Jamaican posses, with 10,000 members, buy cocaine from Colombians and appear to be developing relationships with Los Angeles gangs, the report said.

The report also detailed the tactics employed by the gangs, ranging from the sophisticated to the traditional to the terroristic.

The four Colombian drug cartels, with the best known ones in Medellin and Cali, exemplify the large, vertically integrated groups, the report said. With their leaders protected by "an onion-like layering" of power, the cartels are "a veritable state within a state," owning a twelfth of Colombia's farmland.

In Florida and California, employees of Medellin leader Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez-Gacha receive a salary, "work regular business hours, wear suits and ties, and are instructed to keep a low profile," the report said.

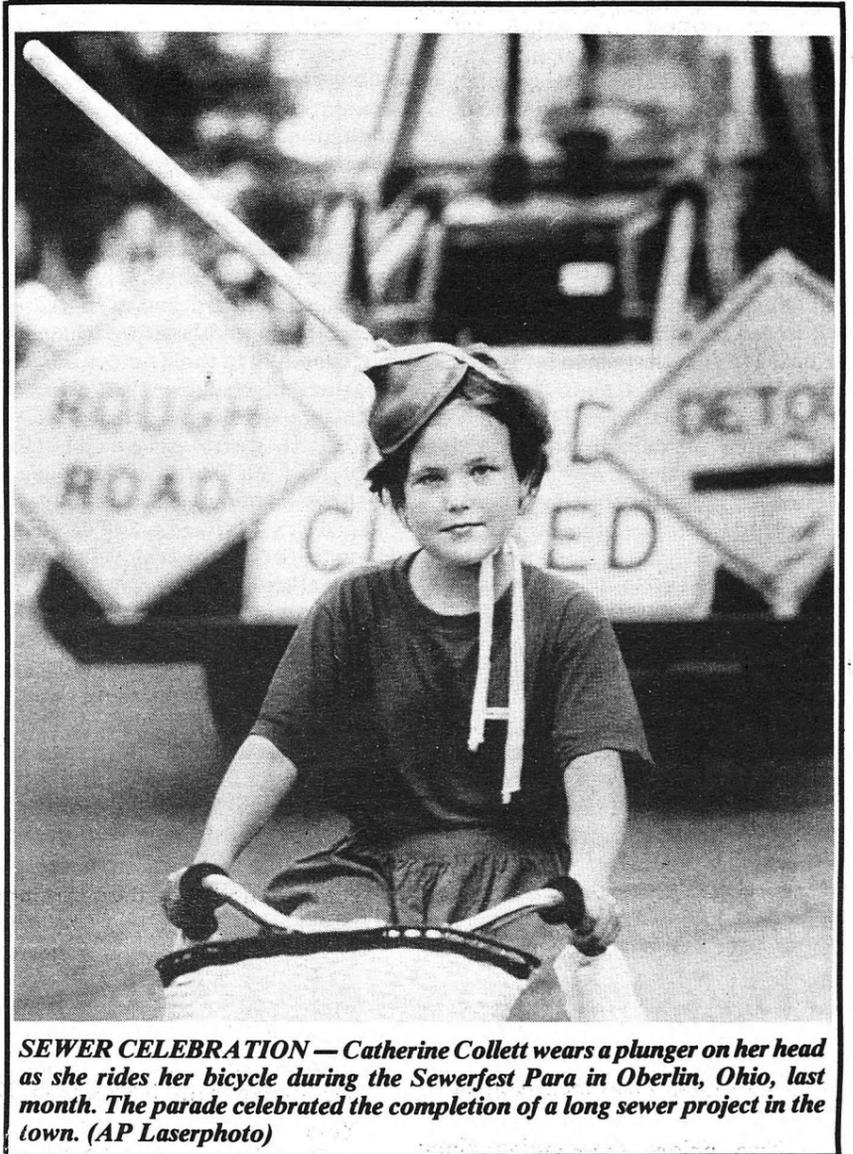
Employees of the Colombian-controlled Triple X group in Framingham, Mass., received "company benefits," such as regular vacations.

In other areas, drug dealing has

been added to traditional criminal pursuits, such as in the South, where "Dixie Mafia" families who once produced moonshine now grow marijuana or distribute cocaine, the report said.

Street dealers as young as 10 have been recruited by the Miami Boys, a

crack dealing street gang that has spread to Atlanta. In Los Angeles, where Blood and Crip membership totals about 25,000, "baby-gangsters" as young as 9 are regularly recruited and some gangs include even younger "tiny gangsters," the report said.



SEWER CELEBRATION — Catherine Collett wears a plunger on her head as she rides her bicycle during the Sewerfest Para in Oberlin, Ohio, last month. The parade celebrated the completion of a long sewer project in the town. (AP Laserphoto)

Wildfires could match last year's huge losses

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Wildfires already have burned 1.38 million acres and the long dry spell in the West has created the potential that damage this year could match 1988's huge losses, a top Forest Service official said.

The government dispatched two battalions of the 6th Army, freshly trained to combat wildfires, to the firelines in Oregon. Allan West, deputy chief of the Forest Service, said last week two more battalions

could be ready for assignment this weekend.

As West described firefighting efforts, 66 major uncontained fires burned in Idaho, Oregon, California, Washington state and Montana. Oregon and Idaho had the worst of the problems, with 43 major fires in Idaho and 14 in Oregon.

More than 20,000 firefighters are battling the wildfires in the five states.

In 1988, 5 million acres — 7,812

square miles — were damaged by 73,000 wildfires, including fires that covered 1 million acres in Yellowstone National Forest. West said 1988's toll was the worst since 1910. More than \$500 million was spent in quelling the fires.

"Long-range weather forecasts indicate continuing severe fire weather conditions, leaving this fire season with the potential to be as severe as last year," West said at a news conference.

Erratic winds, frequent lightning storms and forests baked dry by long-running drought have boosted the fire potential, West said.

