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Mexico may have solution to crisis

United Press International
UNITED NATIONS — Mexico may introduce a Security Council resolution linking freedom for American hostages in Tehran to an international inquiry on the alleged crimes of the ousted shah of Iran, diplomatic sources said.

The sources Wednesday said Mexico, which became a Security Council member in January, was considering a plan to bring the Iran crisis to the council again. A Soviet veto Sunday killed a U.S.-sponsored resolution calling for economic sanctions against Iran until the 50 hostages held in the U.S. Embassy are released.

In another response to the crisis, Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim held "delicate" discussions on Iran over the past 24 hours, his aides said.

U.N. officials could not confirm the report of a possible new council session on Iran that would discuss a resolution to set up an international commission to investigate Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi's alleged crimes.

The Mexican delegation was unavailable for comment.

Bangladesh and Jamaica, both non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council, were considered possible co-sponsors of the resolution.

The resolution would call for the commission to begin its investigation at the same time the American hostages are released, the sources said.

An American spokeswoman at the United Nations declined to be confirmed any specific moves to resume the Iran debate.

"A variety of ideas, a variety of countries — Mexico has been mentioned as one — have been mentioned, but let me say this, I haven't heard anything that we would consider movement," Jill Schuker told reporters.

Waldheim postponed a news conference because of his private Iran talks and spokesman Rudolf Stajduhar shrugged off Tehran denials that Waldheim was acceptable as an intermediary in the Iranian crisis.

The secretary-general scheduled the conference to brief reporters prior to leaving Friday for India to attend a United Nations Industrial Development conference in New Delhi.

Waldheim talked by telephone with Iran's U.N. Ambassador Mansour Farhang, Ambassador Jacques Leprette of France, the president of the Security Council, and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance during the past 24 hours, the spokesman said. But he declined to divulge the nature of the conversations.

Heck, we've got restaurants

United Press International
MOSCOW, Ohio — Mayor Eugene Holland says the Olympics should be in Moscow.

"Moscow, Ohio, that is," he points out. "That way you can move the Olympics out of Russia, but keep it in Moscow."

"We're only a village of 500," the mayor admits, "but heck, we've got three or four restaurants where people could eat."

"We've got kind of a motel. It's made out of some trailers. People could stay there. There's a couple more motels 8 miles down the road."

"We're right next to the Ohio River, too. We've held some pretty big boat races

there. We could hold the swimming events in the river. Then we have the Moscow Elementary School gym. There's also hills around us for the running events."

The Moscow, Ohio, movement already has the support of a U.S. senator.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, accepted a "Move it to Moscow, Ohio" T-shirt from Holland on Wednesday.

"This T-shirt will be displayed in the entrance of my office in Washington until we get the Olympics moved to Moscow, Ohio," said Metzenbaum. "You've got my pledge of support. We're coming to Moscow, Ohio."



Staff photo by Lynn Blanco

Mother nature strikes

Lightning struck the roof of the YMCA Building Wednesday at about 4:10 p.m. According to John Jeane, a freshman petroleum engineering major, about 20 bricks were blown from the northwest corner of the building, some hitting Puryear Hall across the street. No one was hurt.

