



the Tropic Times

Vol. II, No. 50

Quarry Heights, Republic of Panama

Jan. 17, 1990

Bankers plead guilty to money laundering charges

TAMPA, Fla. (UPI) — Two subsidiaries of an international banking company pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges of laundering drug money and agreed to testify against co-defendants including Manuel Noriega's former banker.

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International Overseas Ltd. and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A., which were caught in a federal undercover scheme, must forfeit more than \$14 million in certificates of deposit

bought with illegal profits. The companies also were placed on probation for five years.

The companies are subsidiaries of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, a Luxembourg-based company run by Pakistanis and backed by Saudi Arabian funds.

The bank holding company and nine of its officers — including Amjad Awan, who once served as a personal banker for Manuel Noriega — were scheduled to go on trial Tuesday on charges of helping conceal the illegal source of \$32 million worth of drug profits.

Under terms of the plea bargain, the corporate defendants must cooperate in additional federal investigations and testify at trial, if asked. There was no indication whether they would be asked to testify against Noriega, who is awaiting trial in Miami on cocaine trafficking charges.

U.S. District Judge William Hodges placed a gag order on the defendants and their attorneys, Lawrence H. Wechsler and E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., barring them from commenting on the case.

In Tuesday's proceedings, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International Overseas Ltd., which has offices in Miami, Tampa and Boca Raton, pleaded guilty to 26 counts of money laundering. Seven other counts were dropped.

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A., which has headquarters in Luxembourg and operates in London and New York, pleaded guilty to three counts of money laundering. Twenty-four other counts were dropped.

Under terms of the agreement, both corporate defendants agreed to forfeit all funds held in 90-day certificates of deposit, including

interest, at the NCNB Bank of Florida in Tampa.

Jury selection is still scheduled to begin Thursday for the other defendants in the case. They face 33 counts of conspiracy to import and distribute drugs and launder money. If convicted, each faces a maximum penalty of life in prison without the chance of parole.

Their defense attorneys have asked that there be no mention of Noriega during the trial. The deposed Panamanian dictator's name was mentioned only once in Tuesday's hearing, during a brief reference to money laundered through Panama.

news briefs

Denies emergency rule

WARSAW, Poland (UPI) — Albanian leader Ramiz Alia, speaking amid new reports of mass detentions in his country, flatly denied Albania was under emergency rule and lashed out at Yugoslav news media for saying "filthy things" about the nation, the Albanian news agency ATA reported Tuesday.

Dole encourages cuts

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas called Tuesday for Israel and other big recipients of American foreign aid to take a budget cut so more assistance can be redirected to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and Panama.

Seek clarification

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Jurors in the McMartin Pre-School molestation trial asked the judge Tuesday for a clarification on how one defendant can be convicted of conspiracy and a second defendant acquitted of the charge.

Boy remains critical

FAIRFAX, Va. (UPI) — A 5-year-old boy who survived 40 minutes under water in an icy drainage reservoir was in critical condition Tuesday, and his doctor said the comatose child was breathing with the aid of a respirator.

Council endorses plan

PARIS (UPI) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council endorsed a plan Tuesday for the world body to play a bigger peace-making role in Cambodia after China and the Khmer Rouge evidently softened their stance on U.N. involvement.

Bodies wash ashore

BANGKOK, Thailand (UPI) — The bodies of 12 partially clothed or naked Vietnamese women and two boys washed ashore in southern Thailand, apparently strangled and thrown into the sea after a pirate attack on a refugee boat, police said Tuesday.



RAFT EXERCISE — PFC Mario Romero pulls his poncho raft during an exercise at the Jungle Operations Training Center, Fort Sherman. Romero is a member of the 3rd platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment from Camp Pendleton, Calif. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lance Kamisugi)

Peruvian diplomat given 3 days to leave RP

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) — The U.S.-installed Panamanian government Tuesday gave a Peruvian diplomat three days to leave the country, and Peru countered by saying the diplomat will take with him a dozen Panamanians who have been granted asylum in its embassy.

Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich said the decision to expel Peruvian Luis Sandiga, the commercial attache at the embassy, was taken in response to declarations made by "Peruvian authorities that make normalization of relations between our two countries difficult." He did not elaborate.

Peru has been one of the most vocal critics of the U.S. invasion of Panama Dec. 20 that toppled Panamanian "Maximum Leader" Manuel Antonio Noriega and installed Guillermo Endara as president.

Although Endara was widely believed to have won presidential elections held in Panama last May 7 that were later invalidated, he has said that Panama would not hold new elections as Peruvian President Alan Garcia has proposed.

Garcia has branded the U.S.

invasion "brutal, excessive, exaggerated, abusive and arrogant" and has refused to recognize Endara's government.

Also Tuesday, members of a political party that had backed

MAC lifts women crew restrictions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Military Airlift Command has removed restrictions barring women from being crew members on cargo airdrop missions, an Air Force spokesman said Tuesday.

Women now may serve as pilots, co-pilots, loadmasters, flight engineers or crew chiefs on C-130 or C-141 transport planes, said Air Force Capt. George Sillia. Women earlier had been barred from serving as crew members on airdrop missions.

The decision will affect about 100 women among its 4,800 pilots and a like number of women among enlisted crew members, Sillia said.

Previously, women crew members were allowed to fly on C-141 aircraft to a specific location, unload the cargo and return. However, women had not been allowed to be crew members on the C-130, except the WC-130, a weather reconnaissance

Noriega, saying they are now the opposition to Endara's government, criticized the U.S. invasion, and law students at the University of Panama asked U.S. troops to leave their campus.

plane.

The decision was made Dec. 14, six days before the U.S. invasion of Panama during which Army women were reported to have taken part in combat, Sillia said. The intervention delayed the formal announcement.

The command determined that airdrop missions don't fall under the Defense Department's February 1988 "risk rule," which says a non-combat mission or unit can be closed to women if officials deem that the risks are equal to or greater than those of the combat mission they support.

The crew change is a result of the command's review of recommendations in the Defense Department's February 1988 report, "Task Force On Women in the Military."

"All positions are continually being reviewed," Sillia said. "We're trying to open as many as possible."

U.S. news

Defense lawyer criticizes doctor with AIDS

NEW YORK (UPI) — A defense lawyer Tuesday harshly criticized a doctor who claimed she caught AIDS from a contaminated needle at a public hospital, saying she ignored a physician's advice and waited too long to file her \$175 million lawsuit against the city.

The confrontation came on the fifth day of testimony by Dr. Veronica Prego in state Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Prego, 32, is suing the city's Health and Hospital Corp., Kings County Hospital and two doctors for negligence and breach of confidentiality.

In seeking \$175 million in damages, the Argentine doctor claimed an intern left a needle contaminated with blood from an AIDS patient on a bed and that Prego pricked her finger on it.

The case is believed to be the first trial in which a doctor has claimed hospital negligence caused her to get AIDS.

Defense lawyer Stanley Friedman attacked Prego for waiting four years after she was infected before she sued the city. The defense has repeatedly tried to persuade Justice Aaron Bernstein to dismiss the suit, arguing the statute of limitations had passed.

The city claims Prego should have filed suit when she first became infected with the virus, rather than when she became sick in 1987.

Friedman grilled Prego about her actions in the days after Jan. 12, 1983, when she says she caught the virus from the needle.

Citing Prego's medical records, Friedman described how she visited the Kings County hospital student health service to report the accident. A doctor there reassured her there were no reports of health care workers ever contracting AIDS from a needle prick.

But according to the records, the

doctor told Prego to return if she displayed certain symptoms, such as fever or swollen glands — early indications of aids-related complex, or ARC.

"What did the doctor say you should do if you had vomiting, fever or swollen lymph nodes?" Friedman asked.

"He told me if I got sick to come back," Prego replied.

"Do you remember being told anything about (swollen glands)?"

Death row inmate may get gas chamber

LOS ANGELES, (Reuter) — Robert Harris, who has been on California's "death row" for 10 years for murdering two boys, could die in the state gas chamber within two months, state Attorney General John Van de Kamp said Tuesday.

No one has died in California's gas chamber since April 12, 1967, but the U.S. Supreme Court refused Tuesday to act on an appeal by Harris that he should be released because his long confinement on death row constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

"Now the end is in sight, this is a somber moment," Van de Kamp said at a press conference. "There can be no joy in taking a human life, nor can there be any justice in prolonging this case any further."

