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U.S. to monitor brigade in Cuba

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter won an assurance the 2,600 Soviet troops are not in Cuba to fight — but could persuade Kremlin leaders to order them home.

The president, in a nationwide television and radio address Monday night, announced a series of steps the United States will take to offset the Russian brigade whose presence he called "a serious matter."

A senior Pentagon official told reporters Carter — as a show of firmness in the Caribbean region — has ordered Marines to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo, Cuba, and is increasing the readiness of a 10,000-man rapid deployment force.

"I have concluded the brigade issue is certainly no reason for a return to the Cold War... We do not face any immediate, concrete threat that could escalate into a major confrontation," Carter said.

The speech ended a month-long series of top-level planning sessions in Washington and negotiations with the Soviets, including an exchange between Carter and

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on the hot line.

In the speech, Carter revealed the Soviets refused to withdraw the brigade — or even admit it is a combat unit.

But Carter flatly rejected the Soviet assertion it is a training unit, saying, "we have persuasive evidence that the unit is a combat brigade."

He listed five steps the United States will take in light of the Russian refusal to withdraw the troops. Among them were:

- Increased monitoring of the troop status in Cuba.
- Assurance that "no Soviet unit in Cuba can be used as a combat force to threaten the security of the United States or any other nation in this hemisphere."
- Establishment of a permanent, full-time Caribbean Joint Task Force Headquarters at Key West, Fla. (Administration officials said it would consist of 60 to 100 staff people, who will be augmented from time to time with other units.)
- Increased U.S. economic aid to countries in the Caribbean area.
- Direction to the secretary of defense

to enhance the Rapid Deployment Forces, including a proposed Fire Brigade that could be swiftly airlifted to trouble spots.

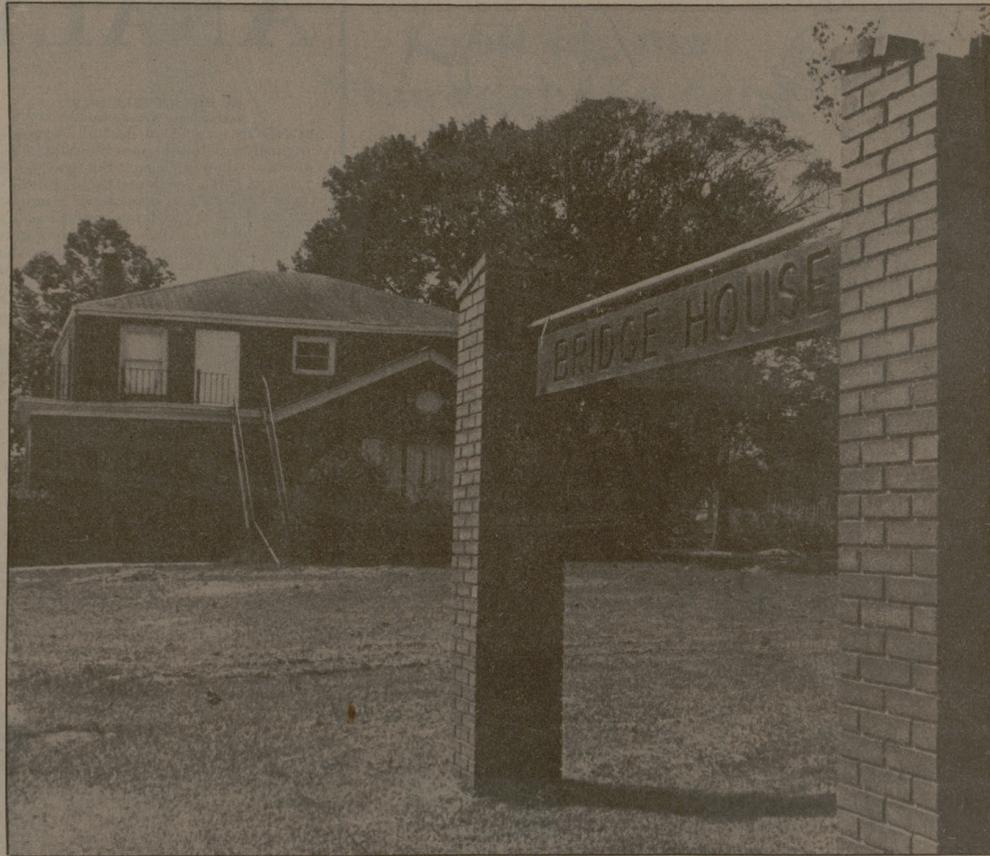
Early reaction to the speech indicated the "hawks" felt Carter had been out-punched, while the "doves" applauded the president's turn-away-wrath approach.