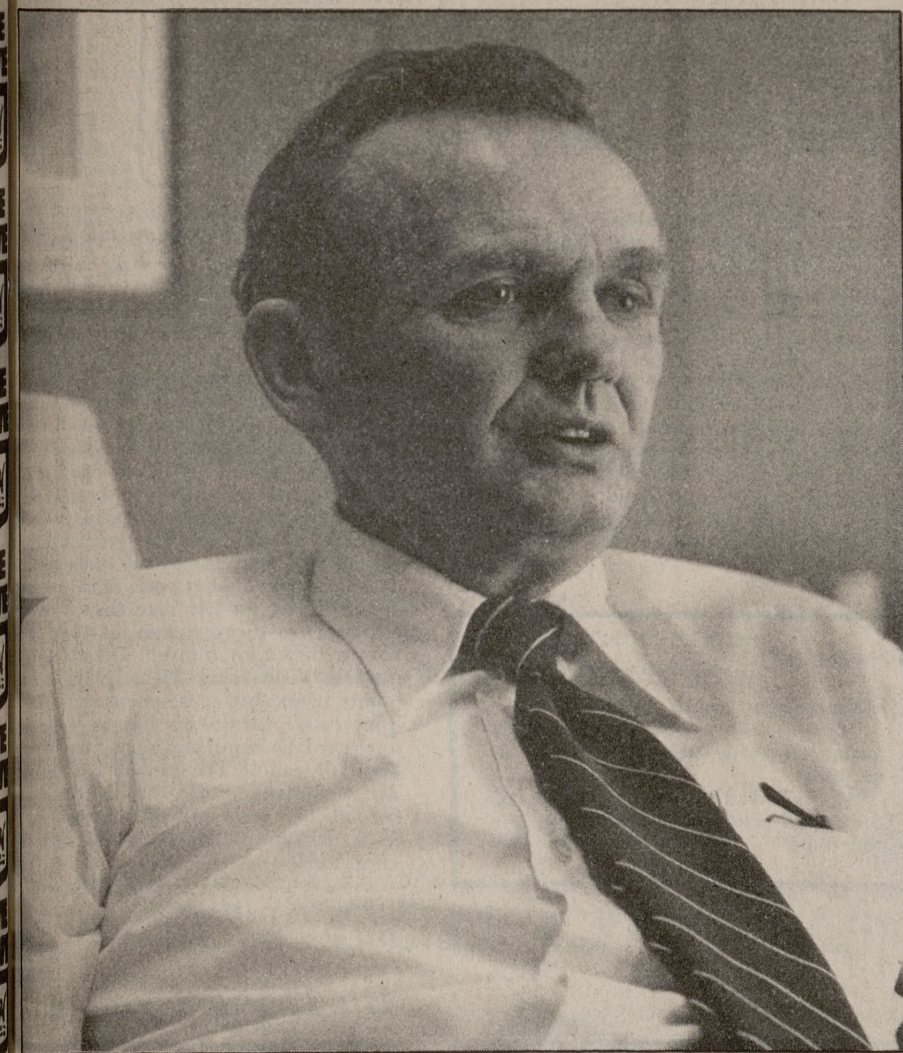


Photo by Brian Blalock

Dr. Arthur Tollefson, director of counseling and testing for Texas A&M University, says a report criticizing standardized admissions tests is full of "half-truths."

The almanac

By United Press International
Today is Thursday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 1980 with 349 to follow.

The moon has reached its new phase. The morning stars are Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening star is Venus. Those born on this date are under the sign of Capricorn.

American statesman, scientist and author Benjamin Franklin was born Jan. 17, 1727.

On this day in history:
In 1806, the first baby was born in the White House. He was the son of Thomas and Martha Randolph and grandson of President Thomas Jefferson.

In 1917, the United States bought 50 of the Virgin Islands in the West Indies from Denmark for \$25 million, and they remain a U.S. territory. The other 50 Virgin Islands belong to, or are associated with, Britain.

In 1950, nine bandits staged a \$1.5 million robbery of a Brink's armored car in Boston.

In 1977, Theodore Sorensen asked President Carter to withdraw his nomination for CIA director because of mounting opposition.

A thought for the day: Benjamin Franklin said, "Doth thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."

Nader's SAT report 'full of half-truths'

By ANDY WILLIAMS
General Assignments Reporter

The conclusions of a study that criticizes standardized admissions tests are too drastic and amount to "throwing out the baby with the bath," Texas A&M University's director of counseling and testing said Wednesday.

Dr. Arthur Tollefson said a Ralph Nader-sponsored report which was released Monday is full of "half-truths." Tollefson is Texas A&M's institutional representative for the College Board, the agency which established the Educational Testing Service, the target of the report.

The study said exams like the Scholastic Aptitude Test are little better than random chance at predicting success. It also said the tests are biased against minorities.

Nader himself recommended basing admissions on previous school records and achievements.

Tollefson said the report criticized the tests themselves for faults that lay in interpretation and use them.

