

the world

# Malaysians set 'boat people' out to sea; vow to let no more in

United Press International

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia Monday backed down from its threat to "shoot on sight" any Vietnamese refugees approaching its shores but added they still would not be allowed to land and 76,000 already in the country would be shipped out.

One group of 2,500 Vietnamese men, women and children who had already landed in Malaysia were put aboard five overcrowded wooden vessels Sunday and towed out to the South China Sea, where they drifted Monday.

They were apparently tricked aboard by Malaysian promises that the United States would rescue them, a diplomat in Kuala Lumpur said.

"I don't think there is such a (rescue) plan," the diplomat said. "U.N. officials fear all of them are most likely to be drowned because the boats are not seaworthy."

Prime Minister Hussein Onn Monday sent a message of reassurance to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who had sought a "clarification" of Malaysia's position after the "shoot on sight" declaration was issued last Friday by Deputy Prime Minister Mahthir Mohamad.

"I wish to state that our measures to prevent further inflow of the

boat people do not include shooting them," Hussein said.

But he maintained there would be a total ban on new refugees and all of the 76,000 "illegal immigrants" now crowding refugee camps must go eventually, although no deadline was set.

"We have reached the limit of our endurance and this is the only way open to us to contain the problem that is severely affecting our country," Hussein said.

Hussein praised Waldheim for efforts in solving the refugee problem but said efforts by the United States, Australia, Canada and France — which have taken most of those accepted for resettlement — "commendable as they are, have been grossly inadequate."

Hussein said "Malaysia will not allow itself to be saddled with the residues of these boat people. If they are not accepted by resettlement countries or their country of origin, we will have no choice but to send them out which is the only alternative to their being left to rot in the camps."

Home Affairs Minister Ghazali Shafie, who delivered Hussein's message to newsmen at a press conference, clarified that the government's policy is "shooing" the refugees away and "not shooting."

"Please don't make the mistake again," he advised newsmen.

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## Executive considered for Moscow post

United Press International

VIENNA, Austria — President Carter is considering nominating Thomas J. Watson, chairman of the IBM executive committee and head of the administration's arms control advisory board, as the next U.S. ambassador to Moscow.

U.S. officials refused to comment on the report that Watson heads the list of candidates for the Moscow job but well-placed sources said he was definitely under consideration.

If chosen, Watson would replace veteran diplomat Malcom W. Toon

who has told Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that he would like to retire late this summer or sometime in the fall.

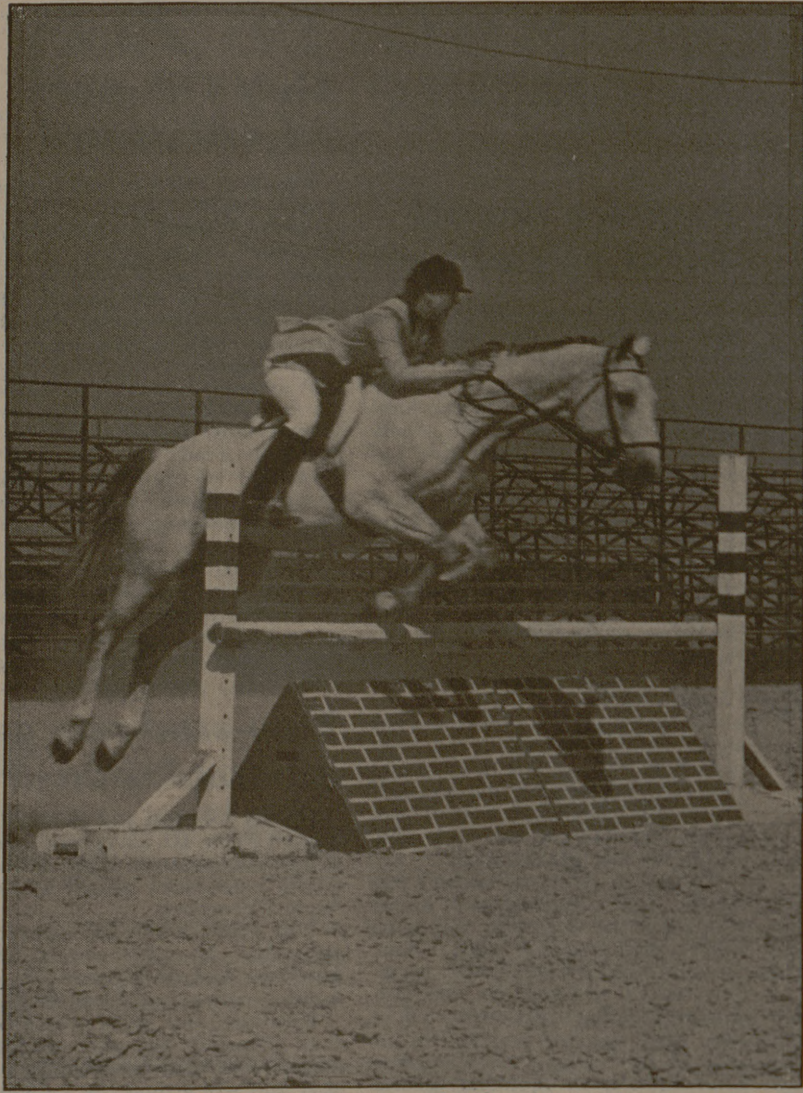
Toon, previously ambassador in Belgrade and Tel Aviv, has served in the Moscow post since late 1976. He was first nominated by former President Gerald Ford and then renominated by Carter.