"A confrontation," Carter said, "might be emotionally satisfying for a few days or weeks for some people, but it would be destructive to the national interest and the security of the United States."

The president, as well as senior administration officials who briefed reporters, emphasized the unit is not a military threat to the United States.

Carter renewed his call to the Senate to ratify the arms limitation treaty, and said "politics and nuclear arsenals do not mix."

Carter pledged "we shall not rest on these Soviet statements alone," and told other hemispheric nations they "can be confident the United States will act in response to a request for assistance in meeting any threat from Soviet or Cuban forces."



Bridge House, 1506 S. College Ave., offers food, shelter and clothing for runaways or juveniles awaiting trial or hearing.
Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Crying Americans watch as canal changes hands

United Press International
PANAMA CITY, Panama — The Panama Canal Zone passed into history Monday, becoming a part of Panama 76 years after Yankee ingenuity and determination carved it out of the jungle.

Dabbling the tears from their eyes with handkerchiefs, many of the 12,000 "Zonians" in the American enclave watched the Stars and Stripes lowered over a way of life that ended officially at 12:01 a.m.

Vice President Walter Mondale flew in Sunday aboard Air Force 2 to join a half-dozen Latin American heads of state for the ceremonies marking the end of an era.

Many Americans, fearing violence when an estimated 200,000 Panamanians marched into the zone Monday to cele-

brate their takeover, packed their bags and left during the weekend.

A few such as Max, a beefy American working for the Panama Canal Co., fondled the handle of his ax and promised to "crack some heads" and "defend the flag."

Slouched over the bar at the VFW Hall, Max obviously did not share Mondale's view of the ceremonies handing over a one-mile zone.

"The Panama Canal becomes a young symbol of an ancient ideal — equality and respect between two sovereign and independent nations," Mondale said upon arrival Sunday.

"We will stand with you in partnership to operate the canal efficiently and fairly and to defend it... against all threats for

the benefit of world commerce."

Part of the change-over ceremonies took place Sunday, when the American flag was lowered from the towering flagpole in front of the Panama Canal Co. in the heart of the enclave that straddles the 51-mile-long canal carved out of Panama 76 years ago to connect the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

Some 5,000 Americans watched and wept as the American flag came down with the setting sun and Canal Zone Gov. Harold Parfitt told them: "The Canal Zone has no tomorrows, only yesterdays, but it leaves us with memories for a lifetime."

Some were resigned but others were defiant, shouting "Canal Zone Forever" as the Star Spangled Banner was played.

Some, like Max, got drunk.

By contrast, Panamanians outside the chain-link fence that once was a border and now is just a fence celebrated with firecrackers and dancing in the streets.

Groups of men wearing the traditional straw porkpie hats and women in colorfully embroidered skirts danced up and down the avenues, tying up traffic for blocks.

The Panamanian march into the Canal Zone was expected to be led by Gen. Omar Torrijos, Panama's charismatic leader who, along with President Carter, negotiated the 1977 treaties abolishing the zone and leading to Panamanian sovereignty and control over the canal itself by the year 2000.

"It's going to be hard," said Clara Cooper, a long-time resident of the Zone. "Today we're in the United States. Tomorrow we're going to wake up in a foreign country."