Barring further stays, Harris who was 37 Monday, is likely to be executed in San Quentin prison sometime in March or early April, Van de Kamp said.

Harris, of San Diego, was convicted of killing John Mayeski, 15, and Michael Baker, 16. According to court records, he stole the boys' car as they sat eating hamburgers outside a restaurant, drove them to a remote area and shot them.

Friedman asked.
"No," she replied.

Friedman's questioning suggested Prego and her doctors suspected ARC, an early sign of AIDS, when a lymph node under her arm became enlarged, but failed to pursue legal action at that time.

Prego's lawyer, Susan Karten, dismissed the idea.

"The condition resolved itself, it's just a red herring," she said.

Earlier, the head of the Guardian Angels and a fashion model whose face was slashed in an attack appeared in court to protest what they viewed as the hostile questioning of Prego.

Model Marla Hansen, 28, whose face was slashed by thugs, said that defense questioning of Prego "reminded me" of the intense and personal questioning she underwent during the trial of her assailants.

The California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court have each turned down four appeals by Harris.

The California legislature voted in 1977 to restore the death penalty, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court had overturned a previous ruling and has said states could impose the death penalty.

Help available for 'chest pain'

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tens of thousands of American women diagnosed each year with chest pain and no signs of heart disease may be suffering from a treatable disorder of the small arteries, a researcher said Tuesday.

Many of these women, who often experience intense pain, are being treated for psychiatric disorders because no physical symptoms can be found with conventional tests, said Dr. Richard Cannon of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Md.

"Many have been mislabeled as neurotic or hysterical women," Cannon said.

"They truly have a pain syndrome." Among their symptoms is a

The Republican governor, George Deukmejian, sponsored the new death penalty bill when he was a state senator. In November 1978

California voters approved an initiative extending the death penalty to include accomplices and various forms of murder not covered by Deukmejian's bill.

condition Cannon calls "sensitive heart," in which they experience sharp pain when test probes are threaded into arteries near their hearts.

Ordinarily such probes produce no pain, Cannon said. He described his research at the American Heart Association's annual science writers' forum.

His studies have shown that many of the patients are suffering from a disorder he calls microvascular angina, in which blood flow may be blocked in very tiny arteries that nourish the heart.

The arteries are too small to show up on angiograms, in which dye is injected into the larger coronary arteries to look for blockages, he said.

Earthquake shakes California

EUREKA, Calif. (AP) — A strong earthquake struck along California's North Coast on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damages.

The quake, measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale, struck at 12:08 p.m. about 50 miles south of Eureka, the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park reported. The state Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento and University of California-Berkeley Seismographic Station also estimated the quake at 5.3.

"It seemed long and just kind of weaving. It wasn't real, real strong here," said a woman with the Eureka Police Department who only identified herself as Diana.

The quake was felt along the North Coast, the region above San Francisco, from Point Arena near the Oregon border, south to Willits and in Lake County. State

emergency officials reported that residents in the small town of Petrolia said items were knocked off shelves, but that there was no other damage. Petrolia is near a land formation known as Punta Gorda, almost directly at the point where the San Andreas Fault enters the Pacific.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in the strength of the shaking. Thus, a reading of 7.5 reflects an earthquake 10 times stronger than one of 6.5.

An earthquake of 3.5 on the Richter scale can cause slight damage in the local area, 4 moderate damage, 5 considerable damage, 6 severe damage. A 7 reading is a "major" earthquake, capable of widespread heavy damage, and 8 is a "great" quake, capable of tremendous damage.

War veteran recovers I.D. tag

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Carroll Witten has gotten a memento of his days as a World War II prisoner of war from an East German family — thanks to the historic opening of the Berlin Wall.

In 1945, a year after his B-17 bomber was shot down over Germany, Witten and about 40 other POWs were being marched from Poland to a POW camp at Bad Muskau, near the German-Polish border.

During an overnight stop at a barn, Witten lost his brass POW identification tag.

He had all but forgotten the tag until he got a call from Berlin last month.

On the Sunday after the Berlin Wall was opened on Nov. 9, an East German family visiting West Berlin for the first time approached U.S. Army Capt. James Allen and gave him a tarnished brass tag.

The tag bore only a four-digit POW number and the words "Oflag Luft 3," a designation for a prison

camp for air officers.

Allen said the family told him they had found the tag in the rubble of their old barn, which had burned in 1988.

Using Red Cross archives, Allen traced the number to Witten, now 65.

Witten said Allen telephoned him in early December from Berlin and that, when asked, he could clearly remember his prisoner number.

"I said, 'Sure, I couldn't forget it — 4854,'" Witten said. "He said, 'You're the guy.'"

Just before Christmas, Allen routed himself through Louisville on a flight from West Germany and gave Witten the long-lost tag.

"It was a funny feeling when I held this tag in my hand again," Witten reflected. "Unbelievable."

Witten said Allen has promised to get the exact address of the family who found the tag so he can get in touch with them.

"I want to write them, and I'd like to go back to Germany, maybe in a year, and see them," he said.

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hemisphere

Cisneros, Herrera reassure rural areas

SANTIAGO DE VERAGUAS, Panama (Reuter) — Panamanian and U.S. commanders are visiting the provinces to quell the distrust the new civilian leaders feel toward the revamped security force replacing ousted strongman Manuel Noriega's military.

Hermel Rodriguez, a small businessman named governor of the province of Veraguas five days after the Dec. 20 U.S. invasion, told Reuters he was thankful for the U.S. action that dismantled Noriega's Panama Defense Forces (PDF), but was still fearful of the new security force organized to replace it.

He said he was hesitant to authorize the 326 members of Public Force in the province to carry guns.

"We suffered a great deal under the previous regime. The people are still traumatized. They don't even want to see guns," he said.

Hoping to calm the uncertainty, Col. Eduardo Herrera, commander of the Panama Public Force, and Maj. Gen. Marc Cisneros, commander of U.S. Army South based in Panama, flew to this provincial capital Sunday to explain the role of the civilian-controlled security force.

Herrera, in an unprecedented open meeting in the formerly off-limits PDF headquarters here, told troops

and civilian leaders the days of PDF domination were over.

He said his first order was to tear down the tiny punishment cells where Noriega opponents had been held.

In a tour of the prison he was shown the four-foot square cement cell where Col. Leonidas Macias, leader of the March 1988 coup attempt against Noriega was held for 21 months until freed by the U.S. invasion.

"This is inhuman. Break these doors down today," Herrera said after inspecting the now empty cells.

In the meeting attended by Cisneros and the new Veraguas Zone Commander Maj. Carlos Acosta and his officers, Herrera listened to Rodriguez welcome the new direction in leadership, but also say frankly, "I cannot say that I feel 100 percent confident of the Public Force. We have tried to open our hearts but we feel afraid."

He said many people had been oppressed and beaten by PDF members, including his own wife.

"The people don't have faith, they don't have confidence yet because they say the same people are in the new force. They think that when the gringos (U.S. troops) leave, those officers will seek revenge," he said.

Herrera, who was exiled by Noriega and tried to form a movement against him in the United States, told the meeting that measures had been put in place to prevent abuses.

"The Public Force is respectful of civil and human rights and of the public so that in turn they will be respected. The force has to be the friend of the community," he said.

But without guns, he said, the force could not accomplish its basic job of protecting the community. He said security problems facing the province included armed bands of drug and arms traffickers and radical leftist movements.

He also urged Rodriguez to bring official charges against former PDF members accused of abuses under Noriega.

Rodriguez, who agreed to issue guns to Public Force members in a formal ceremony Monday, said part of the problem was that the central government had not had time to appoint new prosecutors in the provinces.

He said people were afraid to file charges with prosecutors who had served under Noriega for fear of reprisal.

Former strongman Omar Torrijos, who died in a 1981

helicopter crash, was born and grew up in Santiago. It has a reputation as a center for the tough nationalism and populism for which the charismatic general was famous.

Cisneros, who remained in the background for much of the visit, was greeted almost as a hero by civilians who asked him to give them autographs and pose for pictures.

For the last year Cisneros, a Spanish-speaking Texan with intimate knowledge of Panama and the PDF, was Noriega's personal nemesis in the tense standoff between the two countries prior to the invasion.

