

# A brighter idea — switch gas to coal

## Rhodesian leaders still agreeable to peace talk

**United Press International**  
 HOUSTON — The natural gas era is almost over for Texas' largest electric utility. For the first time in more than 50 years, Houston Lighting & Power Co. has switched one of its generating units to coal.  
 Since Aug. 31, when HL&P switched Unit 5 of its W.A. Parish Plant in Fort Bend County from Texas-produced gas to coal mined in Wyoming, coal has generated 2 percent of the Houston area's electricity.  
 The switch, ending HL&P's 100 percent gas-fired status since 1926, has just begun. By 1985, 25 percent of HL&P's electricity will come from coal. Gas will produce 15 percent. The rest will come from fuel oil and nuclear power.  
 The historic change reflects the rising cost and diminishing supply of gas. The Texas Railroad Commission has ordered utilities to make no new contracts for the increasingly precious fuel.  
 HL&P spokesman Jim Parsons observed a certain irony in the development.  
 "Texas is shipping oil and gas to the Northeast. The Northwest is shipping coal to Texas. But what's completing the triangle? What's the Northeast shipping to the Northwest?"  
 HL&P President Don Jordan, said that "because of their lower fuel costs, coal and nuclear generators will help stabilize the cost of electricity for our customers."  
 In the 1890s, when a tiny HL&P ancestor used only coal, the generators were hand-tended. Electricity demand was much smaller then. Parish No. 5 consumes 350 tons of coal an hour to generate 660 thousand kilowatts.  
 HL&P has two more coal-fired units under construction at the Parish site and plans to build a fourth one. Unit 6, identical to Unit 5, is scheduled to open later this year.

**United Press International**  
 HOUSTON — Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, stumping the United States with a black co-leader of his country's biracial transitional regime, Wednesday reiterated his willingness to meet with the guerrillas trying to overthrow the government.  
 But Smith rejected preconditions sought by the United States and Britain, which he said included disbanding the Rhodesian army and providing an interim British "dictator" over Rhodesia.  
 His traveling companion, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, agreed.  
 "We have always stated we'd be prepared to go (to a meeting of all parties). However, we're not disposed to accept preconditions," said Smith, who appeared with Sithole at a World Trade Club luncheon.  
 "The Popular Front feel very strongly that power should be transferred to them," Sithole said. "We feel power must be transferred to the people as a whole. The people may delegate the power to people of their choice."  
 Smith, Sithole, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and Sen. Jeremiah Chirau, head a transitional government that has promised a general election in which 3 million previously disenfranchised blacks will vote. Smith is the only white in the regime.  
 Smith and Sithole predicted the renewed Rhodesian attacks Wednesday on guerrilla bases in Mozambique would have no effect on their search for American support.  
 "Many are the occasions that the U.S. administration — and the British administration — have said to us, 'We understand what you're doing and, although we don't like it, we understand the necessity,'" Smith said.  
 "Anybody who knows that kind of terrorist war, knows you must go into the countries where it originates," he added.  
 Sithole criticized United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young for doubting the regime.  
 "He has been more obstructive than constructive," Sithole said. "Every person in the U.S. should support the agreement. It is completely for the benefit of the black people."  
 Smith said he was disappointed he was unable to meet President Carter, who Smith said "appears to have been ill-advised on the Rhodesia question."  
 The Rhodesian prime minister said the battle between the transitional government and guerrillas amounts to "a confrontation between Russia on the one hand and Rhodesia on the other."

# U.S. takes over German base

**United Press International**  
 GARTSTEDT, West Germany — The United States Tuesday took over its first military base in northern Germany since the war to counter a Soviet buildup along the East-West border.  
 Secretary of Defense Harold Brown in a speech said the American force of 3,800 would be a deterrent to any attack but if one took place it would be met by the full might of the United States.  
 West German Defense Minister

Hans Apel joined Brown under rainy, gray skies in a ceremony turning over a military base to Brigade 75, unit of the 2nd Armored Division.  
 Until now American troops, except those in Berlin, were stationed only in the south. But the NATO decided to move an American unit to the north to join British forces following reports of massive Soviet tank and troop concentrations facing West Germany.  
 "We continue to seek improvement in our relations with the Soviet Union and the nations of Eastern Europe," Brown said.  
 "At the same time, we have the confidence and will retain the strength to meet any challenge. The stationing of the 2nd Armored Division Forward in this area is clear evidence of our collective determination."  
 Brown said if trouble came the small force would not be alone.  
 "Many more units are available in the United States to reinforce

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# Third European dies mysteriously

**United Press International**  
 PARIS — An exiled Croatian writer who was shot to death two days ago may have been the latest victim of Communist agents who have killed three Bulgarians — two of them in poisoned umbrella attacks, an emigre publisher says.  
 Bruno Busic, the Croat propagandist, was warned by French police eight months ago to stay away from Paris because Yugoslav killers had been assigned to murder him, said emigre Croat publisher Vlado Pavlinic in London.  
 "There can be no doubt Busic was murdered by Communist agents," Pavlinic said.  
 Busic, 38, went to Paris from London Saturday. Monday evening an unknown attacker shot five bullets into his head as he entered an apartment building in the working class Belleville district of Paris.  
 It was the third mysterious death in the West of a dissident exiled East European writer in three months.  
 Bulgarian broadcaster Georgi

# Yugoslavs blamed in writer's death

Markov was killed in London in August by a poisoned pellet that could have been fired from an air gun disguised as an umbrella.  
 A few weeks later, Bulgarian Vladimir Simeonov, a colleague of Markov in the BBC's Bulgarian language service, was found dead in his locked London home. An autopsy showed he broke his nose in a fall down stairs and choked on his own blood. Whether he fell or was pushed is unresolved.  
 Busic fled from Zagreb on a forged passport in 1975 after serving two and one half years in jail for his writings. Last year he was elected general secretary for propaganda and press for the exile Croat National Congress, which seeks self rule for Croatia, part of Yugoslavia.

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