Alternative to jail for kids Bridge House funds renewed

By SYLVIA FELLOWS
Battalion Reporter

Thanks to a renewal of federal funding, Bridge House will continue to offer food, shelter and clothing for runaways or juveniles awaiting trial or hearing.

Bridge House, at 1506 S. College Ave., received one of three criminal justice grants recently awarded to Brazos County. The three grants totaled \$66,566.

The grant awarded to Bridge House will cover 60 percent of its operating cost with Brazos County paying 40 percent.

This service is slowly becoming more dependent on local funds. When the program began three years ago, it was funded entirely by federal money.

Last year, Bridge House received 80 percent from the federal government and 20 percent from the county. The federal contribution will be reduced by 20 percent each year.

According to Ernie Wentreck, chief probation officer, Bridge House offers refuge to runaways seeking help. He said runaways are welcome and many have been to the house from throughout the county.

Social Science graduate students from Texas A&M University counsel the chil-

dren or listen sympathetically to their problems, said Wentreck. There are currently five students working there, all of whom receive pay for their services.

Bridge House uses organizations like the Student Y to coordinate sports and craft activities. Wentreck said the staff is also trying to get a Big-Brother, Big-Sister program started.

A paid staff member is at the house at all times. The doors are never locked, said house supervisor Ron Huddleston, and, with some exceptions, the kids are free to leave if they wish.

However, juveniles waiting a trial or hearing are usually required by the court to stay at the house. Huddleston said if these kids leave the house without permission, they will most likely be picked up by the police and kept in jail.

"It's more of a privilege to be here rather than in jail," Huddleston said. "We're here to serve the kids."

The house's capacity is 10 juveniles, but Wentreck said the average number of housed at one time is three. The longest anyone is allowed to stay is 145 days, but he said the average length of a stay is three to four days.

The second grant, of \$11,890, was awarded for the eighth year to the Brazos Valley Development Council for training police officers.

The BVDC reviews and comments on all grants requested from counties in the region.

Police officer training is conducted by the Law Enforcement and Security Training Division of the Engineering and Rice, at Texas A&M University.

Texas law requires newly hired police officers to have 240 hours of training before they are certified. Three certification courses are conducted each year at the Texas A&M Research Annex, according to Claude C. Stewart, director of Criminal Justice for the BVDC.

This training involves everything from first-aid to learning the Penal Code of Texas, said Stewart.

The third grant of \$25,955 will provide Max Rogers, presiding judge of the Second Administrative Judicial District, with administrative assistance.

Rogers, whose district includes Brazos County, lives in Huntsville, but his main office is in Houston, where he does the bulk of his work.

New route Buses connect east, west campus

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND
Battalion Reporter

A new intra-campus shuttle bus route opened Monday, and should make it easier to reach classes across the tracks on the west side of the campus.

The new route was made possible by the completion of Agronomy Road, which parallels Wellborn Road and connects the Veterinary Medicine Complex with the west campus.

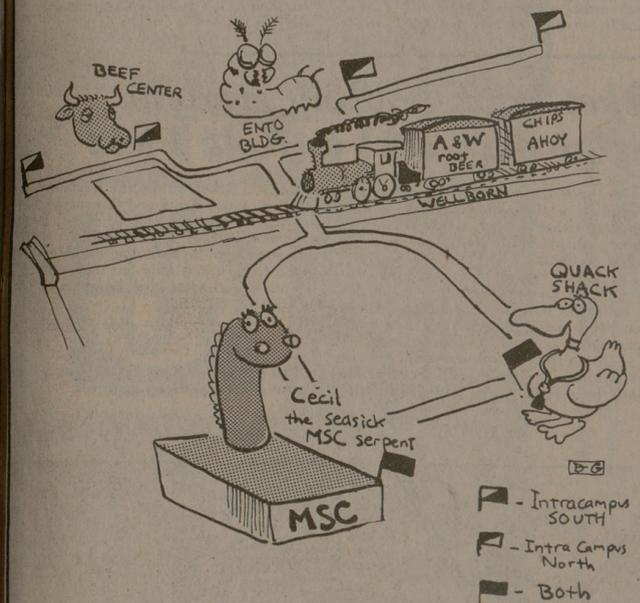
Buses stop by Beutel Health Center and Bizzell Hall on the east side of the tracks and on Agronomy Road, halfway between the Soil

Crop Science and Entomology buildings and the vet school, on the west side.