But at the meeting he spoke only to assure Rodriguez that Herrera had his complete confidence and that his troops would help to consolidate the civilian government.

A company of U.S. special forces troops under Cisneros's command are stationed at Santiago.

Though a tour through the colonial town was peaceful, Cisneros told Reuters that he would send a second special forces company to Santiago Monday.

He said the deployment was a security measure after reports that "pro-Noriega elements" might be trying to organize there. He declined to provide any details.

Noriega ultimate target for U.S. comedians

MIAMI (Reuter) — Just when the jailhouse jokes about actress Zsa Zsa Gabor and hotel queen Leona Helmsley were starting to bomb, along comes Gen. Manuel Noriega — a dream come true for America's stand-up comics.

Noriega may be the ultimate target — a despised dictator transformed into a manacled U.S. prisoner with a pock-marked complexion that gained him the nickname "Pineapple Face" and a reputed history of mistresses, prostitutes and voodoo.

"Apparently Noriega is having a little trouble adjusting to prison life," Johnny Carson, America's king of late night TV comedy, told his audience. "He says he can't wear stripes because they clash with his

face."

TV talk-show host David Letterman asks: What is one of the top 10 arguments that lawyers will be using to defend Panama's deposed dictator against cocaine trafficking charges?

"You think it's easy supporting a wife, two kids, a mistress and hookers on a measly president's salary?"

Stand-up comedian Will Durst, writing in the San Francisco Examiner, said: "They say Noriega appeared at the papal nunciatura (in Panama City) all tuckered out. Not too surprising ... His beak was pretty deep in the (cocaine) bag from what I hear."

"The poor guy probably hadn't

slept in seven years. He just wanted to catch a few Z's."

In American comedy, it's always open season on the rich and famous and obnoxious, especially when they take a big fall.

The travails of Leona Helmsley, the New York hotel magnate convicted of tax evasion, and Zsa Zsa Gabor, convicted of slapping a Hollywood policeman, had been favorite targets in recent months. But the jokes were starting to fall flat.

Now comes Noriega, who is No. 1 on the list for comedic ridicule.

If Noriega is tuning into local radio stations to pass the time in his Miami jail cell, he's not laughing.

Radio station WHYI-Y100 has been giving away "Noriega Packs,"

brown shopping bags containing acne cream, voodoo trinkets, red underwear, a one-way bus ticket to Homestead, Fla., and a pineapple.

Noriega's detractors have called him "pineapple face" because of his acne scars. He is said to have worn red underwear to ward off evil spirits, and voodoo paraphernalia were found at his headquarters. When he was flown to the United States Jan. 4, he landed at Homestead Air Force Base.

Another Miami pop music station came up with a song called "Manny," a parody of Barry Manilow's "Mandy." It is now one of the stations most requested songs.

A sampling of the lyrics: "Oh, Manny, you take and you take without giving, "But we took you away, oh Manny."

TV comedian Jay Leno recently discussed the political ramifications of Noriega's surrender. "President Bush is getting a lot of bipartisan support against Noriega," he told his audience. "The Republicans want to take his army, the Democrats want to take his money and Gary Hart has offered to take his mistresses."

Hart, a former Colorado senator, dropped out of the 1988 Democratic presidential race after revelations of his romantic entanglement with a Miami model.

Did you hear the one about the new car, a Miami radio disk jockey asked listeners one morning.

"It's called the Noriega. It comes in Manuel and semiautomatic."

Besides the general, at least one other person isn't laughing about all the Noriega-bashing. He is Manuel E. Noriega, no relation to Panama's Manuel A. Noriega, and he's been swamped with threatening and obscene phone calls.

"I don't even resemble the guy, the pineapple face," the 83-year-old retiree from New York told Reuters.

RP needs anti-drug unit, Hinton says

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) — New U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton said at the weekend that Panama should develop a special police unit to fight drug trafficking.

In his first press conference since his appointment as ambassador last week, Hinton also said he had no idea how much aid Panama will get from the United States to recover from last month's U.S. invasion.

Hinton said Panama needs to develop a special police unit and a coast guard because the Public Forces, Panama's new police force, does not have the special training needed for drug interdiction.

"There will be a need ... for a specialized anti-narcotics police force," Hinton said. "If you're going to get at the (drug) mafia, you have to have a very sophisticated, highly-trained, special kind of police to do it."

Hinton said the Panamanian government is considering forming such a unit. His comments came on the heels of Wednesday's agreement, signed by the United States and

Panama, to cooperate in the battle against drug trafficking.

Referring to Panama's banking secrecy laws, Hinton said the Panamanian government is also considering changes in those laws, which have made Panama a haven for money laundering, according to U.S. officials.

"Honest bankers need not have fear," Hinton said. "To the contrary, this will help the rebirth of the financial system in Panama."

Hinton said reforming banking laws is Panama's responsibility.

Hinton also praised the return of a free press in Panama.

UK airline uses Noriega for ads

LONDON (Reuter) — A British airline is using ousted Panamanian dictator Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega to advertise cut-rate flights to the United States.

"Only one person can fly into the USA for less than 90 pounds"

(\$150), says the caption under a photograph of a sullen Noriega in newspaper ads for Virgin Atlantic Airways.

Noriega was spirited out of Panama to Florida aboard a U.S. military transport plane on Jan. 4 to face drug charges.

entertainment

TV guide

Wednesday

noon	CNN Headline News
12:30	SCN Midday Report
12:40	CNN Sports Latenight
1:10	Oprah Winfrey...Diary Secrets
2:00	Public People, Private Lives
2:58	Prime Time TV Guide
3:00	Star Trek
3:48	CNN Headline Newsbreak
4:00	Soapbox
4:30	Guiding Light

5:15	General Hospital
6:00	SCN Evening Report
6:30	ABC World News Tonight
6:58	Prime Time TV Guide
7:00	NBC Nightly News
7:30	Classic Concentration
7:50	SCN Wednesday Night Movie... "Daddy" (Mature)
9:25	Community Bulletin
9:30	CBS Evening News
10:00	Entertainment Tonight
10:30	Dynasty
11:20	SCN Late Night Report
11:30	NBC Tonight Show
12:30	Late Night With David Letterman
1:30 a.m.	Nightline

Thursday

5:30 a.m.	CNN Headline News
6:00	CNN Headline News
6:30	CNN Headline News
7:00	NBC Today Show
9:00	Morning Stretch
9:25	Shining Time Station
9:50	Mr. Rogers
10:18	CNN Headline Newsbreak
10:30	Show-Biz Today
11:00	Community Bulletin
11:05	M-A-S-H
11:35	Family Feud
12:00	CNN Headline News

movies -- Wednesday

Howard

6 p.m. WELCOME HOME (R) Kris Kristofferson
After being MIA for 17 years Kris Kristofferson finds himself back in the World. His child has grown up and his wife has remarried. Besides that, he has a family of his own back in

Cambodia.
8 p.m. AN INNOCENT MAN (R) Tom Selleck
Clayton

6 p.m. LOCK UP (R) Sylvester Stallone
8 p.m. KICKBOXER (R) Jean Claude Van Dammm

Amador

CLOSED

Quarry Heights

Davis

7 p.m. A DRY WHITE SEASON (R) Marlon Brando

Adults \$1.50; Children \$1.00

clubs

Howard NCO Club - (Limited menu and services) Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Dinner: 5:30-9 p.m.; Patio Fast Food: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Howard O'Club - (Limited menu and services)

Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Dinner: 6-8:30 p.m.
Albrook O'Club - (Limited menu and services) Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Lounge menu only: 5-8:30 p.m.

military news

No big peace dividend yet, experts say

WASHINGTON (Reuter) -- Defense experts expect no spectacular U.S. military spending cut in Congress this year despite budget pressures and high expectations of a "peace dividend" because of the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe.

The experts said little or none of the peace dividend will be paid this year and that it would take years to significantly scale back the massive U.S. defense force.

In fact, defense officials say President Bush will ask Congress Jan. 29 for more defense money for next year rather than less, \$292 billion compared to this year's \$287 billion. This comes despite Eastern European changes that should

New Navy jet to cost \$100 million

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The price of the Navy's new A-12 attack plane totals about \$100 million apiece, according to congressional documents which inadvertently contained figures on the top secret aircraft.

