

the world

Source says Somoza will resign

United Press International
MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Anastasio Somoza will resign within days, a source close to the complex, multi-national peace negotiations to end the civil war. Foreign ministers of the Andean nations were to meet with Nicaraguan opponents of Somoza Sunday in Caracas, Venezuela, in an effort to reach agreement on a transfer of power to an interim government. Somoza's resignation was announced in a last-minute breakdown of talks on the future of the national guard, the source said. U.S. production and the agreement in principle of the civil war calls for.

—Somoza's resignation in favor of a constitutional successor probably to be announced on radio and television by Somoza himself and followed by Somoza's departure, presumably to Miami.
—A cease-fire as Somoza's last order to the national guard.
—Arrival of the guerrilla-backed provisional junta and delivery of the government to the junta.
This scenario, still subject to Somoza's approval of final guarantees for the physical and political safety of his national guard, was hammered out in lengthy, indirect negotiations between the junta and Somoza, using the U.S. diplomats as go-betweens on both ends.

"Somoza will leave very soon, within days, possibly within hours," the source said. Others close to the negotiations expected Somoza to leave this week, perhaps as early as Wednesday.

U.S. Ambassador Lawrence S. Pezullo, sent to obtain Somoza's resignation as a prelude to end the war, has met four times with the strongman in the past four days. U.S. special envoy William Bowdler has met in marathon sessions with the five-member junta in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The foreign ministers of the Andean bloc — Venezuelan, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia — met in Caracas, Venezuela Monday, reportedly to map out for Somoza's and the junta's approval a plan for an orderly transfer of power.

A Venezuelan government plane flew from Managua to Caracas Sunday with leaders of the Broad Opposition Front and two prominent

Nicaraguans, Red Cross President Ismael Reyes and Msgr. Miguel Obando y Bravo, Roman Catholic archbishop of Managua, to confer with the foreign ministers.

The Broad Opposition Front is not part of the Sandinista National Liberation front, but it has endorsed the junta, which has one Opposition

Front representative among its five members.

On battlefronts, fighting was generally light Sunday with heaviest action at Matagalpa, where guerrillas appeared ready to take the last national guard holdout force at the Picado Lyceum, a hilltop schoolhouse outside of town.

Embassy siege ends; remaining hostages freed

United Press International
ANKARA, Turkey — With hugs and handshakes for Turkish authorities, four youthful Palestinian militants peacefully ended their 48-hour occupation of the Egyptian Embassy and freed all remaining hostages.
In the end, it was the most un-likely of agents, the Palestine Liberation Organization, that convinced the gunmen Sunday they had as much to gain from playing victory on the embassy balcony as by making a bloodbath inside.
Six hostages, including Egyptian Ambassador Ahmad Kamal Ulama, were released unharmed. A seventh was hospitalized for exhaustion.
The siege began Friday just after 11 a.m. The four Palestinians leaped from a yellow Mercedes taxi with blazing, cut down two Turkish policemen guarding the iron gates, seized the embassy and seized 14 hostages.

But one Egyptian diplomat who dropped from a third-story window was killed and another who also made the desperate leap was seriously injured.

Steel-helmeted troops in battle dress took positions around the building directed by a bevy of generals and ministers from a makeshift command post across the street.

The gunmen, members of the maverick "Eagles of the Palestine Revolution," demanded Turkey break diplomatic relations with Egypt. Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit balked and dared the gunmen to act. Egypt reluctantly gave its permission for Turkish troops to launch an all-out assault if necessary.

But two hours before the deadline that the premier's aides said he had set to storm the building, the PLO mediators broke through.

One of the mediators left the building, reported to Interior Minister Hasan Fehmi Gunes, and with a wave toward the balcony walked back up the 200 stairs leading to the embassy.

Minutes later the four gunmen, flanked by the second PLO mediator, appeared on the balcony smiling and waving to 2,000 awestruck troops and police gathered in assault formation below.

The gunmen, unfazed and apparently unarmed, began shouting "Long live Palestine! Long live the Palestinian revolution!" through a bullhorn provided by Turkish authorities. Later they chipped in, "Long live Turkey."

The astonishing performance continued for 10 minutes.

Taking a cue from television talk shows, the gunmen brought out Interior Minister Gunes — mastermind of the propaganda-for-lives deal — and Ambassador Ulama for guest appearances. Each man was greeted with a round of handshakes. Gunes got several hugs.

One tousle-haired Palestinian in an open-necked shirt yanked the arm of the blue-suited ambassador in a theatrical salute and the little group of hostages behind them shuffled and smiled awkwardly.

Asked the fate of the terrorists, Ecevit said, "They are not going to leave Turkey." On Saturday, officials had offered to let the Palestinians leave the country if they freed the hostages.

Australian Skylab pieces can be kept

United Press International
CANBERRA, Australia — A team of U.S. space scientists Monday assured Australian souvenir hunters they can keep their pieces of Skylab junk, noting "We are hardly in a position to be nasty."
The State Department official Robert G. Gray scoffed at suggestions NASA technicians had maneuvered the crippled space station to crash in Australia so they could later reclaim the debris for study.
He said the team will only be asking to borrow some pieces to study the effects of six years in outer space on the metal. After that, he promised, all the souvenirs would be returned later to the finders.
After all, he said, the United States was "not in a position to demand a darn thing."
"There is no way we will be running around like a bunch of scavengers," he said. "We are hardly in a position to be nasty."

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