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Hope raised for hostages

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — There is real hope for the first time that some of the 50 American hostages will be released shortly and the others after a New Year's showcase international investigation, diplomatic sources said Monday.

But the captors at the embassy say the trials will be held and the hostages will not be released before Christmas.

Statements by Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh and the ruling Islamic Revolutionary Council paved the way for a peaceful solution to the 44-day old crisis, although there were still major stumbling blocks, the sources said.

Ghotbzadeh — in a virtual package offer for a peaceful solution — Sunday said he hoped some of the hostages could be freed by Christmas and revolutionary spy trials might be avoided by establishment of an international commission which would condemn American imperialism rather than judge the captives themselves.

The foreign minister said some details regarding the hostages' Christmas had already been approved by both the government and the captors, adding the hostages will spend Christmas with their Iranian friends.

Some captives, those already cleared of any possible spying activities, might even be released, he said.

"I hope I'll be able to release at least some of them. I assure you I'll try my best," he told ABC.

The implication was that even those hostages would then be released following their testimony and not attend the more ominous spy trials demanded by the captors.

"That's his own opinion," retorted a militant spokesman who has overruled past Ghotbzadeh public announcements.

Ghotbzadeh added the question of extradition of the shah was also no longer an issue between Washington and Tehran since the former ruler had now left the United States.

The ruling revolutionary council issued a statement claiming the shah's departure as a "victory" for the Iranian revolution.

Militants in control of the U.S. Embassy demanded "spy trials," following the shah's departure Saturday from the United States for Panama, but Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the key to a solution, issued no definitive public statement, although said Ghotbzadeh he spoke with the ayatollah's full authority.

An international commission of "anti-imperialists and antizionists" will be convened Jan. 1 or Jan. 2, Ghotbzadeh said, and would meet for about two weeks. It might include one American panelist.

In Washington, President Carter said Sunday on his return from Camp David, "it would be gratifying" to see Ghotbzadeh follow up on his promise. "We hope they (all the hostages) will be coming home."

Carter, at the direction of Congress, designated Tuesday a day of national unity and urged Americans to fly flags as a show of support for the hostages.

The mood in Tehran and statements from various groups fluctuated wildly and the last word from the captors was that spy trials were "inevitable."

"The hostages will all be put on trial," a militant spokesman at the embassy said. "None of them is going to be released before Christmas."

However, conditions appeared to be improving in the occupied embassy, with the captors allowing the hostages to make more regular telephone calls home. Ghotbzadeh promised those held at Christmas would be allowed to attend religious services, receive gifts and cards and have Christmas trees.

The government also announced the expulsion of two Time Magazine correspondents for what it called distorted reporting, bringing to 23 the number of journalists ousted by the revolutionary regime. A government spokesman said the two would not be replaced.



Libby Appling studies diligently in the cold for her upcoming finals. The recent chilly weather has driven most students inside to study, but some

still brave the cold. Low temperatures are expected to remain here through Friday.

Battalion photo by Liz Porter

Shah begins 'vacation' stop in Panama

United Press International
CONTADOR ISLAND, Panama — The ousted shah of Iran, looking thin but alert, said on his first full day at his new tropical exile home he hopes his move from Texas will help to resolve the crisis of the American hostages in Tehran.

A spokesman for the shah said Monday the deposed monarch considered Panama's Contadora Island "strictly a vacation" stop and will decide after the Christmas holidays whether to move again.

Robert Armao, the shah's aide, asked whether the shah planned to stay in Panama, said, "We really haven't got that far yet. We just want to get through the Christmas and New Year's holidays and then we will think about it."

Armao said the shah had "lost 20-odd pounds between Mexico and New York."

"He is no longer taking long walks such as he used to take," Armao said. "He is now just resting, reading and receiving some visitors."

Armao said the shah had no plans to take part in any public activities until after the New Year.

There were reports the shah is interested in buying property in northern Panama, which has a cool climate in contrast to the hot, humid climate of Contadora Island.

Panamanian armed forces Sunday drew a tight circle of security around Contadora Island, 35 miles west of Panama City, to protect the shah, who arrived Saturday from San Antonio.

