

The Battalion

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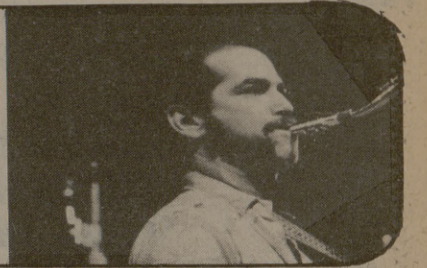
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Somalia cuts Soviet ties

United Press International

NAIROBI, Kenya — Somalia has broken diplomatic ties with Cuba, expelled thousands of Soviet advisers and closed down all Russian military facilities in reaction for the two Communist nations' assistance to Ethiopia.

In a move one step short of a full diplomatic rupture with Moscow, Somalia today also renounced a 1974 treaty of friendship and ordered the strengthening of Somali embassies in Havana and Moscow reduced.

A special Radio Mogadishu announcement accused both Havana and Moscow of "brazen" interference in the four-month Ogaden conflict between Ethiopian troops and Somali forces.

The announcement accused Russia of aiding Ethiopia, trying to "make the horn of Africa subservient to Ethiopian imperialism to further their strategic objectives" and helping plan an invasion of Somalia.

The Somali move came after months of deteriorating relations sparked by Moscow's decision to strengthen ties with the Ethiopian regime, re-equip its armed forces and halt all fresh weapons supplies to Somalia.

It signaled the collapse of Moscow's delicate balancing act between warring states in the Horn and dealt a severe blow to

Moscow's prestige on the continent. It also cleared the way for fresh Soviet overtures to the United States and Western Europe for military aid.

Information Minister Abdul-qaadir Salaad Hasan told the country the estimated 6,000 Soviet military and civilian advisers "must leave the country within seven days. All facilities enjoyed by the Soviet Union on land or sea in Somalia have been withdrawn immediately."

The Soviets had major facilities at the southern port of Kismayu and the northern port of Berbera where they had constructed a sophisticated communications station and missile-handling facility for their Indian Ocean submarines. The 1974 treaty of friendship was one of three the Soviets had with African states, the others being with Angola and Mozambique.

Turning to Cuba, the minister said in view of Havana's "brazen decision to commit its troops on the side of the Ethiopian government and its malicious propaganda against Somalia, the Somali government has decided to break off diplomatic relations with Cuba and ordered the expulsion of Cuban Embassy staff within 48 hours, along with its experts."

There were only a few dozen Cubans in Somalia through President Siad Barre previously said there were up to 15,000 Cuban troops fighting with the Ethiopians in the Ogaden conflict.



Jim Pack, at 32, the oldest member of the Corps of Cadets, advises 3-year-old J. J. McDavitt on Corps policies. J. J., in his complete senior

uniform, practices his role as a future cadet... in the class of '97.

Battalion photo by Paige Beasley

Oldest cadet comes back to finish

By PAIGE BEASLEY

How does it feel to be a 32-year-old cadet, when the youngest Corps member is only three?

At age 32, senior Jim Pack, known as the chaperone of Company V-1, is the oldest member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

Three-year-old "J.J." McDavitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Riley McDavitt, is an honorary member of V-1 and Pack's youngest fellow cadet.

During final review in May, J.J. announced that next year, he was "gonna march with Daddy."

As requested, J.J. received a specially tailored uniform from the Military Property Custodian. J.J. wears the same brass and rank as his father, who is senior cadet captain and executive officer of V-1.

To everyone's surprise, J.J. joined the ranks of Company V-1 and marched from the corps "quad" to Kyle Field before the first football game. He has since appeared in all pre-game march-ins.

Pack admits that at times he feels like "Old Mother Hubbard," especially because he is personnel officer of his company, but he is glad to be getting the education he wants.

After a false start at A&M in 1966-67, Pack joined the Navy and later moved to Corpus Christi, where he worked for an electric company.

Pack felt he was "stalemated" at the company, and didn't have much to look forward to without an education.

"When you wake up in the morning and try to think of one good reason to go to work, you're in the wrong business," Pack says.

Pack returned to A&M in the fall of '76. He says he joined the Corps because participation in campus activities would look better on his resume.

Besides, Pack says, "I always wanted a pair of boots and that's the best way I knew how to get 'em."

"The Corps is abnormal to a person who has been in the real military," Pack says. "I think the underclassmen are harassed a little too much, but that is the Corps, and it always has been and always will be, so I just go along with it."

He has not regretted joining the Corps, though he says Corps activities take their toll on marriage, homelife, job, school, and grades.

After graduation in May, Pack plans to work for the National Park Service.

J. J., if he follows in his father's footsteps, will return to A&M as a member of the class of 1997.

Enrollment growth of 3,000 likely

Moody College, Galveston-based marine division of Texas A&M, could increase its enrollment to 3,000 students within two years if additional facilities were available, the institution's board of visitors was told here Friday.

"Moody can grow at any rate that the state will supply the resources to build facilities to accommodate the growth," stated Dr. William H. Clayton, president of the seven-year-old institution headquartered on Pelican Island in Galveston.

Clayton's observation was in response to an inquiry by George P. Mitchell, a member of the Moody College Board of Visitors, regarding future planning. Mitchell donated the 100 acres on which the campus is located, and the site is named in honor of his late parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mitchell.

"We're actually trying to hold enrollment down because of limited facilities," Clayton pointed out.

Moody College's enrollment reached a record 626 students this fall.