"The January 1989 budget included A-12 production through fiscal year 1994 of 106 aircraft for \$10.2 billion," said the entry in the 888-page transcript of hearings held in 1989 by the House Appropriations subcommittee on defense.

The transcript's prior entries on the twin-engine, two-seat fighter equipped with radar-evading stealth technology deleted the cost figures for the classified program. But in one category on medium attack aircraft,

reduce the Soviet bloc military threat.

"This is not a time when we should naively cut the muscle out of our defense posture," Bush said in Cincinnati.

He said change was leading toward a more peaceful Eastern Europe, but said spending that prospective peace dividend on U.S. social needs now would be like spending an inheritance before you get it.

"If there is to be a peace dividend in the coming year, the Congress is going to have to carve it out," Senate Budget Committee Chairman Jim Sasser said in an interview.

The Tennessee Democrat said he will press for slicing \$12 billion off Bush's anticipated \$292 billion

the cost of producing the plane is simply stated.

Navy spokesman Lt. James Wood said Wednesday that the service had no official comment on the transcript revelation, which was originally reported in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Navy plans to replace its aging fleet of A-6 planes with the A-12. The A-6, however, cost considerably less -- about \$20 million each in 1986, prior to a halt in production.

"It is the Navy's desire that there will be no active operational A-6E aircraft operating in fiscal year 2005," said the newly released transcript.

A Pentagon source, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said the \$100 million figure was inaccurate, citing the absence of additional information on whether the cost of spare parts, training and research and development was included in the total.

The source said the Navy was disappointed with the "editorial error," but would "deal with it as such."

The cost disclosure is expected to prompt criticism in Congress, where initial calls have been for cuts in military spending in light of a lessening Soviet threat.

defense request and said this is the most he believes Congress can realistically cut.

"I think there will be people in Congress who will want to cut more than that," Sasser said. "But they will be running into administration supporters who will want to cut less."

He said he will propose the \$12 billion in defense cuts as part of a total \$30 billion in spending reductions needed to cut the deficit on next year's budget to a mandated \$64 billion.

The \$12 billion cut would be a disappointment to some members of Congress and to several groups outside Congress that have announced drives for "peace dividend" cuts in the range of \$100 billion for next year.

The Committee on Common Security, for one, a coalition of labor and social groups, has announced it will lobby nationwide to build public pressure on Bush and Congress for shifting large sums of defense money to social needs.

But congressional experts point out that high expectations of big peace dividends were also disappointed in the first years after the Korean and Vietnam conflicts ended.

They say there are good reasons why the expectations are sure to be disappointed again this year.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, said one problem will simply be timing.

He said Congress must decide on next year's defense spending this summer but U.S.-Soviet agreements on reducing troops in Europe and halving long-range nuclear missiles are not expected to be reached that soon.

"I don't think the prevailing view is going to be 'let's take a \$20 billion to \$30 billion cut in the defense budget now before the arms control agreements are locked into place,'" Hamilton said.

As for future prospects, Gordon Adams, director of the private Defense Budget Project group, said U.S. defense spending could

realistically fall to about \$225 billion in 10 years.

If there were no inflation that would be a dramatic \$150 billion cut in 1990 dollars, he said.

But Adams agreed the cut would not be dramatic this year, primarily because it must be orderly and it takes years to reduce military staffing levels.

"If you want real economic chaos, one way to get it would be to yank defense spending down in one year and dump all those military people onto the streets (competing for jobs)," Adams said.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has ordered proposals for reducing military spending of \$180 billion over the next five years. The military responded with plans for eliminating three Army divisions and deactivating an aircraft carrier group, along with other cuts.

This week the Pentagon said Cheney has gone even further by ordering a review of the \$70 billion B-2 Stealth bomber program and other major weapons systems to determine whether they can be cut or delayed to reduce spending.

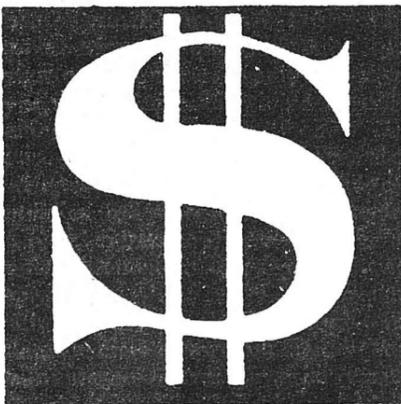
No mobile phones in the field, please

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Reuter) -- Swedish businessmen must leave their mobile telephones at home when on reserve army service, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

Taking mobile phones on maneuvers has been banned because a potential enemy could pinpoint troop movements by eavesdropping on reserve officers' calls to the office, a ministry spokesman said.

The ban would also stop reservists using mobile phones to talk to each other as part of their army exercises. This, the spokesman said, was unrealistic training for war.

All Swedish men must do basic military training and attend short refresher courses every four years.



*hemisphere***New RP police force faces resentment**

PANAMA CITY, Panama (Reuter) — On a low table in the office of Col. Eduardo Herrera Hassan, the commander of Panama's new Public Force, lies a set of heavy prisoner's leg chains.

The chains, used by ousted strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega on soldiers who rebelled against him,

Tapping 'dingbat' communications proves tough job

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said U.S. forces in Panama used sophisticated radios, but had trouble tapping into communications of the Panamanian "dignity battalions" (dingbats) that used common commercial equipment.

"There was considerable difficulty encountered in learning from their communications," Warner said. "We had the most modern of equipment to go into the military system, but the dignity forces were using Radio Shack equipment."

Warner said U.S. forces at times had poor intelligence that handicapped their efforts to track down the para-military units and their commanders.

It was "surprising," but the commercial radios "posed quite a problem for our military," Warner said.

are a reminder of the repressive regime he left behind and the commitment by new officers not to repeat the same mistakes.

"These are a reminder of what was bad," Herrera said in an interview with Reuters. "Noriega ordered 100 sets of these chains made to be put on exiles (rebel officers)."

"One set had my name on it," he added.

Herrera, himself exiled for opposing Noriega, returned to Panama after U.S. forces invaded Dec. 20 to oust Noriega and install the government of President Guillermo Endara.

Noriega, whose capture was a main objective for the U.S. invasion, is in Miami awaiting trial on drug charges after surrendering to U.S. troops at the Vatican Embassy in Panama City.

Herrera, before being exiled in 1988, had served as Panamanian ambassador to Venezuela and to Israel.

The 46-year-old colonel now faces the task of organizing an effective police force in a country traumatized by years of de facto military rule.

The new force, now numbering some 12,000 members, faces many problems, including latent resentment among service members at the U.S. invasion, active resentment from civilians uncertain that the new force will change, and a shortage of funds from a government whose finances have been ravaged by three years of crisis surrounding

efforts to oust Noriega.

But Herrera, as well as the Panamanian government leaders and U.S. officials working with him, said in interviews that the emphasis on respect for human rights was the most important aspect of the re-organization.

"What this country needs most is for the people to live in peace, fraternity and justice," said Herrera, a handsome, soft-spoken man who is a study in contrast with the vitriolic, pock-marked Noriega.

Working closely with a U.S. military liaison group set up to help build the security force, Herrera said specific steps were being taken to ensure the new force would protect Panamanians and their rights.

"The re-organization is based on these principles — no official who has been tied to human rights violations or acts of corruption can belong to the new public forces," Herrera said.

He said officers were screened before being allowed to enter the Public Force, whose new members all have sworn allegiance to the constitution and the civilian government.

None of Noriega's chiefs of staff or other loyal officers have been allowed to join, and commanders of one of several military zones across the country have been replaced. Many of the replacements were officers who had been jailed and repressed by Noriega for taking part in uprisings against him.

Maj. Alberto Soto, jailed by Noriega for 21 months for taking

part in a March 1982 coup attempt, has been appointed to reorganize the jails.

Lt. Col. Fernando Quesada, another rebel freed from almost two years in jail by the U.S. invasion, is now head of security and intelligence. Herrera has been touring provincial capitals lecturing service members on respecting civilian rights, ordering prisoner punishment cells dismantled, and meeting with civilian authorities to assure them of his cooperation.

In the first example of the crackdown on corruption, the original commander of the public force, Col. Roberto Armijo, resigned two weeks ago after he could not explain to government officials how he earned the \$1.2 million in an account in his name in a branch of the National Bank of Panama.

