

Lama tells of Tibet, China talk

United Press International
NEW YORK — The Dalai Lama, the exiled "god king" of Tibet, acknowledged Tuesday that there have been talks between Tibetan exiles and the Chinese Communists about the possibility of his returning to his native land.

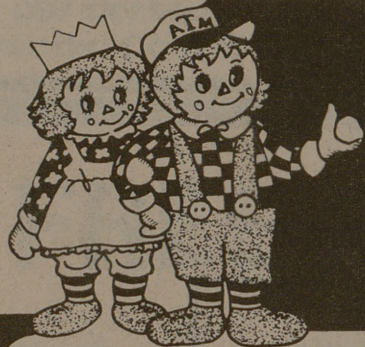
However, at a news conference, the religious leader sidestepped questions about whether he had spoken to the Chinese about ending his 20-year exile.

"Absolutely you have the right to

put any questions to me," he told reporters with a smile. "Equally, I have the right to give no answer."

He said his visit was "basically nonpolitical, mainly religious and cultural." But he added that if reporters "put questions to me," about the Chinese control of Tibet, "I'm sometimes compelled to say something."

"There are many things changing, a more moderate atmosphere is coming — more liberalization, which is most welcome," he said.



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Upbeat Carter returns to D.C.

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter, who began his vacation travels with a warning that the nation is having a "crisis of confidence," is back at the White House with an upbeat report: "The spirit of our country is still intact."

Carter, who apparently picked up a cold on his trip home to Plains, Ga., looked tired when he hosted a picnic for 1,200 labor leaders and their families Monday night on the gaily decorated South Lawn.

But he was in good spirits as he and his wife Rosalynn mingled with his guests and later spoke from an outdoor stage.

"We have had a good vacation," he said. "We have been down the Mississippi River. We had a few days at Camp David. We went down to Atlanta, to Tampa, to Plains. And everywhere I went my

confidence in this nation was strengthened.

"I began to see more and more clearly that my basic belief in the strength of our country is well justified — not only our military and economic strength and political strength, but our ethical and moral strength. The spirit of our country is still intact."

Carter praised the labor movement for being in the forefront of the civil rights struggle and social progress, and said:

"We have got a great country, and part of that greatness has been that every time we have been tested in the past we have been drawn closer together. And I can say the working people of our country, the labor movement, the trade unions, have always been in the forefront when there was a dynamic struggle to make our nation greater in time of

peace, especially in time of war."

He thanked the labor organizations for endorsing the arms limitation treaty — SALT II — and prompted cheering applause when he said, "we also need a national health insurance program."

In giving his rundown on the record of his presidency, Carter said, "I thank God that in the last two and a half years we have not had a single American lose his or her life in combat anywhere in the world. And I would like to go out of office after I have served as president with that record still intact. We want peace."

Carter told the gathering that AFL-CIO President George Meany had telephoned him to say that he would be unable to attend because he had "a slight virus attack."

He called Meany a "fine man," and requested a round of applause for the ailing labor leader.

Carter has his work cut out for him over the next several weeks. Wednesday, he will huddle with Democratic congressional leaders to discuss a legislative timetable for the remainder of the session, particularly to get action on his program.

Diversion of oil raises U.S. price

United Press International
NEW YORK — Texaco Inc., one of the largest U.S. oil companies, earlier this year diverted 500,000 barrels a day of petroleum products from its Caribbean refinery to a highly profitable European market and boosted U.S. oil prices, Energy User News reported Tuesday.

Although Texaco's decision to divert products from its Trinidad refinery to European buyers was not intended to affect this country's supply, it did affect the rise in prices of weekly energy newspaper said.

Texaco declined comment on the story.

"Texaco's case, while dramatic, the amount of product involved is by no means unusual," the report said. "Price controls in the U.S. reduced all foreign-based refineries that normally supply the U.S. market seek the higher prices being paid in Europe."

Spot prices in the two European markets have reached a record high of \$25 a barrel for refined product.

Most of the product involved in the jet fuel and No. 2 heating oil were shipped to European markets with those with those who were "dramatically affected by the cutback in supplies."

