

Israel blocks food supplies, shells Beirut

United Press International
Israel maintained a near total blockade of food shipments today in an attempt to starve out PLO-controlled west Beirut. Israeli artillery pounded Palestinian neighborhoods in southern sections of the Lebanese capital.

With its Navy's ships only two hours from the Lebanese coast, the United States Wednesday renewed its offer to escort the estimated 6,000 Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas from Beirut.

But peace talks appeared bogged down as the Palestinians again insisted Israel pull back to allow a PLO withdrawal to its refugee camps.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, in Beirut to confer with U.S. envoy Philip Habib, refused.

Kimche told Habib Israel rejected any proposal that would allow any PLO presence, political or military, in Lebanon and would not agree to an interim pull back of its army.

Although it restored strictly rationed water and electricity to west Beirut in the past 24 hours, Israel refused to let food through to hospitals and the general civilian population, numbering about 500,000.

Troops let one consignment through Beirut port to the Palestinian-controlled western sector — 23 tons of food ordered by the Lebanese government. But they blocked supplies destined for UNWRA, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

The food blockade, now in its fifth day, left Moslem west Beirut totally without fresh vegetables, fruit or meat. Bread was scarce because of a fuel and power shortage.

Limited quantities of canned food and frozen meat were available, but only from stocks in west Beirut before the blockade.

As diplomats struggled to reinstate a cease-fire called Monday and broken by Israel Tuesday, Israeli gunners shelled Palestinian neighborhoods at dusk Wednesday in the south of Beirut and dropped flares over the city.

The Red Crescent, the Arab equivalent of the Red Cross, put the number of dead, wounded and missing since the invasion began June 6 at 35,000.

Despite the apparent stall in negotiations, a Western diplomat familiar with the talks was optimistic.

"There is a difference between the PLO's public statements and what is actually going on behind closed doors," he said, requesting anonymity. "We are encouraged by the silent diplomacy."

A source close to the negotiations said the PLO was pressing for an internationally patrolled "buffer zone" to precede an eventual disengagement between Palestinians and Israelis.

Lebanese Prime Minister Chefik Wazzan appeared indirectly to endorse the proposal Wednesday night, calling for an international force to start work in Lebanon before a Palestinian withdrawal.

After meeting Palestinian leaders, including PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Wazzan suggested, in a statement read on national television, "the role of these (international) forces should begin before the withdrawal of the Palestinians."

A secret PLO document on the state of negotiations obtained by reporters made no mention of withdrawal from Beirut. It said the PLO was willing "in principle" to move its headquarters from Beirut and discuss the size, location and armament of its guerrillas with the Lebanese government.



On the road again
Lisa Moulder, a senior agricultural engineering major from Dickinson, chocks her car full of clothes as she gets ready to leave for the rest of the summer. Moulder plans to return for the fall semester.
staff photo by John Ryan

Brezhnev: Keep U.S. troops out of Lebanon

United Press International
MOSCOW — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev warned President Reagan today to keep U.S. troops out of Lebanon.

Referring to a White House statement the Marines may be sent into Beirut, Brezhnev said, "If this in fact takes place, the Soviet Union will construct its policy in accordance with this fact."

The White House had no immediate comment on the Brezhnev message.

"Not a single responsible statesman, not a single honest person on Earth can remain indifferent to the calls of those who are perishing in Lebanon at the hands of the Israeli invaders," the Tass news agency quoted Brezhnev as saying in a personal message to Reagan.

The message gave no indication of what steps the Soviets might take to counter the presence of U.S. troops in Lebanon, but it contained a clear warning of danger the conflict could escalate if U.S. troops were used.

So far, the United States has only offered officially to use its forces to help the trapped 6,000 Palestine Liberation Organization guerrillas evacuate Beirut. The troops would remain in the city for several weeks at most.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes was quoted in Wednesday's Washington Post as saying, "The specific mission of such an international peace-keeping force, if agreed to, would be to assist Lebanese armed forces in the orderly and safe departure from Beirut of armed (PLO) personnel and in the transition of authority to the Lebanese government in Beirut."

An earlier Tass statement said the Soviets had resumed arms shipments to Syria, which lost tanks and planes in the first days of the fighting in Lebanon.

Tass also said five heavy artillery shells hit the commercial office of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut in the third Israeli bombardment of Soviet buildings in Beirut this week.

Reagan likely to avert rail strike

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan will likely use executive powers to avert a nationwide railroad strike scheduled to begin Sunday, administration officials say.

They said Reagan probably will order a 60-day "cooling-off" period during which a walkout would be banned and a presidential board would study stalled contract talks and recommend a possible settlement.

A spokesman for the Association of American Railroads said if there is a strike, nearly 38 percent of inter-city freight shipments would be affected. The walkout would involve 35,000

members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers union and be nationwide in scope, not just against selected railroads, said union spokesman Virgil Davis.

The United Transportation Union also has been unable to reach a new agreement, but it is not free to strike until July 30. That union has indicated it might engage in strikes against only selected railroads.

Before Reagan acts, the National Mediation Board must issue a report on the potential impact of a strike, which would cripple all rail traffic except Conrail, the quasi-government freight and commuter system in the

Northeast, and part of Amtrak's passenger service.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said in Santa Barbara, Calif., Reagan "was briefed on some of the issues ... and some of the ramifications of the rail strike."

He said Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis and Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan have reported to Reagan on the potential impact, "particularly in farm areas."

No negotiations to reach a contract agreement are scheduled before Sunday.