The U.S. liaison group hopes to help the re-organization group by providing workshops and training.

"We would like to have a training program that touches all members of the public force on human rights and proper police procedure so that they meet the human and technical needs of the people," said one of the team officers.

The officer denied charges by some Panamanians that it was the United States that trained the repressive Panama Defense Force.

"The U.S. influence on the system under (former strongman) Gen. Omar Torrijos, was very limited. This new force is now being built from ground zero."

RP democracy needs aid to flourish, leaders say

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Business leaders say their young democracy will be threatened unless Panama receives financial aid to compensate for the looting, unemployment and destruction caused by the U.S. invasion.

"If the United States truly expects democracy to flourish, you need a flourishing economy," said Laurence Berger, vice president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Panama. "All the goodwill in the world won't mean much when you have growling stomachs."

Business leaders say the Bush administration has not yet offered any aid to make up for the millions lost due to U.S. economic sanctions imposed to try to oust Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and the widespread looting after the invasion.

"We've been told, 'We gave you your freedom and now it's up to you to do what you will,'" said Alfredo L. Maduro, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce.

The looting started after U.S. troops invaded Dec. 20 to oust Noriega, and lasted for four days. Hundreds of stores were left without any merchandise, including food, clothes, cars, furniture and electronic goods.

The looting is estimated to have cost companies between \$1 billion and \$2 billion and left some 30,000 people without work, bringing the unemployment rate to about 30 percent in the country of 2.2 million people.

"The word democracy is going to ring hollow unless the country gets help and social unrest is something

this new government doesn't need," said Berger, whose organization is made up mostly of U.S. business executives.

Nearly a month after the American attack, most businesses in the capital of Panama City remain closed and many people fear this will spell dire economic straits for the small nation, already reeling from two years of U.S. sanctions imposed in 1988 to put pressure on the Noriega military regime.

Last week, President Guillermo Endara wrote President Bush asking for financial aid. The contents of the letter were not released.

A U.S. Embassy official who

spoke on condition of anonymity said Endara thanked Bush for the military intervention and "listed six areas of priority Panama needs help in to rebuild the economy."

One area Endara said needs rebuilding is the poor neighborhood of El Chorrillo, which was mostly destroyed in the fighting. Noriega's headquarters, a target of the invasion, was located in the district.

Engineers have estimated rebuilding the area to minimum standards will cost \$40 million to \$60 million.

The Bush administration has not indicated any aid will be coming, although the U.S. military has said it

will rebuild houses and apartments destroyed in the fighting.

"It's a problem that needs attention," said Ambassador Deane Hinton. "I am personally convinced that we will make a significant contribution."

But, he added, the looting was "first and foremost a problem of Panama."

Hinton was in Washington on Monday and was to bring up the issue with administration officials.

Although the United States has released \$70 million in assets frozen as part of the sanctions, \$250 million remains unreleased.

Drug summit countries reach agreement

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (AP) — The cocaine-producing countries of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru have agreed to launch, through coordinated use of their armed forces, an "unstoppable assault on drug traffickers."

The United States also signed the agreement Sunday for the increased anti-drug efforts, but South American delegates said the accord leaves out any language that might open the door to direct U.S. intervention in the fight.

The text of the plan will be kept secret until President Bush and at least two of the South American presidents sign it at a drug summit Feb. 15 in Colombia, officials said.

"We are very satisfied," said Michael Skol, a deputy assistant secretary of state who led the U.S. delegation. He declined to elaborate.

The agreement, reached after a five-day preparatory meeting, represents "an integral commitment by the four countries, which have proposed carrying out a frontal and unstoppable assault on narcotics trafficking," said Bolivia's foreign minister, Carlos Iturralde.

Iturralde said the accord recognizes the need for more U.S. economic aid to the South American countries, which in turn committed themselves to a full-fledged military campaign against the multibillion-dollar cocaine industry.

"Until recently, we perhaps haven't wanted to accept the reality of narcotics trafficking," he said. Before, "we limited ourself to police action."

Under the agreement, the South American countries are committed to using "all the means they have

available," including the armed forces, in the war on trafficking.

His speech, which covered the agreement in general terms, concluded the meeting at 4:30 a.m. Sunday, one day later than planned.

A one-paragraph statement from the delegations said they "achieved the goals" set for them and expected a successful summit, which would adopt the "joint, integral and coordinated strategy against ... illegal drugs and their economic and social effects."

Delegates said the delay was prompted by arguments over how U.S. assistance should be directed and what conditions would be attached to it.

The United States insists that the flow of aid money depends on a country's dedication and performance in the anti-drug effort.

sports

Bruins trade Linseman to Flyers for Poulin

BOSTON (UPI) — Boston Bruins center Ken Linseman, at odds with coach Mike Milbury since the season's start, was traded Tuesday to the Philadelphia Flyers in exchange for center and team captain Dave Poulin.

Linseman, who like Poulin is 31, was Boston's No. 2 scorer each of the past two seasons but was demoted to the third and fourth lines.

"We just never seemed to get on the same wave-length," said Linseman of his relationship with Milbury. "I didn't feel needed or wanted."

Milbury said that Linseman asked him last week what he must do to get more playing time, and Milbury recalled telling him, "You need to play better to play more."

Linseman returns to the team which drafted him in 1978. This season, he scored 6 goals and assisted on 16 others as Boston compiled the league's best record, 27-16-3.

Poulin, who played four seasons at Notre Dame, has 9 goals and 8 assists this year, his seventh NHL season, all with the Flyers. From 1983-84 through 1986-87 he registered at least 25 goals and 42 assists. In 1987, he won the Selke Trophy, awarded to the NHL's top defensive forward.

"Dave Poulin fits the particular job description that we feel needs to be filled," said Bruins president and general manager Harry Sinden. "It seemed the proper time for the team and Ken to move on."

The Bruins are the league's best defensive team, allowing just 134 goals this year. Sinden emphasized the different strengths of Linseman and Poulin.

Linseman, in his 12th NHL season, "had been playing in a checking situation and is best suited for a more offensive role," said Sinden.

"He's been an excellent competitor for us and has been one of the nucleus of this team since he's been here."

"Kenny's a difficult guy to trade," said Sinden, but he did not hesitate to change the NHL's best team because

"You're only the top team after you win the Stanley Cup."

Flyers vice president and general manager Bobby Clarke expressed regrets similar to Sinden's.

"Trading Dave Poulin was extremely difficult," said Clarke.

"He's not only a personal friend, but he's been a tremendous player for the Flyers — a real heart-and-soul player. During the 1980s, our club had great success and Dave Poulin was one of the leaders. He was the ideal captain and a courageous clutch performer."

"However at this time, we feel we

need a little more offense and Kenny Linseman can provide that. We've lost 13 games by one goal, so we had to do something to improve the offense," said Clarke.

Linseman played with Philadelphia from 1979 to 1982 and spent two years with Edmonton before coming to Boston in 1984. He has 244 goals and 513 assists in his NHL career.

Poulin, after college, played one season for the Swedish team Rogle. He signed as a free agent with Philadelphia in February 1983, on the recommendation of his Rogle coach, Ted Sator, who is now an assistant coach with the Bruins.

McCants leaves Alabama for NFL draft

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (UPI) — Citing family financial problems, linebacker Keith McCants said Tuesday he will forgo his final year of eligibility at Alabama and apply for admission to the 1990 NFL draft.

"I truly believe it is time for me to move on in pursuit of my future goals," McCants said at a news conference. "I am excited about the challenge."

The 6-foot-5, 250-pound McCants had 119 tackles, four sacks and an interception this past season in leading Alabama to a share for its first Southeastern Conference championship in 10 years.

His best game was against Louisiana State when he had 18 tackles and two quarterback sacks.

McCants won all-SEC and All-

America honors, and pro scouts have said he will be one of the first five draft picks, possibly the No. 1 selection. The Atlanta Falcons have the first pick in the draft.

McCants said his decision was not influenced by the resignation last week of Alabama Coach Bill Curry or the hiring of Gene Stallings to replace Curry.

He said he decided to leave college early because of his family's financial difficulties.

"I'm not doing it because I want to do it. I'm doing it because I have to," he said. "My family is the most important thing in my life. Everybody else's opinion does not matter."