For example, it said Texaco's heavy residual fuel deliveries to Boston Edison by 50 percent million barrels, in June.

Other users faced a sharp increase in residual fuel prices, an economist for one of the major residual fuel importing firms said.

Energy Users' News that the project were holding supplies off the coast to get more money later.

Texaco and three other Caribbean refineries with U.S. ties participated heavily in oil sales to Europe because historically they have been the largest exporters, the report said. Refineries in Canada and Venezuela also were involved.

The other Caribbean refineries were owned by Standard Oil of California; an Exxon subsidiary in Aruba; and Shell Curacao NV in the Virgin Islands, which does not export the product, the paper said.

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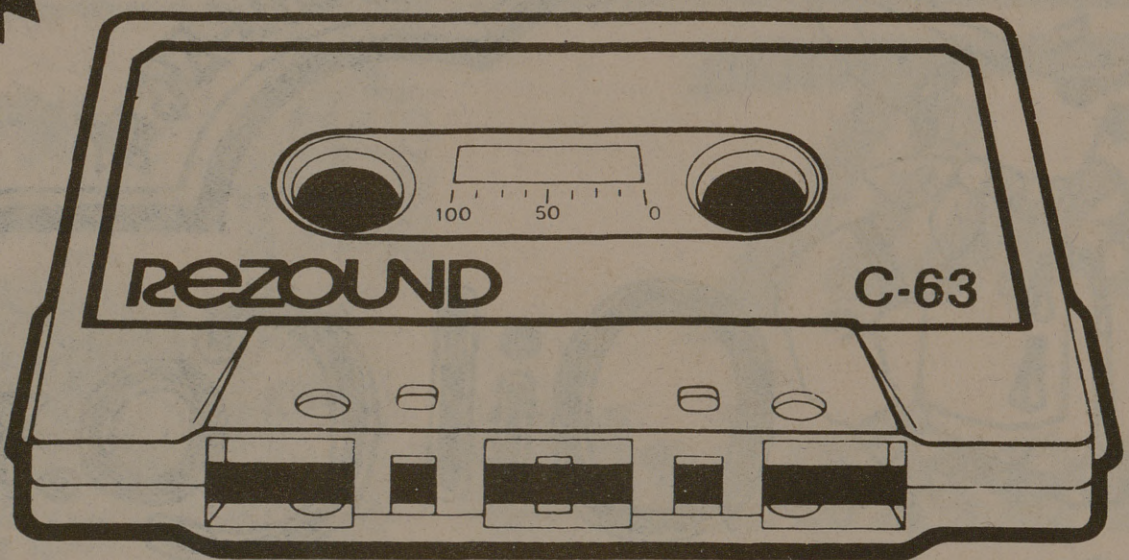
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Guard shot six at large after break

United Press International
MARION, N.C. — Authorities using bloodhounds searched wooded terrain around Marion County prison Tuesday for nine inmates who shot a guard and escaped.

Three prisoners were captured shortly after the 12:35 a.m. escape when scores of highway patrolmen, sheriff's deputies and guards set up roadblocks and searched heavily wooded and rolling terrain around the medium security prison located just south of Marion.

The injured guard, Sgt. McCurry, was listed in stable condition at Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville where he is scheduled to undergo surgery for a gunshot wound in the right shoulder.

Stuart Shadbolt, spokesman for the North Carolina Department of Corrections, said the prison break occurred after McCurry was taken to a dormitory by an inmate who demanded he be removed from the building.

The prisoner produced a gun, Shadbolt said, and forced McCurry into the prison yard where the inmates demanded that two guards be taken to a chain link fence surrounding the facility throw away their weapons. The guards refused and McCurry was shot.

The nine then fled as the guards changed gunfire with the escapees. No one was believed wounded.

Highway Patrol Sgt. James McDonald said bloodhounds were used to track the first three prisoners, a fourth was being sought in a community about three miles from the prison.

Officers said about 100 searchers were involved in the manhunt, which was concentrated in the area around the prison. Some of the searchers were believed to be armed.