The service is free to all Texas A&M University students, faculty and staff. Buses run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at seven to 10 minute intervals.

Gene Oates, chairman of the shuttle bus committee, said the service should also prove useful to students and staff members who park in the outlying lots near Olsen Field. Those areas lie on the south intra-campus route.

The service is paid for by the Student Services department.



Another intra-campus bus route opened Monday. The new northern route runs past the Veterinary Medicine Complex. The flags on the map above show the stops served by the two routes. Buses run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

South's governors make request for 40 percent solar energy funds

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A panel of energy experts of the Southern Governors Association recommends that the Sunbelt receive 40 percent of the federal funding for development of commercial solar energy.

The solar energy letter was one of several energy-related issues approved Sunday by representatives of the Regional Energy Advisory Board of 17 Southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The resolutions will be discussed and voted on by the governors this week.

The delegates also called for immediate deregulation of oil prices and a financial aid program to help the poor meet rising

energy bills.

The panel approved four other letters to be sent to Energy Secretary Charles Duncan dealing with price and supply controls on gasoline, clean air regulations, a proposed energy mobilization board and regional energy corporations.

Paul Essex, a special assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt of North Carolina, said the solar energy letter would require the government to allocate 40 percent of all the money spent to develop solar energy. President Carter announced this summer a national goal to obtain 20 percent of the nation's energy from solar and renewable energy sources by the turn of the century.

"It says the South has the potential to provide 40 percent of the goal," Essex said. "And, therefore, the South ought to get 40 percent of the funds."

Essex said the program to make energy assistance payments to persons with low and fixed incomes would be based on the person's ability to pay for needed energy as measured by per capita or family income.

"Per capita income in the South is lower than the rest of the country, but more than one-half of the women in the South work. So, it makes a tremendous difference in per family income," Essex said.

The panel opposed a proposed regional energy development act that would direct money into projects studying how to increase energy supplies in certain regions, especially the Northeast.

"The Regional Energy Development Act would funnel an enormous amount of money into the Northeast at the expense of the rest of us," said Essex. "That to me is enough for us in the South to be against it."

cept to the national energy security corporation proposed by President Carter.

Other letters drafted by the advisory board include support for the President's Energy Mobilization Board, opposition to the governors' gasoline pricing authority and a request that the Environmental Protection Agency refrain from placing additional requirements on state clean air plan approvals other than those specifically required in the federal Clean Air Act.

Organizations must get signature cards

Student organizations that wish to be recognized by the Student Activities Office must get signature cards into the Student Finance Center by Oct. 10. The office is located in Room 217 of the Memorial Student Center and is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The cards are available in the Student

Finance Center or the Student Activities Office, Room 221 of the MSC. They must be turned in for recognized student organizations to reserve rooms, pay bills, set up tables in the MSC and post fliers.

A procedures manual for recognized student organizations should also be picked up with the card.

Sam Hammons, a senior administrative assistant to Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh, said the regional energy act would allow government agencies to make "investment decisions with a lot of money."

Hammons said he would, however, prefer the regional energy corporation con-

'79 Aggieland distribution starts at 10 tomorrow

Distribution of the 832-page 1979 Aggieland is scheduled to begin about 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Books will be given out in the small building called Lounge C, between Walton and Schmacher dorms. All students who have paid for them need only show their student ID cards to pick up their books.

More than 16,000 copies of the nation's largest university yearbook have been sold this year.