"We have notified our representatives on all the major railroads in the

United States, except Conrail, there will be a peaceful withdrawal from service July 11 at 10:30 p.m., unless in the intervening period the president ... appoints an emergency board under the Railway Labor Act," union spokesman Davis said.

He said pickets would be erected along Amtrak lines where the government has contracted out operations to a private system.

The major issue holding up an agreement is wages, with an additional pay clause for working on runs of more than 100 miles the principal roadblock.

British Rail seeks solution

United Press International
LONDON — British Rail called its executives together today to decide between saving money by shutting down the rail system completely or keeping it open in hopes more union defections will break the engineers' strike.

But only a few engineers returned to work, and British Rail's stalling tactic failed to bring any dramatic change in rail service for more than a million passengers weary of the five-day strike.

"There has been a nominal increase in the number of drivers returning to work," a British Rail spokesman said. He said the network expected to run more trains than

Wednesday, when 1,689 out of 17,000 scheduled services managed to roll.

Police said peak-hour car traffic into London choked streets and packed buses made little headway. Subway trains came into central stations crowded with frustrated suburban passengers.

The British Rail executive board planned to meet later in the day. Clifford Rose, BR industrial relations chief, said Wednesday, "The view is ... it is worthwhile to keep it going."

British Rail hopes to break the strike by keeping the skeleton services going and attracting more drivers back to work.

The normally solid ranks of the 20,000-strong Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen were broken on the first day of the dispute — Sunday — when several hundred engineers showed up for work. The number has been increasing daily, although only a fraction of the rail network is working.

British Rail ran 1,670 trains Wednesday — about 25 percent more than Tuesday, but still only 10 percent of normal services.

The dispute about introducing flexible hours to replace the firm eight-hour day is costing the railways around \$15.3 million a day, including \$27 million in a weekly government

subsidy that was cut off.

Revenue is minimal because the trains that do run are almost empty. Passengers will not wait for trains that may never arrive.

Keeping the railways open another week in the hope engineers will return is a gamble because the company has to pay for 200,000 others — conductors, ticket collectors, porters — who turn up even if there are no trains.

The strike is the culmination of 18 months of wrangling about introduction of flexible work schedules of between seven and nine hours instead of a constant eight hours, to improve productivity.

Nobel winners, superstars wanted for A&M faculty

by Terry Duran
Battalion Staff
Though plans are vague and long-range now, Texas A&M administrators are seeking Nobel Prize winners to add to the University faculty.

When Board of Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright spoke at the Temple Muster April 21, he spoke of looking for faculty "superstars," especially professors who have won the Nobel Prize.

"We have no Nobel Prize winners now," Bright said. "The University of Texas has two and Harvard has eight. We are trying to get one right now. We are targeting our short-comings."

One possibility is Dr. Sheldon Glashow, a 1979 Nobel Prize winner and holder of the Higgins chair of

physics at Harvard University. Glashow shared a Nobel Prize for physics with two other men for contributions to a unified theory of interactions, which deals with forces like gravity, electromagnetics and the forces which bond atoms.

Sharing the honor were Steven Weinberg, now at the University of Texas, and Abdus Salam, a native of Pakistan teaching in London.

Glashow, a theoretical physicist, visited the Texas A&M campus in April to present lectures on problems in high-energy physics. When he starts a year-long sabbatical in September 1983, he may come to Texas A&M as a visiting professor.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Glashow emphasized he is "still thinking about it" — no decision has been made. The move "has not real-

ly been discussed" with his family, he said; a big factor in any decision will be schooling for his four children, ages seven to 15.

Glashow said whatever decision is made will wait until the end of the summer because of his busy academic and lecture schedule.

Robert Tribble, head of Texas A&M's Department of Physics, also emphasized the uncertainty of the negotiations.

"We'd certainly like to work it out," he said, "but it's a long way from being reality."

Tribble said Texas A&M has no theoretical physicists now, but that that area has been "targeted for expansion," regardless of whether or not Glashow comes to Texas A&M.

University officials say they know of no other specific candidates being considered at this time.

'Convoy college' to tour America

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE — A 54-year-old biology professor with the citizens band radio handle "Pika" is leading a "convoy college" on a 5,000-mile trip across America, using the CB to lecture and campfires for classroom meetings.

The convoy of seven cars, trucks and vans pulled out Wednesday to begin a 30-day biology and geology field trip, but only after some last-minute scrambling prompted when Dr. Maynard Yoes and his 27 students found themselves one vehicle short.

A last-minute cancellation forced the group to frantically search for another vehicle needed to bring back samples to replace those lost when Sam Houston State University's geoscience lab was destroyed in a Feb. 12 fire. Fortunately, the school had a vehicle to lend.

The group spent its first night near Amarillo, then planned today to travel to New Mexico, Colorado,

Wyoming, Montana, make a short trip into Canada to fill up with 87-cent per gallon gasoline, down to Utah and then return home.

Yoes, who said his handle comes from his resemblance to the small mountain rodent with the same name, planned to use the CB to lecture to each vehicle in the convoy.

"It's especially good on the interstates," Yoes said. "We drive and talk. Then we gather around the campfire by Coleman lantern to reinforce notes and help those who may have been driving to catch up on their notes."

The students, who must be at least at junior level, pay about \$350 each for the field trip that is so popular it is quickly filled. The cost includes a registration fee of \$125 for the eight hours of academic credit — "Special Topics in Geoscience" and "Special Topics in Biology" — that the students receive, plus a share of the gas and camping expenses.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain today. High today of 97. Low tonight of 75. Highs and lows continuing the same through Friday.