Dozens of armed guards with sub-machine guns took up duty on the tiny resort island where there are 76 homes, and police closely scrutinized anyone

wishing to fly to the island or to use the 150-room Casino Hotel, which will remain open.

Panama became the sixth country of exile for the shah since his departure from Iran in January, following Egypt, Morocco, the Bahamas, Mexico and the United States.

The shah, speaking at a 5-minute news conference Sunday, said, "We were so shocked by this question of hostages that I even volunteered to leave the New York hospital."

"We wanted to eventually help solve this problem, and this time too, in leaving the United States for this beautiful country, we hope that this will help solve this problem," the shah said.

But militant Moslem students in control of the embassy in Tehran said the 50 American hostages would face spy trials sooner

because Washington allowed the shah to leave.

The shah looked very thin and pale, but said he was feeling "much better, thank you." He smiled and moved about briskly as he and Empress Farah met about 20 reporters outside their new exile home where the weather was hot and humid.

The imperial family and seven aides — including a doctor — have settled into two relatively simple houses on the west end of Contadora, a one-half square-mile sliver of thick jungle ringed by white tropical beaches.

The homes, one with five bedrooms and one with four, are owned by Gabriel Lewis, a former Panamanian ambassador to Washington and the man who developed Contadora into a vacation resort.

Although the compound itself is not fenced, the Panamanian national guard has sent dozens of troops and scuba divers to protect the shah and regulate entry to the island.

A small national guard speedboat was docked at the sandy cove behind the shah's house and a U.S. armed forces helicopter and a Panamanian national guard airplane

were on standby at the island's tiny airport.

Earlier in the day, the shah met with President Aristides Royo and Gen. Omar Torrijos, the national guard strongman and former president.

Torrijos declined comment but Royo said Panama granted permanent political exile to the shah because he was "a person who has suffered from his health, a person who has suffered a series of problems."

Royo also denied that Iran could retaliate against Panama or that President Carter put heavy pressure on his country to accept the shah.

Aggie wins Rhodes scholarship; Oxford studies begin next fall

By MARGARET JOHNSON
Battalion Reporter

It is not very often when a senior gives up marching across the stage at G. Rollie to receive that much-coveted sheepskin. One senior did, however, and his absence proved very rewarding.

William Altman of New Ulm, a town of less than 1,000, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University in England.

Altman missed December graduation exercises here to attend interviews for scholarship applicants. The interviews were held in New Orleans.

Announcement of Altman's selection was made Sunday by William Barber, an economics professor at Wesleyan University, and American secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust Fund.

Candidates for the prestigious award are nominated on a state-wide basis. Two students are chosen to represent each state in a district contest. The United States is divided into eight districts, and each district receives four scholarships. Thirty-two Rhodes Scholarships are awarded annually in the United States.

Altman competed against 49 Texas applicants in Houston in the statewide contest. After being selected as one of the two students to represent the state in the district contest, Altman then traveled to New Orleans to compete against 11 other college seniors.

"There were two students from each

state in the Gulf Region," Altman said. "We met first on Friday night at the Tulane University president's house for dinner along with the eight (Rhodes Scholarship) Committee members. On Saturday, 30 minute interviews were held and then the two winners were announced on Sunday."

The Gulf Region consists of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas.

The electrical engineering senior was a President's Endowed Scholar, held National Merit and Valedictory Scholarships, and was a Distinguished Student every semester. Altman finished at Texas A&M in 3 1/2 years.

"Although I'm an electrical engineering major, I plan to study engineering, economics and management," Altman said. "Therefore, many of the questions during my interviews were technical. They asked my opinion of social issues involving President Carter's energy programs and nuclear power situations."

One thing Altman noted about the contest was the lack of a strong sense of competition.

"There was not a competitive atmosphere," Altman noted. "Everybody obviously wanted to win, but they were all extremely bright and friendly and easy to talk to."

Altman will sail with the other American candidates and also the Canadian candidates for Oxford in late September 1980.

He dreams of solar airplanes

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — The inventor of the Gossamer Albatross, the first human-powered airplane to cross the English Channel, has a new dream — a solar-powered plane.