Since Sunday, wildfires in the five Western states have consumed 220,000 acres, destroyed about 60 structures and forced the evacuation of hundreds of people.

The government revised its hotly criticized "let burn" policy this year. As a result the Forest Service, an Agriculture Department agency, is trying to extinguish all wildfires, including those in wilderness areas.

The Interior Department, which runs the national parks, has issued similar orders to its park superintendents.

So far this year, there have been 39,434 fires that have damaged 1.38 million acres. At the same point last year, there were 61,197 fires that had covered 2.37 million acres.

The Forest Service said a battalion from Fort Riley, Kan., and one from Fort Carson, Colo., were being given a 16-hour course on firefighting "and will probably be deployed within the week." West said several other battalions might be available for duty.

As an example of the conditions facing firefighters, West said 1,000 lightning fires were reported in a 24-hour period in the Boise National Forest recently.

Radon raises lung cancer risk, study says

BOSTON (UPI) — Researchers reported new evidence bolstering the link between radon gas and an increased risk for lung cancer — even among non-smokers.

A study involving 516 non-smoking Colorado uranium miners exposed to high levels of radon on the job found they had about about a 12-fold increased risk of lung cancer, rare among non-smokers.

"These results confirm that exposure to radon — in the absence of cigarette smoking is a potent carcinogen that should be strictly controlled," the researchers wrote in last week's edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Previous studies have linked radon to lung cancer, but the new study is detailed information on subjects'

smoking habits, said Richard Waxweiler, an epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control who helped conduct the study.

"This further confirms that there are high relative risks of lung cancer even obtained among non-smokers exposed to substantial levels of radon," Waxweiler said in a telephone interview.

Waxweiler stressed the levels of radon the miners in the study were exposed to were much greater than that found in most homes. But the findings indicate the potential risk involved, he said.

Three million American homes may have unacceptably high levels of radon gas in the air, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The odorless, colorless gas is

produced naturally in the Earth and can seep into buildings through their basements. The gas produces radioactive particles — known as radon daughters — that can cause lung cancer after long exposure.

The researchers compared the lung cancer rate of 516 white Colorado men who never smoked cigarettes, pipes or cigars but worked in uranium mines, which are known to have high levels of radon gas, for an average of 52 months.

From 1950 through 1984, the miners had 12 times the lung cancer rate that would be expected for a group of men their age.

"We have demonstrated a 12-fold mortality risk for lung cancer for non-smoking uranium miners exposed to radon," they said.

world roundup

Israel remains steadfast in objectives

JERUSALEM (UPI) — As an evening deadline approached for Lebanese extremists to kill a second American captive, Israel stood firm last week in its decision against releasing Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid without a swap for hostages held in Lebanon.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday Obeid was a key leader of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah who could provide valuable information about the movement's operations and relations with Iran. Israel abducted Obeid last week from his south Lebanese village.

In an Israel Television interview, Rabin vowed that Obeid "will stay in our hands" because of his knowledge, but added that the offer to swap the radical Moslem clergyman for Israeli and Western hostages held in Lebanon remained.

"We join the calls by the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom for a swift release of all hostages and we stand ready to release Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid and all (Moslem) Shiite prisoners in exchange for the Israeli prisoners of war and all the hostages of other nationalities," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said.

Three Israeli soldiers have been held captive by Lebanese extremists since 1986 and the fates of three other soldiers missing in Lebanon since 1982 are unknown.

In echoing statements repeated by Israeli leaders since the Obeid abduction, Liel said Israel attempted

without success to obtain the release of the Israelis "by peaceful means." "Our patience has been tested for too long and our good will was brutally exploited," he said, reading from a prepared statement.

Liel declined comment on how Israel would react if Lebanese extremists carried out their threat to kill American Joseph Cicippio. But Rabin said Israel took into account when it approved Obeid's abduction two months ago all possible consequences of its action, including the execution of U.S. hostages.

"In the analysis of the possibilities, we foresaw all of them including the one that happened and even graver ones," Rabin told Israel's parliament in responding to three no-confidence measures in response to the Obeid affair that were easily defeated.

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth, a Hezbollah offshoot, announced Monday it hanged U.S. Marine Lt. Col. William Higgins because Israel refused to release Obeid.

Israel did not inform the United States of its decision to kidnap Obeid before the action, but since then the two allies have been working closely together on the Lebanese hostage crisis. Assistant U.S. Secretary of State John Kelly met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday as part of his orientation tour of Israel.

Rabin said Obeid's interrogation revealed new details on the

clergyman's role in the Feb. 17, 1988, abduction of Higgins. Obeid has been a central Hezbollah leader since 1983 and was directly involved in attacks, Rabin said, including a 1985 car bombing in Lebanon that killed 12 Israeli soldiers.

Hezbollah officials have rejected Israel's swap offer in the Obeid affair. But in Tehran, the Tehran Times newspaper reportedly said, "If the

negotiations and contacts are based on the same principle of honesty, then the countries with interest in Lebanon are ready to use their good offices for the release of the captives."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported the newspaper comment, which apparently indicated Iran's willingness to help negotiate the hostages' release.



GREEK WEDDING OF THE YEAR — A maid of honor places wedding wreaths on the heads of former Greek Premier Andreas Papandreo, 70, and his bride, Dimitra Liani, 35 during their wedding ceremony last month. It was the third marriage for both Papandreo and Liani. (AP Laserphoto)

Soviets release first report card on Bush, staff

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Soviets, in their first report card on the Bush administration, say the president works hard, but is afraid to make a mistake and predict that Secretary of State James Baker is destined for greatness.

Washington-based Soviet commentator A. Shalynov, writing in the evening edition of the official government newspaper Izvestia, said the Bush administration "is operating as a team on which there are no people with excessive ambition and everyone is willing to play for their leader."

Shalynov said the administration's "image of energy" is personified by White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

"He is rather heavy for his medium height but appearances can be deceptive," Shalynov said. "Sununu is like a dymano, brimming with energy."