McCants also denied reports he

does not want to play in Atlanta.

"I would love to play anywhere in the NFL," he said. "This is a dream, hopefully about to come true. I don't care if it's San Diego, Cincinnati, Atlanta or wherever."

The NFL does not allow a player to be drafted before his class graduates, except in certain circumstances, such as if he has been in school five years, has used all his eligibility or is graduating early.

About 30 players have taken advantage of these exemptions to turn pro in recent years. The most recent example was Barry Sanders, who received permission last year to apply for the NFL draft early after his school, Oklahoma State, was placed on probation.

Brown, Pitino receive reprimands for confrontation

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UPI) — Basketball coaches Dale Brown of Louisiana State and Rick Pitino of Kentucky received public reprimands Tuesday from the Southeastern Conference for a confrontation they had during Saturday's game.

SEC Acting Commissioner Mark Womack announced the reprimand for actions he said violated the SEC Code of Ethics.

"I have reminded both coaches of the absolute necessity of adhering to all the rules and regulations of the Southeastern Conference," Womack said.

LSU was attempting to inbound the ball with 4:45 left in the first half when Kentucky's Jeff Brassow and the Tigers' Maurice Williamson appeared to exchange forearms at center court.

Chris Jackson stepped in between

the players, and fouls were called on both Jackson and Brassow.

Pitino stormed onto the court and began shouting at the referees, and Brown followed suit. The two coaches quickly turned their attention to each other, and were herded back to the scorer's table by the officials.

The heated words between Pitino and Brown continued, and Pitino walked toward Brown. The LSU coach cocked a fist and had to be restrained by Tigers assistant Johnny Jones.

Neither coach was hit with a technical foul. LSU won the game 94-81.

Pitino later claimed that he charged Brown because he had shaken a fist at a Kentucky player.

When asked after the game what they had said to each other, Brown replied: "Street talk."

Section 3 of the SEC Code of Ethics instructs coaches to refrain from personal conduct that may incite spectators, and says a coach "shall exhibit respect and courtesy toward opposing players and

coaches."

The reprimand also carried a threat of more severe sanctions against the two coaches if they violate the Code of Ethics again this season.

St. John's outscores Villanova, 64-58

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Jayson Williams and Malik Sealy scored 13 points each Tuesday night to lead No. 17 St. John's to a 64-58 Big East victory over Villanova.

Williams hit one of two free throws with 29 seconds left to give St. John's a 62-58 lead and, after Villanova missed two three-point shots, Sealy scored on a layup with four seconds to go for the final margin.

Walker hit a three-point shot with 1:27 to play to bring Villanova within 59-58 as the Wildcats rallied from a 44-29 deficit.

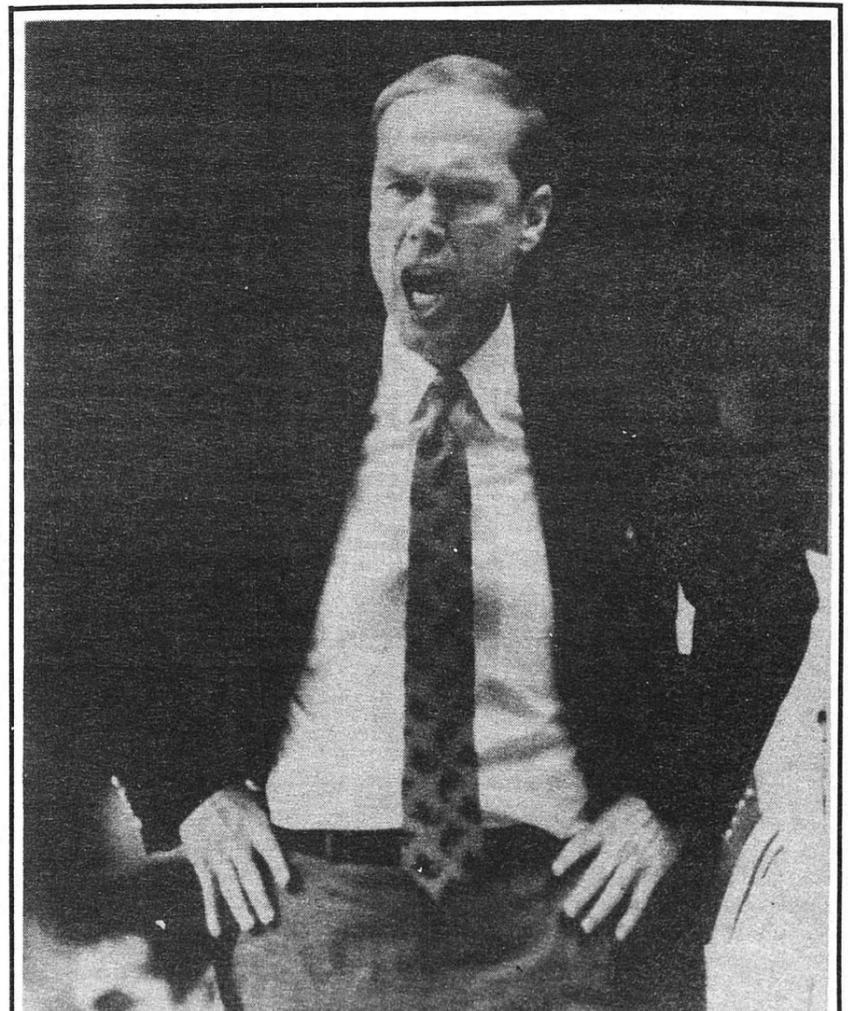
St. John's outscored Villanova 15-2 to take its 15-point lead on a layup by Sealy but the Wildcats scored 14 of the next 18 points to close within 48-43 on a follow shot by Lance Miller with 7:45 to play. Another

follow shot by Miller cut the St. John's lead to 50-45 as the Redmen went six minutes without a field goal.

But Williams and Robert Werdann scored back-to-back baskets for a 54-45 lead and St. John's led 58-53 after Sealy hit two free throws with 3:27 to go.

Walker hit two free throws to bring Villanova within three and, after Billy Singleton hit one free throw, Walker hit his three-point shot to cut the Redmen lead to one point.

Williams missed the front end of a one-and-one situation with 56 seconds to go, but Miller was called for traveling after getting the rebound and Buchanan hit two free throws to give St. John's a 61-58 lead with 48 seconds to go.



LETTING HIMSELF BE HEARD -- Oklahoma's coach, Billy Tubbs shows his anger as his third-ranked team shoots 29 percent. Oklahoma suffered a 66-51 upset Tuesday by Kansas State. The Sooners were 71 points under its nation-leading 122 point scoring average. (AP Laserphoto)

A's Steinbach agrees to \$1.8 million deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven players eligible for salary arbitration agreed to contracts Monday, leaving 168 players eligible to file on Tuesday, the last day for players to submit their names.

Terry Steinbach, the Oakland Athletics' catcher, got the biggest deal among the arbitration eligibles, agreeing to a two-year contract for

\$1.8 million, an average of more than triple his 1989 earnings.

Geno Petralli, the Texas Rangers' catcher, also got a two-year deal, his for \$1.025 million.

Two free agents signed with Detroit. Infielder Cecil Fielder returned from Japan, agreeing to a two-year, \$3 million deal. He hit .302 with 38 homers and 81 RBIs last year

for the Hanshin Tigers. Detroit also signed infielder Ed Romero, who left the Milwaukee Brewers.

Among one-year deals, left-hander Danny Jackson and the Cincinnati Reds settled at \$1.15 million, the same salary he earned in 1989.

Pitcher Charlie Leibrandt settled with Atlanta for \$1 million, a cut of \$250,000. He can earn back the

\$250,000 with bonuses if he pitches 26 games but only \$350,000 of his salary is guaranteed.

Steve Farr and the Kansas City Royals settled for just under \$775,000, a raise of \$170,000.

Outfielder Tracy Jones and the Detroit Tigers agreed to a one-year deal for \$375,000, a \$75,000 raise, and outfielder Larry Sheets settled with the Tigers for \$670,000, a \$10,000 raise.

Only four players have submitted for arbitration since the filing period opened on Jan. 5 — relief pitcher Doug Jones of Cleveland, first baseman Wally Joyner of California and left-hander Juan Nieves of Milwaukee and John Candelaria of Montreal.

