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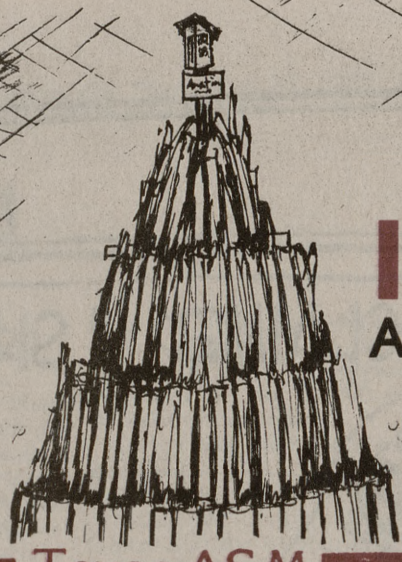
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The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 63 USPS 075360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, November 27, 1985

Mubarak defends Egypt's commando raid

Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak's government launched a vigorous campaign Tuesday to defend its commando raid on a hijacked Egyptian jet in which 58 people died, despite little public criticism here.

Mubarak accused Libya of sponsoring the gunmen who seized the plane and told reporters he sent the soldiers to Malta to storm the jetliner only after the pilot reported: "They're going to kill us all."

Mubarak blamed the deaths on the hijackers, who he said were the first ever to detonate phosphorus grenades during a hijacking. "Not a single Egyptian bullet killed anybody" among the passengers and crew, the president said.

The fire grenades set the interior of the Boeing 737 ablaze.

In Malta, government spokesman Paul Mifsud said the death toll in the hijacking and commando raid was 59. He said one passenger was shot to death by the hijackers and the other 58 people died during the

commando operation.

Hijackers took over Flight MS648 Saturday evening on a flight from Athens, Greece, to Cairo and forced it to land on the Mediterranean island of Malta. They let 11 women go and shot three American passengers and two Israelis, killing one of the Americans, and threw them from the plane.

Maltese authorities said that 27 survivors of the commando raid were hospitalized, including the man alleged to have led the hijack team.

The pilot, Hani Galal, returned to Cairo.

They had said earlier that the total death toll was 60. But Mifsud said Tuesday it had been lowered to 59 because a Canadian baby was counted twice in the earlier total.

The only public criticism of the raid in Egypt came from two opposition politicians, who demanded parliamentary inquiries into how the deaths occurred.

A senior army officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that he and colleagues with whom he had

spoken were "shocked at the number of people killed."

But such comment was atypical. An Egyptian diplomat said the commando raid had made Mubarak "more stable politically than he was last week" because it improved his standing with the military, which he said is the key to political stability in Egypt.

The official Middle East News Agency said telegrams of congratulation were sent to Mubarak by leaders of all provinces, members of his ruling National Democratic Party,

Egyptian ambassadors abroad and political and labor leaders of all persuasions.

State-owned newspapers called the attack "necessary," "courageous" and a lesson in "how to deter terrorism and terrorists."

Mubarak said the hijackers had closed off negotiations, not even allowing nine children off the plane, when the pilot radioed the control tower to "please do something. They're going to kill us all ... You have to storm the plane or we will all die."

Bonner gets ready for trip abroad

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Yelena Bonner, wife of dissident Andrei Sakharov, returned to Moscow Tuesday to prepare to go abroad for medical treatment after 19 months of internal exile with her husband in the closed city of Gorky.

Soviet friends of the couple were permitted to visit Bonner's apartment. But they declined to discuss the details of their meeting with the 52-year-old physician, saying she could speak for herself if she wanted to meet with the Western press.

Bonner suffers from eye and heart problems. After Sakharov went on at least three hunger strikes, Soviet authorities said they would permit her to seek medical treatment in Italy and the United States.

Word that she would be allowed to spend three months abroad came before the summit in Geneva last week between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan. It was seen as a gesture on human rights, which has become an important point of contention between the superpowers.

In two rarely permitted telephone calls, one last month and the other last week, Bonner told relatives in the United States she planned to be in Italy for treatment of her eyes on Dec. 2, then would go to the United States for heart surgery.

She said she had agreed not to talk to foreign journalists as a condition for permission to leave.

