

the world

Thatcher  
replies to  
letter

**BATON ROUGE, La.** — The handwritten note on impressive "10 Downing Street" stationery surprised Lynne Hair, who never expected to receive a letter from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Hair, chairwoman of the Louisiana Women's Political Caucus, regularly types letters to prominent women who achieve an important goal. She recently congratulated Thatcher by mail on her selection as prime minister.

Hair received a handwritten response, dated June 1979.

"Thank you for your kind message of congratulations," Thatcher replied.

"The early days of the new administration have been busy and exciting as we start on carrying out the things we were elected to do.

"Yours sincerely, Margaret Thatcher."

OPEC official warns prices  
may push market out of control

**MONTREUX, Switzerland** — A senior OPEC official Monday warned that it is becoming increasingly difficult for OPEC to control the price of oil and if the situation continues energy markets will become "completely out of control."

The warning was sounded at a forum of oil experts and executives by Dr. Fadil al-Chalabi, deputy secretary general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, on the eve of an OPEC meeting which is expected to approve another price increase.

Dr. Ulf Lantz, executive director of the International Energy Agency, told the forum he expects this year's oil production shortfall of about 2 million barrels a day to last through next year as well.

The mid-year meeting of 13-nation OPEC is generally considered the most crucial session since the 1973-1974 oil crisis.

Speaking privately, OPEC officials said the boost could be 20 to 25 percent and possibly more.

The Arab Emirates oil minister, Mana al Oteiba, current OPEC chairman, said in a pre-conference statement that the base price of oil should go up from \$14.54 per barrel to \$20 or \$21. That would mean an increase of 40 percent or more.

Western government and industry observers in Geneva said the most optimistic guess would be a hike of around 20 percent, to \$17.45 per barrel, and an end to the surcharges and premiums permitted by

an agreement at the last meeting in March.

Chalabi told the forum: "More than at any time in history the pricing of oil is currently overtaken by the market forces rather than being fully administered by the collective action of the producers."

If this condition persists, the Iraqi-born Chalabi said, it will end up depriving the OPEC producers of the necessary tools to plan changes for their own economies and for world oil prices.

"This situation, if it continues, would make energy markets completely out of control," he said.

Chalabi made it clear that he did not consider uncontrolled price increases were necessarily to the long term advantage of OPEC.

OPEC's control, he said, had the

advantages of enabling the countries to plan their economic development to long-term trends of oil demand to prolong "the economic growth" of the OPEC.

Chalabi told the forum that trends towards competition among the OPEC countries most likely increase in the future.

He said OPEC countries are developing countries who are most entirely on a single commodity which is exported to world markets. Oil, he noted, is not only a foreign earner for OPEC, but also the "basis of the technology formation of their society."

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Four Vietnam boats  
forced out; 2 others held

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** — Malaysian authorities Monday forced four small refugee boats out to sea and held two others in their stepped-up effort to check the mounting refugee tide.

Eyewitnesses said Malaysian soldiers loaded 319 refugees into four small boats from the northeast Merang village and a police boat escorted them to international waters.

The authorities reportedly re-provisioned the boats with food and water before pushing the refugees out to sea.

Eyewitnesses said the refugees, who arrived recently from Vietnam, were taken from their makeshift camp on the beach and put on the boats. They said the refugees did not resist.

A Malaysian naval vessel Monday continued to hold two boats with

600 refugees off Kuala Trengganu, 200 miles northeast of Kuala Lumpur, to prevent them from coming ashore.

One of the boats was damaged and the women and children in it were transferred to the navy ship. The boats were tied to the large navy ship while repairs were being made to the damaged boat.

Resist  
violence  
says Pope

**VATICAN CITY** — Pope Paul II said Monday all should resist the "terrible temptation" of responding to violence with institutional violence.

The pope said he was "deeply saddened" by the violence in Italy and the oppression of the people.

After accepting the credentials of Bruno Bottai, Italy's new ambassador to the Holy See, the pope said: "Blind violence and destructive terrorism continue to afflict the Italian society, spreading a sense of pessimism and despair."

"The Catholic church has a duty to rid good souls of the temptation that might lead to equally provocative and oppressive reactions," he said in a clear reference to the mounting call for tough anti-terrorist laws.

The neo-Fascist Italian Movement party and other extremist parties are demanding government measures to combat terrorism, including the institution of the death penalty.

The death penalty, abolished by Italy's constitution, "The church is concerned about opening the hearts of the young to the ideals of liberty, fraternity, love and the good," the pope said.

But the pope's comments marked the first time he publicly warned of internal backlash against terrorism.

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