The original deadline of Monday was extended 12 hours because of the Martin Luther King holiday. Players and clubs exchange figures three days after a player files, so most players traditionally file on the last day. Hearings will be scheduled for Feb. 1-21 but most players settle before hearings.

Steinbach, 27, hit .273 with seven home runs and 42 RBIs in 1989, his third major-league season. He gets a \$100,000 signing bonus, \$700,000 in 1990 and \$1 million in 1991.

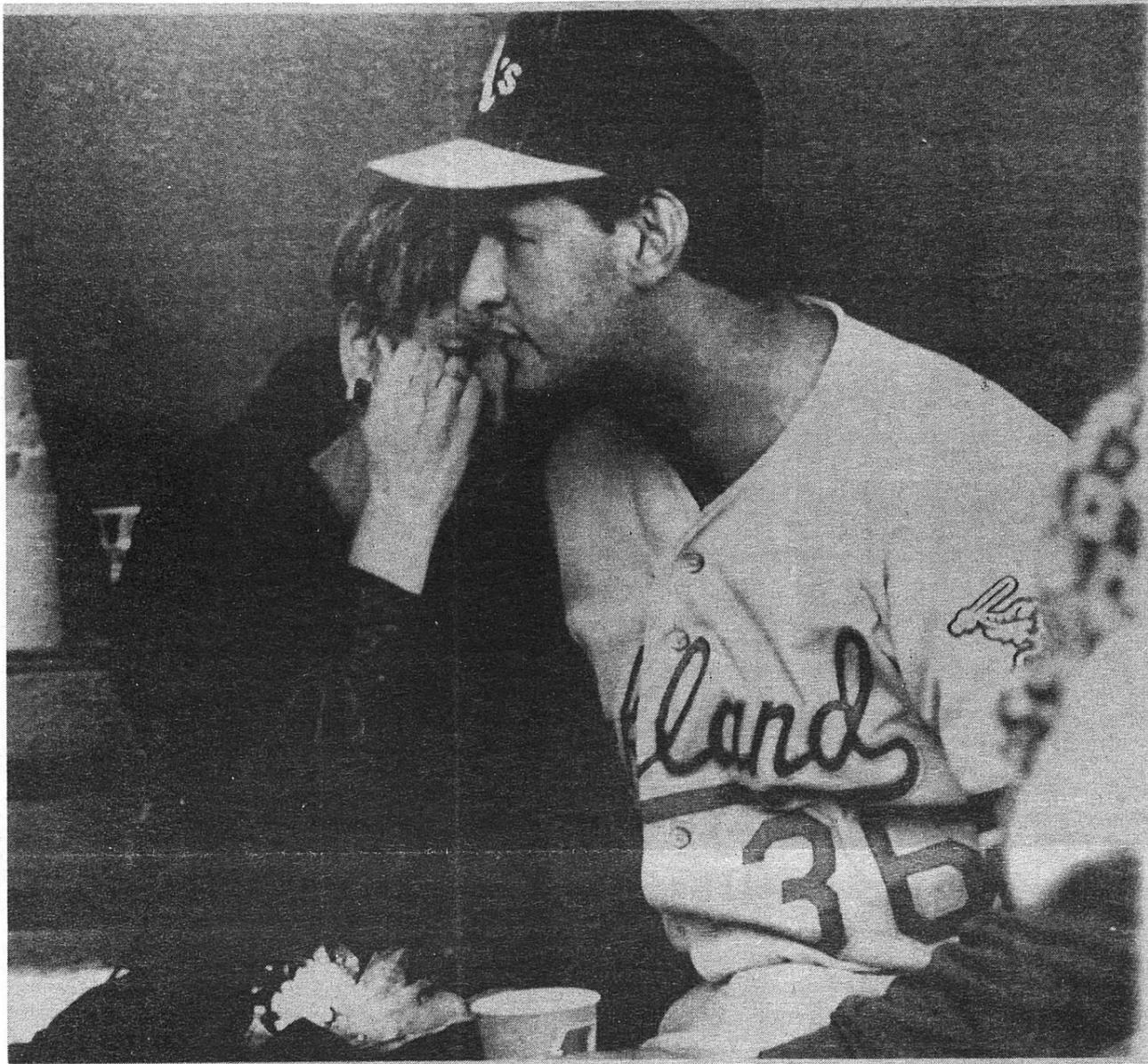
He made \$280,000 last year, including a \$45,000 in bonuses. He was MVP of the All-Star Game in 1988, when he batted .284 with 16 homers.

Petralli, 30, hit .304 last season with four homers and 23 RBIs in 70 games. He gets a \$75,000 signing bonus, \$425,000 in 1990 and \$525,000 in 1991.

Jackson, 28, has a 66-68 career record. He was 6-11 last year with a 5.60 ERA.

Leibrandt was 5-11 last year with a 5.14 ERA with Kansas City. He was traded by the Royals to Atlanta for Gerald Perry.

Jones hit .259 for Detroit with three homers and 26 RBIs. Farr was 2-5 last season with a 4.12 earned-run average. Sheets, who batted .243 for Baltimore with seven homers and 33 RBIs, was traded to Detroit last year.



Oakland A's Terry Steinbach comforts his wife during the earthquake that hit San Francisco during October's World Series. Steinbach recently agreed to a two-year, \$1.8 million deal with the A's. (AP Laserphoto)

Huge upset becomes talk of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (UPI) — Veli Paloheimo of Finland, ranked No. 120 in the world, pulled

76ers sign Lloyd to 10-day deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Lewis Lloyd, a seven-year NBA veteran, has signed a 10-day contract with the Philadelphia 76ers, the team announced Monday.

Lloyd, 30, averaged seven points in three games this season with the Houston Rockets before being waived on Dec. 12. At 6-foot-6, he has played both forward and guard and has a career scoring average of 13.0 points per game.

He had been reinstated at the beginning of the season by the league after serving a suspension for violating the league's drug policy.

"Lewis is a guy that has a history of being able to score either as a starter or coming off the bench," said 76ers general manager John Nash.

off the biggest upset of the \$3 million Australian Open, registering a 5-7, 6-3, 0-6, 6-2, 6-2 first-round victory Tuesday over No. 10 seed Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany.

Earlier Tuesday, No. 4 seed John McEnroe began his bid for his first Australian singles title with a straight-set victory over Frenchman Thierry Tulasne.

"This is the biggest win of my career, it is almost a dream," said Paloheimo, who was not even listed in the official media guide of the tournament. "I think Steeb is still tired after his win against (Boris) Becker (in New South Wales Open last week) and his tough match in losing to Yannick Noah in the final last week."

Paloheimo, whose biggest accomplishment was the semifinals of the South Australian Open in January of last year, handled the swirling cross winds on the outside court much better than Steeb.

"It was a weird match," Steeb said. "I won the first set and was up 2-0 in the second but I just couldn't find a way to win the big points. I couldn't get any rhythm in the wind and when I started to control the wind so did he."

"Tennis is getting bigger in my country but we have never had a very good player," Paloheimo said. "But the people of Finland are always hoping one will come by. This win today will make the Finns very happy."

McEnroe produced near-flawless tennis to beat Tulasne 6-2, 6-1, 6-1 in a match delayed 25 minutes because of rain.

Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden, a two-time winner of the Australian Open, defeated Johan Anderson of Australia 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 6-4 on the center court.

Swede Mats Wilander, the No. 8 seed, moved into the second round with a 7-6 (7-5), 7-5, 7-5 victory over Australian Richard Fromberg. Frenchman Yannick Noah, winner of the New South Wales Open, outlasted Yugoslav Goran Prpic 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.

The No. 2 women's seed, Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, struggled early but regained control of her top spin to oust American Amy Frazier 7-5, 6-1.

Ninth seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador defeated Australia's Darren Cahill 4-6, 6-3, 1-6 6-2, 6-3 and Austrian Thomas Muster, the 15th

seed, had little trouble defeating Pavel Vojtisek of West Germany, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in other first-round play.

NBA down on one-on-one

CHICAGO (AP) — The National Basketball Association is taking the air out of a \$1 million one-on-one duel between superstars Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls and Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers.