Toon, 64, who served two previous tours in Moscow in his career as an East European specialist, was known to feel strongly that his replacement should also be a career diplomat rather than a political appointee like Watson.

Watson, 65, spent a long career with International Business Machines Corp., rising to be president and then chairman of the board of the firm.

He is a brother of the late Arthur K. Watson, also an IBM executive, who was ambassador to Paris under President Richard Nixon.

Watson is currently in Vienna in connection with his duties on the arms control advisory board.



Battalion photo by Marry Anne Snowden

## Jumping for a win

Sarah Mitchell, a Texas A&M University worker, takes Mr. Amo, her 9-year-old Quarter Horse gelding, to an Open Jumper class win. This Open Horse Show, held last Saturday, was sponsored by TAMU's Vet Club.

## Rebels capture garrison

United Press International

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Sandinista rebels tried to push through a national guard commander the south Monday to capture provincial capital of Rivas and establish a provisional capital there.

The guerrillas Sunday scored a major victory in the struggle for President Anastasio Somoza, capturing the national guard garrison in Leon, the nation's second largest city, 55 miles northwest of the capital.

The national guard said in a statement Sunday that 700 men crossed from Costa Rica Friday-Saturday, has been contained north of Sapoa, three miles from the border.

The commander of the rebel column, Eden Pastora, popularly called "Comandante Zero," announced over rebel radio that the immediate objective was to break through guard lines in the south, seize Rivas, 19 miles north of Leon, and declare it a provisional capital.

A provisional capital would mean the possibility of overt aid by sympathetic foreign countries to the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Sandinista radio Saturday announced the creation of a "council of national reconstruction" as forerunner to a projected provisional government.

More foreigners were evacuated Sunday, with 95 Americans and Mexicans being flown to the U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transports.

Another national guard spokesman reported that the garrison in Leon "was evacuated for tactical and security reasons."

The Andean bloc, comprising Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, proclaimed Saturday that a "state of belligerence" exists in Nicaragua.

This diplomatic term connotes recognition of a civil war between two equals. Governments adopting this position are free to support force battling the constituted government, but it does not imply recognition of the rebel government.

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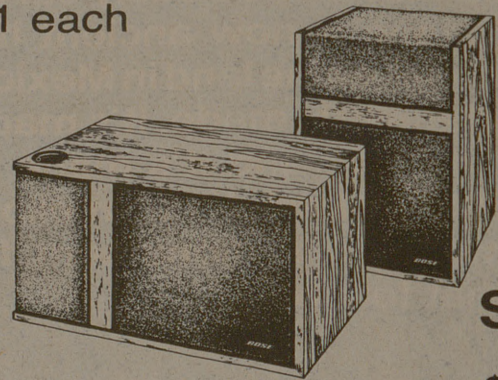
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