Two Soviet friends who visited the apartment said Bonner traveled here by train Tuesday on her first trip to the capital since April 1984.

This is believed to be the first time Soviet authorities have permitted someone under internal exile to leave the country with the intention of returning.

Bonner's daughter Tatiana and Tatiana's husband, Efrem Yankelevich, live in Newton, Mass. Yankelevich said Tuesday: "Of course, I'm very pleased to know she is in Moscow. It means the Soviets are going to keep their promise. (It) means she arrived on schedule."



Zip Wash

Photo by JON P. KARP

Seniors Dan Smith (right), an electrical engineering major from Richardson, and Ronald Lee, a senior industrial engineering major from Houston, cleanse their mud-caked bodies in Rudder Fountain after a drag in the mud during Elephant Walk Tuesday afternoon. Smith is Class of '86 social secretary while Lee is distribution chairman. For more pachyderm pictures, see page 9.

Waite, Bush meet to discuss Lebanese hostage situation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anglican church envoy Terry Waite, who has been negotiating for the release of kidnapped Americans in Lebanon, met with Vice President George Bush Tuesday and said he came to "keep in touch" with the U.S. government.

Waite, who came to the White House at Bush's invitation, said he was making "no special request" of the administration as part of his effort to gain the release of the hostages and said the United States has taken the "correct" position in the affair.

Waite also said he believed that there "is a way through the problem."

Bush praised the envoy for his courage in the endeavor and thanked him for his work. "We're

very grateful for his humanitarian concern," Bush said.

The envoy's visit came after he traveled to New York to speak with relatives of the hostages.

Asked what the United States should be doing to help gain the captives' release, Waite said, "I think the United States has taken ... a correct position at the moment, they have remained calm, they have remained patient and they have made it possible for an independent negotiator such as myself to pursue an opportunity to see some way through this problem."

Asked whether he had any suggestions or proposals for the United States, he said he had come "to keep in touch ... to get further clarification on various questions, and then I shall be returning to Beirut."

Waite said he would meet with "one or two" other people in Wash-

ington before leaving. Earlier, in New York, Waite said he wants to speak with Kuwaiti officials regarding prisoners whose release the kidnappers demand.

Waite has made two trips to Lebanon in an effort to free the Americans. Four of the hostages wrote a letter to the Rev. Robert Runcie, the archbishop of Canterbury, seeking Waite's intervention on their behalf.

Waite, a lay assistant to Runcie, has successfully negotiated the release of Britons held in Iran and Libya.

The hostages who signed the letter to Runcie were the Rev. Lawrence Jenco, 50, of Joliet, Ill., a Roman Catholic priest; Terry Anderson, 38, of Lorain, Ohio, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press; David Jacobsen, 54, of Huntington Beach, Calif.

Aggie bonfire

50,000 expected for tonight's annual blaze

By TAMARA BELL

Staff Writer

To most Aggies the word "bonfire" means more than just burning logs. It means a desire to beat the University of Texas Longhorns.

But this year, bonfire also symbolizes a burning desire to go to the Cotton Bowl for the first time since 1968.

An estimated 50,000 people will be on Duncan field as the yell leaders, drum majors and redpots set fire to the stack at around 8 p.m., says Hudson White, the senior in charge of bonfire.

"The Corps has been working on bonfire since Oct. 5," he says. "Once push started Nov. 17, each outfit was assigned a six-hour block. Now it's near completion and it's been a blast building it. Nothing can hold a candle to it."

Although the cadets and other A&M students actually cut and stack the logs, White says once the flame sparks, bonfire is controlled by a mysterious power.

"There's a spell that falls over the bonfire and the people crowded around it," he says. "It involves the work of many gods. Through the mist and fog that hover above the stack, mysterious powers are controlling the fate of the A&M-t.u. football game."

While mysterious powers are controlling bonfire, four Corps outfits will be controlling the spectators.

White says people can't use Duncan field as a parking lot. Shuttle buses will run continuously from Olsen Field to the bonfire site from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

A perimeter 100 feet from the stack will be roped off and guarded, White says. He says this is necessary not only because of safety regulations but also because people try to light their cigarettes or cigars from the bonfire flame. This measure also protects overzealous Aggies from falling logs, he says.