"He said Vice President Dan Quayle is an anomaly who has been 'given the role of ideological lightning rod' in an administration in which 'pragmatism — is the trait that more than any other unities the people closest to President Bush.'"

"Quayle enjoys a freer hand — or, to be more exact, greater freedom speech — than Bush had when he was vice president under (Ronald) Regan," he said. "In his speeches, (Quayle) states opinions that are much closer to those of the Republicans' right wing than to the centrist position of the administration."

"According to Quayle himself, the president encourages him to say things that cannot be said by Bush himself," he said.

Shalynov took a swipe at former President Reagan in comparing the new administration's "packed schedule" with the relaxed style of the former American leader.

"Bush is different from Reagan, who worked from 9 to 5 at most," he said.

Shalynov said Bush is marked by a pronounced quality of "wariness" and used folksy terms to describe the president's tendency to forestall action.

"Bush is often motivated by a fear that the decision he is about to make will prove catastrophic, will 'cause bad press response' or will be blocked by Congress," Shalynov said. "Hence he measures and remeasures not seven times, not 14 times, but 21 times before cutting rope."

Shalynov showered praise on Baker, the Texan who was treasury secretary under Reagan and was tapped by Bush for the play for the foreign affairs portfolio.

In an administration filled with team players, Shalynov said, Baker stands out as a towering personality who is quickly mastering the intricacies of foreign policy.

"James Baker is among the very few members of the Bush administration who, notwithstanding his full loyalty to the president, is more than ready to paint his name in huge letters in the history of U.S. administrations," he said.

Shalynov said Baker does not have the same stature as his predecessors, but may ultimately outshine them.

"Yes, he does not have (Henry) Kissinger's penetration of the world and he could benefit from (Zbigniew) Brzezinski's depth of analysis or

(Alexander) Haig's foreign policy experience.

"But he is quick at digesting new information, prepares for speeches thoroughly and is a splendid orator. His prestige on Capitol Hill is great — you can hardly find members of Congress with anything bad to say about Baker."

Kissinger was secretary of state under presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. Brzezinski was President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser and Haig was secretary of state in the early months

of the Reagan administration.

Touching on one of the most sensitive topics for Moscow, Shalynov said Bush's support for the space-based Strategic Defense Initiative is weaker than the enthusiastic backing of Reagan, who introduced the idea of the "Star Wars" missile shield in 1983.

"In Bush's case, sometimes doubt surfaces about whether it is wise to develop and deploy the system to its full extent — doubt of the sort that was completely alien to Reagan," Shalynov said.

Global AIDS cases increasing

GENEVA (Reuter) — More than 4,700 new cases of AIDS were officially reported in July with the main increases in the Americas and Europe, the World Health Organization (WHO) said last week.

The total of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome cases rose to 172,143 in 151 countries compared with 167,373 in 149 countries at the end of June.

The additional countries were San Marino and Brunei, each of which reported its first case, the WHO said.

Continental totals, including individual countries reporting most cases:

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| AMERICAS | 116,524 |
| United States | 98,255 |
| Brazil | 6,857 |
| Canada | 2,745 |
| Mexico | 2,351 |
| Haiti | 2,041 |
| Dominican Republic | 856 |
| AFRICA | 30,244 |
| Uganda | 6,772 |
| Kenya | 5,949 |

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Tanzania | 4,158 |
| Malawi | 2,586 |
| Burundi | 1,975 |
| Zambia | 1,892 |
| EUROPE | 23,459 |
| France | 6,409 |
| Italy | 4,158 |
| West Germany | 3,497 |
| Spain | 2,781 |
| Britain | 2,372 |
| Switzerland | 921 |
| OCEANIA | 1,510 |
| Australia | 1,355 |
| New Zealand | 130 |
| ASIA | 406 |
| Japan | 97 |
| Israel | 85 |

WORLD TOTAL 172,143

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hemisphere

Contras, conservatives against accord

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — Washington and the right-wing insurgent army it raised to fight Nicaragua's government have launched parallel campaigns to delay plans to disarm the rebels and march them into history.

The Contras, from the Spanish word for counter-revolutionaries, face demobilization under the terms of an agreement reached last February by the presidents of five Central American countries, including Nicaragua.

The accord provided for disbanding the 12,000-strong Contra army and removing it from Honduran base camps in exchange for political reforms in Nicaragua and free elections there next February.

As Central American presidents prepared for a follow-up summit this week to discuss how and when to implement the demobilization accord, both Washington and the Contras were trying to convince the region that the insurgents must keep their weapons at least until the Nicaraguan elections.

According to Latin American diplomats, President Bush telephoned Presidents Jose Azcona of Honduras and Oscar Arias of Costa Rica last week to tell them he feels that demobilizing the Contras before the elections would be a mistake.

The presidential telephone calls coincided with a Central American

tour by Contra commanders who had a similar message for Arias, Azcona, Guatemala's Vinicio Cerezo and El Salvador's Alfredo Cristiani.

The fifth president to attend the forthcoming summit, scheduled for Saturday to Monday in Honduras, is Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, considered the source of all evil in Central America by the Contras and many of their backers in Washington.

The Contras argue that only they and their guns can pressure Ortega into sticking to his reform promises. Once the insurgent army is disbanded, the argument goes, Nicaragua's leaders can do as they please.

Some analysts critical of the U.S. administration suspect that the delaying campaign by the Americans and their insurgent proteges will be followed later by efforts to discredit the Nicaraguan ballot and thus persuade congress to continue funding the Contras.

Congress, which is dominated by Democrats, cut off all military aid in February 1988. Under a bipartisan agreement last April, limited non-military assistance continues until Nov. 30.

During a Central American tour in June, Vice President Dan Quayle predicted the elections would be a "sham," the term then-president Reagan used in 1984 to disqualify the ballot that made Ortega president and gave his ruling Sandinista

National Liberation Front (FSLN) two-thirds of the popular vote.

