

# 'Zealot' climbs mountain barefoot

United Press International  
MOUNT KENYA, Kenya — Barefoot and without the aid of any equipment, an African religious zealot scaled the continent's second largest mountain. Amazed authorities now hope they can bring him down from the 17,000-foot peak on Mount Kenya before he freezes to death.

The African was found on the peak last Friday by two British climbers. He told them he had called the mountain to pray to the Kikuyu tribe god En-gai.

The British mountaineers said the man, who refused to give his name, was barefoot, without any equipment such as axes or ropes, protected against the cold only by a light jacket and carrying a small bag of food.

Phil Snyder, a Californian who is the mountain's game warden, Monday flew over the mountain's Nelson peak, just a few feet short of the summit, and confirmed the barefoot climber was still there — apparently dozing on top of the mountain.

"Getting to the top of Nelson is one of the most difficult climbs in the world," Snyder said. "This may be one of the most amazing climbs mountaineering has ever seen."

"I thought it was physically impossible to do it barefoot. You need ropes, axes, warm weather clothing, pitons (spikes). This man had nothing."

Snyder added, however that the man faces "an even greater impossibility" in making the descent over the snow and ice fields without falling and he sent rescue units to try to locate the man.

Woman will swim to Cuba

United Press International  
Diana Nyad hadn't yet dried off from her 89-mile, 27½-hour swim from Bimini to Florida before she began talking about her next challenge, Cuba to Florida.

"That will be my last swim. I mean, where do you go after that?" Nyad said Monday after her record-breaking marathon swim that made her the first person make the crossing from the Bahamas to Florida.

Nyad, who is 30 today, failed last August in the attempt to swim from Cuba. She had also failed in three previous tries to swim the English Channel.

John Erikson, 24, of Chicago had been pulled out of the water Monday on his final lap in a bid to become the first swimmer to make a non-stop, triple-crossing of the English Channel. He was just 11 miles from the French coast.

Miss Nyad, accompanied by a small flotilla of pleasure boats, swam right up to the beach at Jupiter, Fla., where a crowd of 400 cheered her. It took a minute for her to get her land legs back. Her tongue was slightly swollen, her left eye was puffed up from exposure to the salt water through leaky goggles and she had lost 10 to 12 pounds. But she swam through generally in good shape.

"My arms and shoulders are the stiffest and sorest they've ever been," she said. "I feel more tired now, bodily, than I did after 42 hours on the Cuba swim when I didn't make it."

Nyad swam for 27 hours and 38 minutes, covering a distance of 89 miles. It is only 43 miles to Florida from Bimini, but Miss Nyad was washed northward by the Gulf Stream.

The Portuguese men-of-war, whose paralyzing stings had forced her to cut short her Aug. 4 swim attempt, were not as much of a problem on this swim. Nyad had prepared her skin with a yellow coating of latex that helped ward off the stinging tentacles and divers on the support rafts served as seaborne cattle herders to push away the jellyfish-like creatures.

# European forest fire claims 29

United Press International  
SINTRA, Portugal — Some 500 firefighters Tuesday battled a 6½-mile-wide blaze — the latest in a rash of forest fires that have killed 29 people in southern Europe this month.

The fire, 25 miles west of Lisbon, was burning midway between the elegant hilltop town of Sintra and the popular coastal resort of Cascais. It flared at midday Monday and by evening threatened a cluster of homes in the village of Casa Da Mata.

There were no immediate reports of evacuations. Authorities in central Portugal reported the death of a farm worker who was near the town of Serta. He was Portugal's first forest fire victim this month, but the 29th in southern Europe.

Twenty-six people — 21 vacationers and five firefighters — were killed in forest fires in Spain in the past two weeks.

# USSR charges U.S. with stalling

United Press International  
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union charged Tuesday that the United States is stalling on demilitarization of the Indian Ocean and said the waterway is just as vital to Soviet security as it is to the West and Japan.

The Communist Party daily

Pravda said that at a recent Washington session between the two superpowers the United States refused to negotiate a resumption of the Soviet-American talks on the Indian Ocean and refused to fix a date for another meeting on their resumption.

"The near future will show

whether this double American 'no' is final," Pravda said. "If this is so — if the United States has decided to make a stake in the Indian Ocean on an openly militaristic course — it will have to bear grave responsibility for the consequences of such a decision."

Pravda said the question of

whether superpower competition in the Indian Ocean ends or a new major arms race begins there is significant not only for countries in the region, but also for the Soviet Union.

"It has a direct bearing on the security of the Soviet Union," Pravda said. "The waters of the Indian

Ocean, its shores, its insular territories are comparatively near to our country if one applies the radius of action of modern means of strategic attack.

"Besides, the only year around sea route linking the European part of the U.S.S.R. with the Soviet Far East runs through the Indian Ocean."

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