Dr. Jack K. Williams, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, agreed that Moody College has been "hampered by an inability to obtain funding for buildings."

He credited State Sen. A. R. Schwartz of Galveston with being the prime mover in the Legislature in helping Moody College generate its major facilities funding to date, including a special multi-million-dollar appropriation at the session earlier this year.

The nine-member advisory group continued its meetings here Saturday.

Mrs. Schwartz, vice chairman of the board, is serving as presiding officer in the absence of Melvin Maltz of Houston, chairman.

Other topics for the two-day session include organizational changes, academic review, and division and administrative reports.

Uranium smuggling investigated

FBI search gets union protest

WASHINGTON — The FBI last year launched a secret but fruitless investigation of employees at a Pennsylvania nuclear plant, who were suspected of smuggling out highly enriched uranium in their crotches, newly declassified documents say.

No smuggled uranium was found, according to the documents, but stricter security measures brought union and other protests of "pat down" searches of workers at other U.S. nuclear power plants.

One worker objected because he was "ticklish."

The new material on the much-

investigated Apollo, Pa., nuclear fuel plant has been released by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., a non-profit environmental group.

It obtained declassified documents from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the former Research and Development Administration, which supplemented material released last week to some of the media under Freedom of Information Act requests.

Previously released documents showed that since the early 1960s up to 200 pounds of enriched uranium handled by the Apollo plant's previous management — enough to manufacture 15 to 20 bombs — could not be accounted for and was suspected of having been diverted to Israel to make nuclear weapons.

"A secret report by a joint NRC-ERDA Task Force investigating nuclear material accounting and control at the Babcock and Wilcox nuclear fuel plants at Apollo, Pa., reveals that the FBI in 1976 launched a clandestine investigation following a report that employees were smuggling highly enriched uranium from the plant by

hiding it in their crotches," the council said.

"A janitor at the plant," it said, "told a fellow employee in a barroom conversation that workers were smuggling uranium out of the plant by hiding it between their legs to avoid detection."

The commission notified the FBI, which began an undercover investigation at the Apollo plant Aug. 16, 1976. Some 20 present and former employees were interviewed but the allegation "was not substantiated," according to the documents.

In August of this year, the report said, the Wisconsin Public Service Co. and Baltimore Gas and Electric petitioned the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to amend its security regulations to eliminate the requirement for "pat down" physical searches of individuals working in protected areas at nuclear power plants.

The petition said: "Some plant personnel and their unions have made known their feelings that a physical search is highly distasteful, personally offensive, and in violation of individual rights. The problem of women employees and visitors is particularly troublesome."

Three tough sections left on Carter's energy policy

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The conference committee reconciling House and Senate versions of the energy program has almost completed sections dealing with energy conservation and coal conversion.

But that leaves three tough sections to be dealt with: utility rate policy, natural gas pricing, and energy taxes.

When those three will be done is anybody's guess. Even preliminary staff compromises on the utility rate issue are so hard to come by that one participant said the process could go into next year.

The five bills the conferees eventually

produce must then go to both chambers for a vote. The Congress is already four weeks beyond its original mid-October hoped-for adjournment date and has gone on a semi-recess schedule to allow the energy conferees time to work on the bills without being interrupted by being called to their respective houses for roll calls or other needs.

President Carter has postponed indefinitely his planned foreign trip, to remain in Washington until the energy program is completed. There is as yet no sign when that will be.

Canal needs barriers to separate creatures

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Construction of a new sea-level canal or modification of the existing Panama Canal should include barriers to keep apart the creatures of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, says a scientific review committee.

In a report recently submitted to the White House science office, the special committee said substantial environmental hazards would be involved in the exchange of marine organisms between the two bodies of water.

The building of a new Central American canal cut through from ocean to ocean without the present system of locks, has been discussed for many years but it is not expected in the near future. A more likely project is the modification of the present canal, causing sea water to replace fresh water throughout its length.

The change in the environment of the canal would allow different varieties of fish and plant life to migrate from the Pacific to the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, and vice versa. Such a development could upset the ecologies of the two oceans and should be avoided, the group said.

There is convincing evidence that such migration has substantial potential for adverse effects," it said.

It said the migration could result in the spread into the Pacific of such creatures as

the barracuda and the Portuguese man-of-war, while certain snails, starfish and other Pacific coral predators move East and wreak havoc with coral in the western Atlantic.

Another possibility is that different but related species from opposite sides of the Isthmus could mate and produce hybrid offspring with unpredictable results.

The most significant ecological hazard is the introduction of virtually unknown parasites and disease-causing organisms into new ocean areas.

"Migration of disease organisms could possibly affect the shrimp, fin fish, and fish meal industries in both oceans," the report said.

Exchange migrations have occurred in other parts of the world, most notably through the Suez Canal. The report noted that as of 1967, 118 species of Red Sea marine life had become established in the eastern Mediterranean and 14 had made the reverse migration through the Suez.

In some cases, migration can have beneficial results, such as increases in commercial or sports fisheries, it said. Fish that originally were native to the Red Sea made up to 20 percent of the Israeli Mediterranean trawl catches in 1971.

However, the arrival of new species sometimes causes native sea life to decline or causes other problems.



SUU-EEE...

Kevin McCormick and Mike Tindell of company L-1 hold their version of an Arkansas Razorback. The pig, called "Uncle Woody" by the freshmen, was released before Saturday's game. "Woody" was captured by the freshmen after a short romp on the Kyle Field turf.

Battalion photo by Jim Crawley