A month after the Quayle attack on the Sandinistas, Bush took up the theme by declaring that "what is evident is a renewed attempt to prevent free and fair elections."

Such assertions are based on the contention that a newly-formed Supreme Electoral Council is stacked in favor of the Sandinistas, a charge not universally shared in Latin America.

U.S. statements and actions on Nicaragua, analysts say, reflect a continuing debate inside the Bush administration and in Congress on how to handle the Contras, an issue at the core of the worst foreign policy scandal in eight years of Reagan presidency.

In the so-called Iran-Contra affair, senior government aides were discovered having diverted profits from secret arms sales to Iran to continue financing the Contras in violation of a congressional ban.

The young Bush administration has shifted from Reagan's emphasis on military solutions and unilateral action in Central America to support for regional initiatives.

And six months into Bush's term, the heroic labels his predecessor pinned on the Contras seem distant history.

Reagan called the rebels "the moral equal of our founding fathers," likened them to the French resistance against the Germans in World War II

and at one point drew a parallel between Winston Churchill's need for support against Nazi Germany and the rebels' need for U.S. arms and aid.

In an apparent turnabout at the United Nations last week, the U.S. joined in a Security Council resolution calling for the demobilization of the Contras under the Central American peace plan. It was the first such resolution.

Since the security council last considered Central America in 1985, the U.S. had blocked debates and resolutions on the region.

"There are apparent contradictions in American policy on the Contras," said a Latin diplomat at the U.N. recently. "Washington rarely speaks with one voice, least of all on the touchy subject of Central America."



Menem government makes good start on inflation

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (Reuter) — Only three weeks after taking office Argentina's Peronist government has succeeded in braking hyperinflation but economists said last week that they doubt the economic plan will achieve lasting stability.

"We are reasonably optimistic at this point but the government has yet to show its plans for some vital areas of the economy," said Juan Luis Bour, chief economist at the Latin American Economic Research Foundation.

Leftist president shocks Bolivian economy

LA PAZ, Bolivia (Reuter) — The election to the presidency of moderate leftist Jaime Paz Zamora has sent shock-waves through Bolivia's fragile economy.

Paz Zamora, a 50-year-old former revolutionary turned social democrat, was to be voted president Friday in a congressional run-off and take office Sunday.

Bolivians lined up to withdraw their savings last week, bought dollars on the black market and stocked up on food, fearing economic turmoil like that under a previous government he served in.

Paz Zamora was vice-president in the leftist government of Hernan Siles Zuazo from 1982-85 when South America's poorest nation came to the brink of economic anarchy and inflation hit 24,000 percent. Dollar deposits were frozen in 1982 and repaid in local currency, along with other restrictions.

As lines formed outside savings and loans institutions, clerks put up signs limiting withdrawals to \$500 a

day. Though July's cost of living would rise to a one-month record 200 percent, as forecast by the Peronists when they took office July 8, private surveys showed that in the last two weeks of the month prices rose only 30 percent.

The figures show the government's price stabilization program, widely criticized as the weakest point of the July 9 economic plan, had got off to a successful if somewhat shaky start, economists said.

The government believes that by reining in hyperinflation it has

bought time to carry out reforms without which previous Argentine stabilization plans failed.

"When we took power we had a one-minute horizon, later on it expanded to a day and now we think in terms of months," Economic Management Secretary Eduardo Curia said.

Bour said the Peronist approach to curing what President Carlos Menem has termed the worst crisis in Argentine history had been more realistic than previous administrations.

fiscal policies.

"Uncertainty has affected the financial system, but we have sufficient reserves to face this temporary panic," Jaime Gutierrez, vice-president of the association of banks, told journalists.

He said speculation would fizzle out once Paz Zamora took power leading a coalition government with Banzer's rightist party, Accion Democratica Nacionalista.

Paz Zamora has promised there would be no "traumatic" changes in economic policy.

He said his government would honor its obligations on Bolivia's \$4 billion foreign debt as long as payments did not strangle the country's development.

The three-month presidential deadlock brought investment to a complete halt and fueled fears of political instability in this coup-prone nation.

Paz Estenssoro will be the first elected president in 25 years to finish his term in a country that has had 180 military coups in its 125-year history.

"The Peronists made a clear diagnosis. They identified the root causes of inflation and have made interesting proposals to reform the economy. But we still don't know much about what they will do in areas like social spending and the external sector," he said.

The economists credited the fall in the inflation rate to the wave of optimism generated by Menem's advent and to a price pact between the government and leading businessmen signed July 17.

A U.N. agency economist, who asked not to be identified, said that even if the government achieved its goal of lowering inflation to 20 percent in August and five percent in September, other measures would be needed to attain stability until the long-term reforms bear fruits.

The government has placed a heavy bet on its plans to streamline a state un up a deficit of more than 15 percent of GDP, according to private that accounts for over 50 percent of estimates.

"Peronism's future will be precarious if the reform of the state does not take place because no economic program would survive the consequences," Public Works and Services Minister Roberto Dromi said in a recent interview.

Menem has pledged to suspend subsidies, slash public spending and sell off an array of debt-ridden state-owned companies, including parts of the telephone and railway services and other businesses nationalized by party founder Juan Peron over 40 years ago.

The Peronist government inherited a virtually bankrupt state from former President Raul Alfonsin's Radical administration.

military news

U.S. Army to help stem flow of drugs

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — Washington plans to send in the army to help drug-busters dam the flood of cocaine into the United States from South America.

The new military role will be one element of a national drug strategy to be announced Sept. 5 by the chief of the U.S. anti-drug effort, William Bennett.

Troops will not actually fight drug runners from Peru, Bolivia and

Colombia. But the military will bolster a law enforcement effort that has proved to be ineffective against a well-equipped and financed enemy.

"I think we are dealing with a situation that cries out for the expertise that the special forces and military have," Sherman Funk, State Department inspector-general, told Congress recently.

