

the world

Man completes record trans-ocean crossing

United Press International
FALMOUTH, England — Gerry Spiess Tuesday sailed his 10-foot "Yankee Girl" into Falmouth Harbor, completing a 54-day solo crossing of the North Atlantic in the smallest boat ever to complete such a journey.

Spiess, a 39-year-old engineer from White Bear Lake, Minn., arrived at the center of a welcoming flotilla of honking, tooting pleasure boats that had sailed out to escort him the last few miles to the Cornish coast. Thousands of cheering spectators lined the shores.

Spiess, who left Virginia Beach, Va., June 1, survived two weeks of

"sheer hell" during which 20-foot waves pounded the tiny homemade sailboat. He was once swept overboard and only his lifeline saved him.

The Yankee Girl is shaped like a wedge of pie and painted green. For company in his cramped quarters, Spiess took along the works of Mark Twain and recordings of his favorite American radio shows.

Spiess stepped ashore just before 5 p.m. (Noon EDT) and went immediately to the local yacht club.

His wife Sally, 37, peered through binoculars from the porch of the Falmouth Hotel, hoping for a first glimpse of her sea-faring hus-

band. "I'll feel better when he gets into Falmouth," she said.

Mrs. Spiess, a computer company manager in White Bear Lake, acknowledged the last leg of the journey could be the most dangerous.

"He chose Falmouth because he wanted a safe harbor not a busy one," she said.

Fourteen years ago another American, journalist Robert Manny, set a small boat record by crossing from Falmouth, Mass., to Falmouth, England in 78 days in a 13½-foot boat called Tinkerbell.

In 1968, American Hugo Vilhen, 36, sailed his 6-foot boat from Casablanca, Morocco, to near Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a distance of 4,100 miles in 86 days. But he was forced to end his voyage 25 miles from shore because strong offshore winds were blowing him back to sea.



Heavy labor

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

B.J. Gurka, a construction worker from Montgomery, Texas, waits for the boom in the foreground to raise up another steel beam so he can bolt it into place on the main structure. Gurka is working on the Academic and

Agency building being constructed across from Zachary Engineering building. The building will require two years to complete and will house part of the College of Business and some administrative offices.

Chinese official killed

United Press International
PEKING — Twenty Chinese troops ambushed and wounded another Chinese official near their northeast border, the China News Agency said Tuesday.

NCNA said the incident occurred in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on July 16 when the Chinese official, a political officer and Burmbutug, a veteran, were inspecting pastures.

The official news agency said the Chinese foreign ministry issued a note to the Soviet embassy in Beijing, which said the shooting "serious incident of provocation bloodshed" that was "wholly arranged by the Soviet side."

The foreign ministry also said the Soviets of interfering and disrupting the activities of Chinese shepherds in the region and border provocations.

It said on June 30 a Soviet military helicopter flew over Chinese territory and circled at low altitude to disperse Chinese flocks of sheep.

"The Soviet side also pulled Chinese herders' living and production facilities such as sheep pens in the said area from the foreign ministry note."

"This shows that all these activities are not isolated or accidental but are designed to create tension and threaten the safety of the Chinese border inhabitants."

The foreign ministry said counter-charges that the Soviets were intruding into Soviet territory under the protection of the military a "sheer fabrication."

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Plane crash claims 11; 12 Texas were aboard

United Press International
DALLAS — Twelve members of three Texas Baptist churches were aboard a commuter plane that crashed Tuesday in the U.S. Virgin Islands, officials of the Baptist General Convention of Texas reported. Eleven of the 18 people aboard were believed killed.

The 12 Texans aboard the flight were members of the First Baptist Church of Clyde, Texas, the Elmerest Church of Abilene and a Baptist church at Rising Star, Texas, the Baptist General Convention spokesman said.

In Washington, a spokeswoman for Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, said 18 persons were aboard the flight — 16 passengers and 2 pilots.

The spokeswoman, Lois Auer, said both pilots were killed, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, and 9 passengers died. Seven persons were injured, she said. The FAA had informed the Stamford, Texas, congressman.

Based on unconfirmed reports from a ham radio operator near Christiansted in the Virgin Islands, the spokesman for the Baptist General Convention said the church members were going on a "mission trip" to St. Kitt.

They were scheduled to attend a 10-day evangelistic meeting, the spokesman said.

It was known that an island commuter plane crashed shortly after taking off from St. Croix, but names of victims or possible survivors could not be immediately confirmed.

The plane, Prinair flight 11, crashed on the Caribbean island of St. Croix. The plane had been scheduled to make stops at St. Maarten, St. Kitt and St. Eustace. The cause was not immediately known, airport officials said.

Workers at St. Croix's Hamilton International Airport said about 10 persons, many of whom were reportedly seriously injured, were taken to the Charles Harwood Memorial Hospital in Christiansted.

posed by the continuing war.

Spokesman Hodding Carter told reporters Monday, "In view of the security situation we have determined that it would be prudent to move dependents and essential personnel out of the area, at least for the time being."

He said about 100 people were leaving Kabul aboard a scheduled commercial flight the next few weeks and 48 essential personnel will be left behind.

The State Department said, was prompted by several terrorist incidents in Kabul and Peshawar. He said, "Americans had been threatened by any of those incidents, we are taking this precautionary measure for the safety of our personnel and technicians on the side."

The United States has a heavy presence of Soviet government forces.

The State Department said its "deep concern" Sunday reports that the government is conducting a systematic series of operations of its political opponents.

The U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Adolph Dubs, was held Feb. 14 after being kidnapped by anti-government terrorists. The U.S. government held the Afghan government responsible for the incident, but the terrorists were stormed by government forces, despite U.S. attempts to avoid the use of force.

Dubs has not been replaced as ambassador.

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