"A one-on-one game between Michael and Magic is neither something that (the NBA) would want to sponsor itself or have some other promoter do. NBA basketball games and the talents of our players are something that the NBA and its teams should be promoting, not third-party promoters," said Bettman, NBA senior vice president and general counsel, told the Chicago Sun-Times.

The proposed contest would consist of two 15-minute halves to be broadcast on pay television.

Battalion defends, secures Atlantic region

by Spec. Daniel L. Bean

FORT SHERMAN, Panama (USARSO PAO) — Humid evening air hangs heavy and still in the jungle like a damp wool blanket. Peering down the barrel of his M203, a staff sergeant checks his field of fire through a hole in the jungle vegetation. Although far from his room in the instructors' barracks, this jungle expert is still at home.

Soldiers from U.S. Army South's Jungle Operations Training Battalion helped defend strategic points and secure the Atlantic region during Operation Just Cause.



Task Force Sherman soldiers inspect a Panamanian bus at a checkpoint during Operation Just Cause. The checkpoints were set up along all major routes into Fort Sherman and surrounding areas. (U.S. Army photo courtesy Jungle Operations Training Battalion)

Del Cid 'enemy of violence,' wife tells Miami courtroom

MIAMI (UPI) — The wife of a Panamanian military officer accused of participating in Manuel Noriega's alleged cocaine trafficking operation testified Tuesday that her husband should be freed on bail, saying he is "an enemy of violence."

Tilsa Jimenez del Cid, testifying in Spanish through an interpreter, described at a bond hearing how her husband, Lt. Col. Luis del Cid, helped many people flee Nicaragua, which is governed by the leftist Sandinista party.

"He was always a man who was an enemy of violence," she said.

"He helped whomever he could and they did not know how to express their gratitude."

Del Cid testified that her husband surrendered to U.S. military officials after the U.S. invasion of Panama, on Dec. 20, because he had nothing to fear and he wanted to avoid a massacre.

Two Nicaraguan women now living in Miami told U.S. District Judge William Hoeveler how Luis del Cid helped them escape their homeland and reach relatives in Miami. They also said they would be willing to house del Cid in their home if he is released on bond and required to stay in Miami.

After about three hours' testimony, Hoeveler said the hearing would resume Wednesday afternoon.

Del Cid's lawyer, Samuel Burstyn, said later that his client was not a flight risk because he did not have anywhere to go. "Flee to where?" he said. "He is certainly not welcome in Panama."

The defense hoped to debunk the government's contention that del Cid

was an active participant in the deposed Panamanian dictator's alleged scheme to use Panama as a cocaine shipping station. "My client followed orders," Burstyn said in an interview Monday. "He was a middle-level officer."

Burstyn and co-counsel Kenneth Swartz also planned to contest U.S. government allegations that del Cid headed Noriega's secret police.

"That's flat-out false," Burstyn said. "We will also establish that the lieutenant colonel was never a personal attache of Noriega."

According to a February 1988 indictment against Noriega and 15 others, del Cid was a liaison and courier between Noriega and Colombian drug traffickers. The indictment charges him with helping move cocaine from Colombia to Panama with the knowledge that it was headed for the United States.

The lawyers hoped to get del Cid's case severed from Noriega's.

Another co-defendant, pilot Eduard Pardo, was denied bond Tuesday by U.S. Magistrate William Turnoff, who said the defendant was a risk of flight. Pardo is charged with flying \$800,000 in drug profits from Fort Lauderdale to Panama and would face a maximum five-year prison sentence if convicted.

Hoeveler has yet to rule on a prosecution appeal to keep another defendant in the case, pilot Daniel Miranda, in jail without bond. U.S. Magistrate Peter Palermo said last week Miranda may be released into the custody of Florida relatives after posting bonds totalling \$1 million. Miranda is also accused of flying drug profits between the United States and Panama.

Fort Sherman's southern section. Only one former Panama Defense Forces attack occurred, but it had a unique quality.

"It wasn't a mission a female would have normally been put on," said HHC mechanic PFC Ida R. Norris, who was involved in securing the Gatun Locks. "The mission was exciting. I wasn't scared, because I can take care of myself; I've been trained to."

While HHC teams secured the locks and southern Fort Sherman, NCO Academy teams secured northern Fort Sherman and its coastline.

Hidden in the Gatun spillway and throughout Fort Sherman, JWB teams blocked "classic" attack routes into the area. They also set up ambush sites to catch any former PDF attempting to enter through southern training areas.

When southern areas were secured, Task Force Sherman's mission wasn't finished. HHC teams performed installation security, while JWB and NCO Academy teams conducted search and clear operations throughout the Atlantic area.

"Villagers have been cooperative,"

said SFC Angel R. Aponte, JWB senior instructor. "They pointed out PDF fugitives and led us to weapons caches."

Using airmobile, waterborne and ground insertions, teams cleared areas southwest of the Charges River. They operated along the coastline as far south as Punta Diego and Cuipo along Gatun Lake. Then teams moved into the northeast region clearing east to Santa Isabel and the historic town of Portobelo.

The clearing operations lacked a basic element — enlisted soldiers. Aponte stated, "We're a group of senior NCOs — all instructors — working together to complete a mission. Each instructor has his own style. So we plan and execute using the best ideas from each."

"In one village we cleared, a local who understood U.S. rank insignia," said SSgt. Chris Christoff, JWB scout instructor. "He looked at us and said to a man next to him, 'They're all sergeants. Look at them — there isn't a private among them.'" Transforming from instructors to operators, the battalion is proud of being the only training battalion with a combat contingency mission.

Cocaine trafficker gets life without parole possibility

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A major cocaine trafficker whose 1988 arrest in Honduras sparked deadly anti-American riots was sentenced Tuesday to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Juan Ramon Matta Ballesteros, 45, described as one of the world's top 10 drug traffickers, received the life term for a conviction on charges of running an ongoing illegal enterprise that netted millions of dollars for Colombian cocaine cartels.

Prosecutors recommended the stiff sentence for Matta to illustrate the United States' resolve to win the war on drugs by bringing to justice the greatest kingpins of the Colombian rings.

Matta, convicted Sept. 6, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Pamela Rymer, who also ordered him imprisoned for an additional 75 years on his conviction on six other charges that included conspiracy and possession and distribution of

narcotics for moving almost 600 pounds of cocaine with a street value of more than \$73 million.

The cocaine was distributed out of an apartment complex in suburban Van Nuys in 1981 by a Los Angeles drug ring in which Matta was "chief executive officer."

Rymer said she could not "imagine what the life prison term was for, if not for this" case.

The drug ring run by Matta was shattered in September 1981 when federal agents raided the Van Nuys apartment and seized 114 pounds of cocaine, \$1.9 million in drug money and narcotics ledgers.

"The bottom line, it seems to me, is that this was the biggest cache of cocaine seized on the West Coast" at the time, Rymer said.

Matta, described by his lawyer as a religious man, sat quietly during the sentencing, occasionally casting an expressionless glance at his wife, who sat with two of their five children.

Cheney delays anti-drug plans

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has pushed back even further his announcement of plans increasing the military's role in the interdiction of illegal drugs bound for the United States, a spokesman said Tuesday.

The postponement follows a rejection by the South American cocaine-producing countries of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to cooperate with Pentagon plans to station U.S. warships in the Caribbean to help interdict illegal drugs.

Cheney originally planned to announce a host of new military anti-drug plans the first week of January, but reports of U.S. warships headed south brought protests from the Colombian government and a delay in Cheney's plans.

The defense secretary placed the Colombian operation on hold but planned to go ahead and announce the other anti-drug missions this week. Now, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said, the announcement itself is on hold.

Cheney postponed the announcement in response to the "sensitivities" of the Latin Americans, particularly the Colombians, Williams said.

"Some of the aspects of that have been put off for a while," Williams said.

While no date has been set for the announcement of the military's anti-drug plans, "for certain it will be after the (federal) budget is made public" on Jan. 29, Williams said.

Asked if the missions were being re-evaluated or redesigned, Williams replied, "Not that I'm aware of."

But White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater indicated the Colombian mission may be dead, saying "our relationship (with Colombia) is that sensitive," that the Bush administration would not place U.S. ships off South America even in international waters, without the approval of those nations.

Cheney's announcement could come sometime after President Bush meets with the leaders of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia at a Feb. 15 summit.