Military officers will train law enforcement officials, who have

limited experience in operating under the rugged conditions of guerrilla-infested tropical forests and Andean highlands.

The armed forces will also provide radar, communications and transport support.

Bush administration officials have proposed that military advisers as well as law enforcement officials be made available to help the armed forces of Andean nations.

Since former President Ronald Reagan first launched the drug war in the early 1980s, drug cartels have gone unchecked, deluging the United States with low-priced cocaine and seeking to open new markets in Europe.

Production of coca, the key raw material for cocaine, as increased yearly in Peru and Bolivia. Coca farmers and traffickers have ganged up with guerrillas to keep law enforcement officials out of the areas where coca is grown and processed.

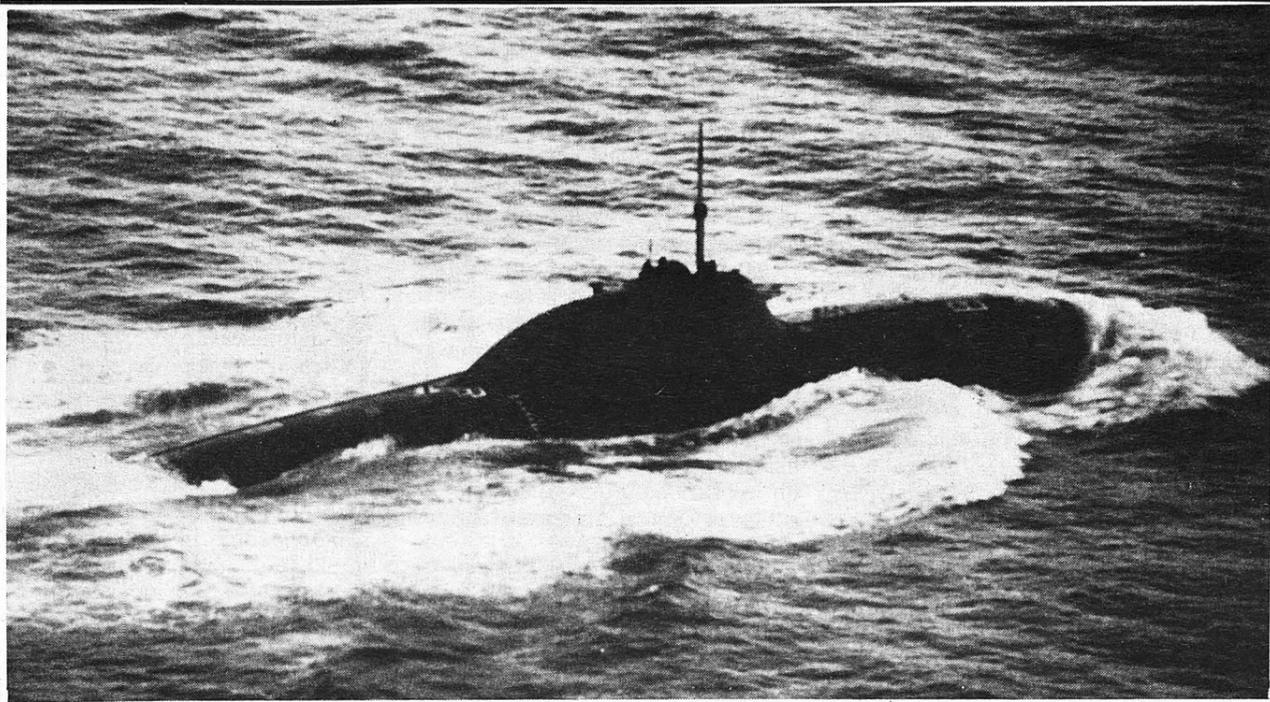
In Peru, the world's largest producer of coca, the government has lost control of major growing regions such as the Upper Huallaga Valley.

Funk said anti-narcotics activities in that area would probably not be successful until the Peruvian government regained a reasonable amount of control.

Officials said military advisers could play an important role in improving the capacity of Peruvian security forces. Military radar could also play a significant role in shutting down traffic into and out of the valley.

While officials and policy experts see military aid as a key to intensifying the drug war, they also believe it must be underpinned by a strong political commitment both at home and abroad.

That commitment must overshadow Latin America's suspicion of Washington and the Defense Department's reluctance to use its resources in the drug war, they said.



DISABLED SOVIET SUB — A Soviet Alpha class submarine, which was reported in distress off the coast of Norway last month, steams back under its own power to the Soviet submarine base in Murmansk. It was the third Soviet submarine mishap off Norway in as many months. (AP Laserphoto)

Rebels losing Kabul friends with rocket attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (Reuter) — The rebel rockets that pound Kabul from surrounding hills appear to be a self-defeating weapon in the Afghan battle for hearts and minds in a decade-long conflict.

And five months after Soviet troops withdrew to let the government and mujahideen rebels fight it out among themselves, many Afghans simply want it all to end.

Mohammad Rahim, who sells potatoes and onions in a Kabul market, said: "When Soviet troops were here, the Afghan people did not like the government. But now they have gone it is not necessary to fight the war any more."

Rahim was sitting 30 yards away from the spot where a rocket struck the central market and bus station July 22, killing 45 men, women and children.

"I am angry against those who give weapons to these people to kill the innocent," he said. "(President) Bush

sends these rockets to kill people."

A memorial stone and flowers mark the spot where the rocket fell, every day drawing groups of people who pray for the dead and give money for the victims' families.

Nearly a month of rocket attacks on the city have killed more than 100 civilians. At least 24 people died in just two days.

President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government is meanwhile bombarding Kabul with a publicity campaign to persuade people it is doing its utmost to bring peace.

Najibullah, confident after military successes against the Moslem guerrillas, appears almost nightly on TV pounding home the theme of national reconciliation.

One well-informed diplomat said he did not believe either side commanded popular support.

"If you ask the average Afghan he is indifferent to both sides," he said. "There is general frustration and unhappiness at the stalemate. The

average Afghan wants peace."