"If one wanted to, one could put solar cells on the Gossamer Albatross and have a solar-powered manned aircraft," Paul MacCready said in a recent interview. "But we want a more practical thing that will fly in turbulence. It's all designed in my head."

MacCready described his invention of the fragile-looking Gossamer Albatross, powered by its pilot's legs pumping on bicycle pedals, as "basically fun."

"It is a Christmas present to the world," said MacCready, who built the super-strength plastic aircraft as a hobby. "It shows the great mass of garage builders out there how far you can go with imagination, inventiveness, efficiency and conservation."

MacCready, 54, says he is "bubbling over" with ideas for other unconventional aircraft, including a solar-powered plane.

Once built, a solar craft would be something of a white elephant in the United States. "It's not a practical transport," MacCready said.

However, with its "simple technology and minimal flight skills," the craft could find a home in developing countries.

"It could be used in a place where the roads weren't good and the slow speed didn't matter," MacCready said. "If the engine stopped, the pilot wouldn't get hurt even if he glided down into a tree."

MacCready says his construction of a solar-powered manned aircraft will have to wait a while.

First he says he will build a duplicate

Gossamer Albatross in January for study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which is planning an unmanned airborne platform powered by solar cells.

The NASA platform, which MacCready calls "the poor man's satellite," would float

by day at 110,000 feet, above the weather. At night, he said, it would glide slowly downward, to about 45,000 feet, before the rising sun again charges its electric motor with enough power to climb.

"It could stay up forever," he said.

Students should inform light company of move

By RICHARD OLIVER

Battalion Staff
Students changing addresses in the spring semester had better notify the electric company, or it might mean a few cold nights in the dark.

"There are more and more apartment units being added," said Diane Jones, customer relations manager for the College Station utilities division. "Some apartments are going to single metering for each unit. We haven't had individual accounts in some places until now, only a few block charges."

Block charges are charges billed to an apartment as a whole, instead of the individual units. In a single metering system, tenants are responsible for their own electrical service.

Jones said if an apartment tenant terminates services with the electric company, then the meter will either be turned off, or the name transferred to the apartment owners or managers.

In each case, she said, the new tenant must either come in person to

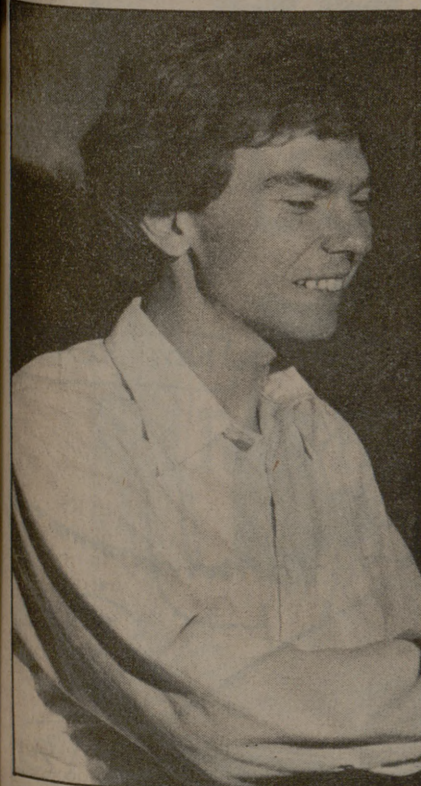
the utilities office in the city hall, or send a letter listing the exact address of the apartment, a driver's license or Texas A&M University student ID number, and the exact date the student wants the electricity turned on.

Also, a deposit of \$60 must be sent by check or money order, and \$70 if electricity and water are needed. The check must be made payable to the City of College Station.

All the information can be mailed to the City of College Station, Drawer 9960, College Station, Tex. 77840.

Jones stressed although the demand for electricity turn-on will not be as great as the fall, any requests should be sent in early.

"At the beginning of the semester, we get swamped," she said. "They should send their application as soon as possible. If they come by in person, at least three or four days early. If it's by mail, it should be sent off even sooner. It all depends on how many orders we have."



William Altman