Because Duncan field is University property, no alcohol will be al-

lowed at the site, he says. And once the gasoline is thrown on the stack, smoking won't be allowed either.

Bonfire wasn't always as organized and restricted as it is today, White says. The first bonfire in 1909 was built after A&M beat UT.

"I guess the Aggies back then had this wild hair after the game to build a fire — surely no alcohol was involved — and they proceeded to tear down picket fences and anything else burnable to create a bonfire," Hudson says. "This is only a theory, but it makes for a good story."

Alan Cannon, assistant sports information director, says Head Coach Jackie Sherrill will speak at about 8:30 p.m. Yell practice will follow Sherrill's speech, he says.

15 wounded by bomb in Greece

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A car bomb detonated by remote control exploded Tuesday as a police bus was passing, ripping away one side of the bus and wounding 15 of the 22 officers inside, officials reported.

Two police officers in a car about 600 feet behind the bus saw the explosion and one said, "It was a miracle no one was killed."

"We ran to the bus and pulled out our injured colleagues. Some of them were badly hurt," he said.

Officials said later that only three of the officers were seriously wounded.

The explosion occurred at 9:45 p.m. — about two hours after some 1,000 anarchists gathered in front of Parliament demanding the release of 16 people arrested during riots in Athens last week. They also were protesting the death of a teen-ager shot by a policeman during the rioting.

Lebanese Aggies maintain cultural unity

By FRANK SMITH

Staff Writer

Despite the continuing troubles in their war-torn homeland, Lebanese students at Texas A&M have maintained a strong sense of unity.

"Most of all, the common bond is that we are Lebanese," says Nadim Fares, public relations officer for A&M's Lebanese Student Association. "We were born in the same country."

"We speak the same language, have the same culture, know and have been to the same places and some have attended the same schools," he says.

Fares, a junior computer science major from Beirut, has been in the United States since 1981. He last visited Lebanon in the summer of 1984.

"Really, (the country's condition was) basically the same as it is right now," he says. "There has been some improvement, but things always seem to go back to the same point."

"Believe it or not, there has been some light of progress. The groups are finally talking to each other. Beirut is getting to be a safer place to be. But there are always black sheep. And they seem to be the stumbling block right now."

Walid Khalil, president of the LSA, says tensions overseas have not adversely affected relationships among Lebanese students here.

"I think being far from the fighting and in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere like here at Texas A&M University makes people forget their differences," Khalil says. "Besides, there are no reasons for us to be

fighting even if we have differing ideologies."

In fact, on Nov. 17 in the Memorial Student Center ballroom, the LSA conducted what has become an annual dinner celebrating Lebanese Independence Day. Last Friday marked the 42nd anniversary of Lebanon becoming an independent state.

"This dinner is a very important event for us because it is one of the things that gathers us all together to work as a team," Khalil says.

Khalil says the students invited their professors and friends at A&M and around the state, other Lebanese living in Texas and Memorial Student Center officials for the dinner.

"This year the purpose of our dinner was not only to celebrate our independence day but also to express

our gratitude to the professors who have taught us at this University," he says.

He says more than 200 people attended this year's dinner. The association currently has about 25 members.

Khalil, a senior industrial engineering major from Beirut, says he doesn't think Lebanon's civil war really stems from any major differences among the Lebanese people.

"There just are so many people from outside Lebanon in the country right now," he says. "I think the Lebanese can settle their own problems if left to themselves."

LSA member Sana Hamade shares a similar outlook.

"No Lebanese really had any serious conflicts with each other," she says. "I think the cause of our problem was external."

"Then they (outside factions) exploited our differences in religions and cultures and made it an internal problem," she adds.

Hamade, a graduate student in environmental engineering who earned a civil engineering degree from A&M last December, has lived in the United States for five years. She says her parents have lived here for the last two years. Her last visit to Lebanon was a one-month stay in the summer of 1983.

"When I was there it was pretty calm, although fighting had been going on before I got there," she says. "Then, a few days before I left, the war in the mountains started between the Druze and the Christians."

She says the fighting forced the closing of the airport and delayed

See Aggies, page 11