Peter Tomsen, special U.S. envoy to the guerrillas, told Congress last week he did not believe reports that Afghans were becoming more tolerant of the Kabul government and mistrustful of the mujahideen.

U.S. officials pledged recently to continue supplying the guerrillas with arms. They are funneled to the fighters through Pakistan, where many guerrilla leaders are based.

But Kabul University academics, traditionally strongly anti-government, say the rockets harm mujahideen standing in the capital, although they add that the government is equally prepared to bombard guerrilla-held areas in the countryside. Some blame the government for failing to protect the city.

"I think the people are turning

against the mujahideen because of the rockets," said a university lecturer who is thinking of leaving the country. "I myself hate the people who launch the rockets, whoever they are." Speaking on the eve of talks between the United States and the Soviet Union over Afghanistan, he said: "I do not consider this a war between Afghans. This is a war between the two superpowers. If they came to an agreement it could be ended." Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly and Soviet ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozyrov meet today in Stockholm for two days of talks.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said Friday cutting off arms supplies was not enough and the two sides should seek a political solution to 10 years of war in which more than one million people have been killed and five million made refugees.

Higgins: 'Don't feel sorry for me'

BARTLETT, Tenn. (UPI) — Marine Lt. Colonel William Higgins and his wife discussed the possibility of being taken hostage but asked his family to reserve sympathy if he was kidnapped, Higgins' sister said.

Linda Miller of Bartlett, a Memphis suburb, said in an interview published last week in The Commercial Appeal that her brother — reportedly killed Monday by his pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon — wanted his family to be proud of him.

"He and his wife talked about the dangers of being taken hostage,"

Miller said. "He said, 'If something happens, don't feel sorry for me. Be proud of me. I'm doing my duty. I'm fighting for my country.'"

Higgins, 44, was kidnapped 17 months ago while serving with United Nations forces in Lebanon.

His wife, Robin, also is in the Marine Corps and is stationed in Washington, D.C.

Miller described her brother, known in the family as Richard, as a "110 percent military person" and a hard worker.

Europe to develop smart warhead

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — A consortium of U.S., West German, French and British firms has been awarded a \$479 million contract to develop a "smart" warhead for NATO's Multiple-Launch Rocket System, the Pentagon said last week.

The planned terminal-guidance warhead, designed to seek and destroy enemy armor, will be developed by Martin Marietta Corp., Diehl Gmb and Co. of West Germany, Thomson CSF of France and Thorn EMI Electronics Ltd. of Britain.

The multiple-launch rocket system can launch several of the

same kind of battlefield rockets simultaneously or a mixture of different types of rockets with either conventional or nuclear warheads.

Under the terminal-guidance plan, the warhead on each rocket would carry three separate explosives which would be deployed during the missile's flight and would then use special radar to independently seek and hit targets.

The development work by the Orlando, Fla.-based MDTT Inc. consortium is expected to be completed by October 1992, the Defense Department said.

sports

Judge blames Liverpool tragedy on police

LONDON (Reuter) — Police were to blame for Britain's worst soccer stadium disaster when 95 Liverpool fans were crushed to death last April,

a senior judge reported last week. Lord Justice Taylor, chairman of an inquiry into the tragedy, also criticized the Sheffield Wednesday

club whose Hillsborough ground was used for the Football Association cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

"The main reason for the disaster was the failure of police control," he said in an interim report issued two weeks before the start of the new soccer season.

South Yorkshire Chief Constable Peter Wright immediately offered to resign and Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, the officer who was in charge at Hillsborough, was suspended on full pay.

South Yorkshire Police said a report was being sent to the director of public prosecutions about Duckenfield's "alleged untruths" during the inquiry.

The crush at Hillsborough started when fans were forced up against fencing as latecomers surged into the stadium from the back.

Taylor dismissed as unrealistic the police case that the blame should lie with fans arriving late and drunk and with the club's failure to monitor what was happening inside the ground.

He listed 43 safety measures, including a radical reassessment of how many fans should be allowed to stand on stadium terraces, and

stipulated that more than half these precautions must be enforced before the season begins.

Taylor said of senior officers: "Neither their handling of the problems on the day nor their account of it in evidence showed the qualities of leadership expected of their rank."

He said no attempt had been made to steer fans away from already crowded sections of the stadium, no maximum capacity had been set and crowd density was not monitored effectively.

The judge said: "The presence of an unruly minority who had drunk too much aggravated the problem. So did the club's confused and inadequate signs and ticketing."

He said equipment must be provided at each ground to cut through fences in an emergency and the senior police officer at the ground should have sole discretion to delay the kickoff.

Taylor's interim report did not deal with two controversial issues — whether seats should replace standing room in stadiums, and the implications for crowd control of a proposed soccer membership card scheme.



Soccer fans in the standing room-only section of Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England are crushed against a steel mesh fence during a British soccer cup semifinal match last April. A senior British judge has ruled police were responsible for the tragedy which took 95 lives when a mad rush of last minute arrivals swarmed into the area. (AP Laserphoto)

LA Rams thump 49ers 16-13 in overtime

TOKYO (AP) — Mike Lansford's 29-yard field goal as time expired in overtime gave the Los Angeles Rams a dramatic 16-13 NFL preseason victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday, delighting a spirited crowd of curious Japanese football fans.

The kick, Lansford's third field goal of the game, climaxed a chaotic ending after the 49ers blocked three field goal tries, two by rookie tight end Wesley Walls. But the final two were nullified by offsides penalties and Lansford's third kick in three plays finally went through.

The kick made 49ers rookie head coach George Seifert a loser in his first game replacing Bill Walsh, who coached the 49ers to three Super Bowl victories in 10 years, including last season.

Robert Delpino rushed three times for 24 yards in the Rams' game-winning 51-yard scoring drive, which followed a 24-yard punt return by Thomas Henley in only the second NFL game on Asian soil and the first in 13 years.

Gaston Green rushed 28 times for 116 yards for the Rams and was named the American Bowl MVP.

A sellout Tokyo Dome crowd of 43,000 fans, taking shelter from typhoon rains pelting the city, enthusiastically watched the two teams' preseason opener along with a nationwide TV audience in both

Japan and the U.S. Tickets ranged from \$35 to \$211 and scalpers were getting twice that outside the Dome.

The mostly young crowd greeted the opening kickoff with an excited roar and applauded every good play, and a few bad ones, as they munched on such un-traditional football fare as fried octopus and sushi.

They loudly cheered every pass completed by the 49ers' Joe Montana, widely known here for his "magic pass" that won the Super Bowl last January. They shouted their approval for a broken-field scramble of 41 yards by Montana's backup, Steve Young, and a 47-yard bomb from the Rams' Mark Herrmann to Mike Williams. They laughed at fumbles and dropped passes and "oohed" at big-screen replays.

Egged on by cheerleaders, they even did a noisy version of the wave, another popular American export.

Then Robert Delpino capped a 93-yard drive by pounding into the left side of the end zone to tie the game at 13 with 8:18 left in the fourth period.

Most fans appeared to be following the game studiously when they weren't out snapping up NFL T-shirts (\$19), towels, hats and backpacks.

"It's very action-packed and tactical," said Shigetoshi Ozaki, 52, a trading company employee. "It seems to reflect the American

character because it's so specialized and strategic."

Even Montana, an 11th-year veteran, was impressed.

"Whether they have a knowledge of football or not, they sure enjoy it,"

"This is 'kokko-ii' (cool)," enthused Yoshitake Fumada, a 17-year-old high school senior wearing a Rams jersey and cap. "Lots of power and the uniforms look cool."

Terry Greer recovered a second-quarter fumble in the end zone after Terrence Flagler's 13-yard run and Mike Cofer kicked field goals of 33 and 39 yards to give the 49ers a 13-6 halftime lead.

Los Angeles' Mike Lansford matched each of Cofer's first-half field goals with kicks of 32 and 25 yards.

Both teams' first units came out midway through the second period, and the stars familiar to the Japanese played solidly. Montana completed 8 of 13 passes for 81 yards, Super Bowl MVP Jerry Rice caught two passes for 23 yards, Roger Craig carried four times for 25 yards and Rams' starting quarterback Jim Everett was 5 for 9 for 69 yards and an interception.

The Rams' goal-line defense stopped San Francisco at the 1-yard line when Frank Stams recovered Flagler's fumble with 2:41 left in the third quarter.

Tyson, King want Dokes not Holyfield

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson would like to fight Michael Dokes in either September or October, promoter Don King said Thursday night.

If that matchup can't be lined up, Tyson's next choices for opponents would be Buster Douglas or Razor Ruddick.

The Las Vegas Hilton has the right of first refusal for Tyson's next fight,

King said.

Tyson said little, other than that he'd like to fight in September, November and January.

Tyson and King also announced a seven-figure promotional deal with an automobile company.

Tyson still has three fights remaining on a \$26.5 million contract with HBO.

He is then scheduled for a pay-per-view fight, which could be against

George Foreman, King said. That fight, which King called the "Rip Van Winkle fight," would probably be overseas, possibly in Tokyo, Indonesia or even Beijing.

Commenting on the possibility of a fight between Tyson and unbeaten Evander Holyfield, King said: "Holyfield has amateur promoters. They're not ready for this fight. The fight has to build up and there is a risk to build him up."

Baseball Standings

AMERICAN

East Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-------|
| Baltimore | 56 | 52 | .519 | - |
| Cleveland | 54 | 55 | .495 | 2 1/2 |
| Boston | 53 | 54 | .495 | 2 1/2 |
| Toronto | 54 | 56 | .491 | 3 |
| Milwaukee | 53 | 56 | .486 | 3 1/2 |
| New York | 52 | 58 | .473 | 5 |
| Detroit | 38 | 70 | .352 | 18 |

West Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|
| California | 66 | 43 | .606 | - |
| Oakland | 66 | 44 | .600 | 1/2 |
| Kansas City | 59 | 50 | .541 | 7 |
| Texas | 58 | 50 | .537 | 7 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 55 | 55 | .500 | 11 1/2 |
| Seattle | 52 | 57 | .477 | 14 |
| Chicago | 47 | 63 | .427 | 19 1/2 |

NATIONAL

East Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Chicago | 63 | 47 | .573 | - |
| Montreal | 63 | 47 | .573 | - |
| St. Louis | 56 | 50 | .528 | 5 |
| New York | 57 | 51 | .528 | 5 |
| Pittsburgh | 46 | 63 | .422 | 16 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 44 | 65 | .404 | 18 1/2 |

West Division

| | W | L | Pct. | GB |
|---------------|----|----|------|--------|
| San Francisco | 64 | 46 | .582 | - |
| Houston | 61 | 49 | .555 | 3 |
| San Diego | 55 | 55 | .500 | 9 |
| Los Angeles | 52 | 59 | .468 | 12 1/2 |
| Cincinnati | 51 | 58 | .468 | 12 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 44 | 66 | .400 | 20 |

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Progress slow at Central American summit

TELA, Honduras (Reuter) — Central American presidents prepared for discussions Sunday after making slow progress in Saturday's first session towards an agreement on demobilizing Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"We are discussing it. We are getting closer," Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said when asked what progress the five presidents had made on a demobilization plan.

"The important thing is for the presidents to support a plan and to agree on a timetable," he said.

The other presidents did not speak to the media as they left for a private dinner.

The main task facing the presidents at the three-day summit in the Honduran seaside resort of Tela is to agree on a plan to disband some 12,000 U.S.-backed Contras fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

The Central American foreign ministers, who met separately to work on the technical aspects of a Contra demobilization plan, emerged pessimistic from their first session.

"Nothing has been resolved," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto told reporters.

The ministers were continuing a meeting suspended in Guatemala this week after El Salvador called for a separate plan to disband leftist Salvadoran guerrillas.

A Costa Rican source said the foreign ministers were discussing two plans, one on Contra demobilization

and the other on Salvadoran guerrillas.

The ministers were dealing with technical aspects and the presidents with political ones, he said.

"It's very premature to talk about

finished documents. There is a group of elements from which we hope to draw a concrete result probably tomorrow," Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said.

Ortega said the presidents reacted positively to a proposal from the Salvadoran guerrilla movement, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), to open a dialogue with the right-wing government of Alfredo Cristiani.

In a letter, they asked Ortega to present to the summit, Salvadoran guerrilla commanders said they were ready to open a dialogue with the government on the basis of talks they held in Mexico last week with opposition parties.

Cristiani said his government had been open to dialogue with the guerrillas since it took office in June.

The U.S. administration has resisted moves to demobilize the Contras before next February's Nicaraguan elections, saying they must be kept intact to pressure the Sandinista government to hold a free and fair poll. Contra leaders also oppose early disbandment.

The Sandinistas want them disbanded within three months.

The Sandinistas appeared to find support for their position from Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning architect of a 1987 Central American peace plan.

Arias said Contra demobilization should be gradual. "But demobilization could never be conditional on Nicaraguan elections," he said.

Ortega said he was prepared to talk to the Contras to make arrangements for their demobilization.



NO JOKER — Carol Prima, an animal keeper at the National Zoo in Washington, stands in the zoo's bat cave as one of its inhabitants flies by. It has been suggested that human beings and bats might be distant cousins sharing the same primeval ancestor. (AP Laserphoto)

Bolivian congress elects Paz Zamora as president

LA PAZ, Bolivia (UPI) -- Congress early Saturday elected former Marxist revolutionary Jaime Paz Zamora as president in an alliance between Bolivia's left and the forces of a former military dictator.

Congress elected Paz Zamora, 97-59, despite his finishing third in the general election. Congress was called upon to choose the president because none of the nine candidates received a majority in the May 7 vote.

Christian Democrat Luis Ossio Sanjines was chosen vice president, receiving 96 votes in the 156-member congress.

The congressional vote came well after midnight and followed 14 hours of heated debate.

The leader of the Leftist Revolutionary Movement-New Majority party was to be inaugurated

Sunday in the presence of at least five South American presidents and 35 foreign delegations.

The outcome in congress was considered assured when former military strongman Hugo Banzer withdrew from the race Wednesday and threw his support to Paz Zamora.

Banzer made the move apparently as political revenge because governing party candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada refused to enter into a political pact.

Paz Zamora's expected election touched off a panic of bank withdrawals reported to have reached \$100 million. It also touched off a rise in the dollar against the boliviano, with traders apparently remembering the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, who

Paz Zamora served from 1982-1985 as vice president.

The Zuazo-Paz Zamora administration was cut short by public outrage over hyper-inflation and social chaos. Annual inflation reached 24,000 percent in 1985 before a severe economic austerity program was put into place by President Victor Paz Estenssoro, who is Paz Zamora's uncle.

Paz Zamora moved to quell fears over his economic policies, saying he would guarantee economic stability and that there would be no abrupt changes in policy.

"We want to give confidence and security to Bolivians," he said.

Paz Zamora was a clandestine leader during Banzer's military government from 1971-1978, advocating a Marxist "armed

struggle." He was arrested in February 1974 and imprisoned but escaped in June of the same year.

Despite his revolutionary background, Paz Zamora emerged in the 1980s as a Social Democrat, a moderate socialist along the lines of the European Socialist parties who accept many capitalist economic ideas and reject the Marxist model used by the Soviet Union.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard visited Paz Zamora prior to his election and said later he assured the candidate of U.S. cooperation in all areas.

The United States has been working with Bolivia in its efforts to eradicate fields of coca leaves, used to make cocaine. Bolivia is the world's second largest producer of coca, trailing only Peru.

et cetera

by United Press International

Hostage hope dims

BEIRUT, Lebanon -- The pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement Saturday dampened hopes for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon by demanding Israel release a kidnapped Moslem leader as a pre-condition for talks on a prisoner exchange involving three Israeli soldiers. Israel has proposed swapping Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid for the three soldiers and 16 Westerners held by Moslem extremists.

U.S. crime jumps

WASHINGTON -- Crime across the nation jumped 3

percent last year -- rising to more than five offenses for every 100 U.S. residents -- with murder and rapes increasing more than cases of arson and theft, the FBI said Sunday. In its annual "Crime in the United States" report, the FBI not only compared figures to 1987 but also showed the number of crimes known to law enforcement authorities was 17 percent higher than five years ago.

Blackout empties bars

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. -- A power blackout emptied bars on the boardwalk and touched off three hours of fighting, window-breaking and other pandemonium among a throng of up to 20,000

people in the shore resort early Saturday, police said. Hoards of partiers streamed from the taverns onto the boardwalk around 1:30 a.m. after the power went out because of a fire in a substation, police said.

Cops smash protests

CAPE TOWN, South Africa -- Police fired tear gas to disperse mourners at a funeral for two guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress Saturday, and broke up a birthday party for the country's oldest political prisoner in a tense day of protests. Dozens of police carrying automatic weapons and tear gas canisters strapped to their belts guarded the

service for the two activists.

Hiroshima marks 44th

HIROSHIMA, Japan -- White doves of peace were released into the hot summer sky and tens of thousands of people bowed their heads in prayer near a bombed-out memorial Sunday as Hiroshima marked the 44th anniversary of the atomic bomb attack that led to the end of World War II. A crowd of 50,000 gathered in the downtown Peace Memorial Park to join millions more throughout Japan in observing a minute of silence at 8:15 a.m., the moment a U.S. B-29 warplane dropped an atom bomb on the port city Aug. 6, 1945.