Singer busted on drug charge

United Press International

Paul McCartney, being held for allegedly trying to smuggle marijuana into Japan, was interrogated by police for six hours today while crowds of rock fans outside wept and shouted "Paul! Paul!"

Narcotics officials said the 37-year-old rock star was relaxed and cooperative during the questioning, but that he insisted that he brought the drug into Japan for his own use and that it is less harmful than alcohol.

The former Beatle was arrested Wednesday at Tokyo's international airport at Narita on charges of trying to smuggle more than 200 grams — about 8 ounces — of marijuana. He was accompanied by his wife, Linda, and their four children.

Mrs. McCartney and other members of the Wings also were questioned by narcotics officials but were not charged. Many of his fans wept as they saw McCartney, handcuffed but smiling, being led to the Narcotics Bureau from the police detention center, and they held a vigil for him outside while he was being questioned for more than six hours.

President believes world condemnation surprised Russians

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter believes the Soviets were "chastened and surprised" by world condemnation of their Afghan invasion and he has resolved to hold them responsible for their military intervention.

Carter was meeting today with Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the U.S. determination to establish a stronger military presence in the Persian Gulf and Middle East as a result of the Soviet move. Egypt has offered the United States the use of its bases.

In an interview with visiting editors that was released Wednesday, Carter said, "My own belief is, based on evidence, that the Soviets have been somewhat chastened and surprised by the strong reaction in the other nations in the world, as exemplified by the United Nations' vote, and also that other countries have rallied along with us to lead action that would restrain the Soviets repeating this in the future."

Carter said he believes the Soviets felt they could take this action with minimal adverse reaction.

"I don't know what the future holds," he said, "but I am resolved not to back off on our commitment to hold the Soviets responsible for what they have done."

Meantime, press secretary Jody Powell

rejected criticism from some quarters, including Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., that economic sanctions against Iran for holding American hostages were "counterproductive."

He said Carter had "thought carefully about it and concluded" it was the correct way to proceed to force Iran to pay a higher price for its action.

Responding to a question, he said, "The process of disintegration of Iran is not primarily due to United States' action but due to the preoccupation of the Iranian authorities with the incarceration of 50 American hostages."

He said the Iranian authorities need to bring the crisis to an end by releasing the hostages so that "they can devote their attention to the real threats."

Powell said the situation with the hostages remains the same with the United States still unable to establish where they all are and in what condition.

Powell said Carter has not contacted Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev directly since their hot-line messages in late December.

But he said the United States is certain the Soviets are aware of Carter's views and commitments to protect America's vital interests in areas bordering Afghanistan.

Soviets order U.S. reporters to leave Afghanistan immediately

United Press International

WASHINGTON — All American reporters were ordered out of Afghanistan Thursday by the Soviet-backed government, the State Department said Thursday.

Spokesman Mark Sawoski said journalists, including cameramen, were told to be on the first available plane out of the capital city of Kabul.

He said additional details of the order, relayed to Washington by the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, would be available later in the day.

"It's a flagrant violation of basic norms of

international behavior. We find it reprehensible," he said.

It was not immediately clear, he said, whether the order was being given to reporters individually or to the embassy for relay to the journalists.

The order, he said, appeared to have come from Afghanistan's office of information.

Press reports indicated there were 30 to 50 American reporters and cameramen in Afghanistan.

It was the second time in the week American news organizations were ordered out of a foreign trouble spot. Correspondents were told Tuesday to leave Iran.

Whirlybird

Its day may be here

United Press International
NEW YORK — The country's two big makers of large helicopters are hoping the whirlybirds at last will break into the scheduled airline business in the 1980s.

Presently, large helicopters, those that can carry a dozen to 40 passengers, find their biggest non-military use in ferrying men and equipment to offshore oil rigs and remote mining areas.

They have been used to some extent in New York and a few other cities around the world to ferry passengers between airports to make air flight connections. But this business did not prove consistently profitable and one or two accidents gave it a bad image.

Both Sikorsky division of United Technologies Corp. and Boeing's Vertol division said the big helicopters now are fast enough and have sufficient passenger carrying capacity to compete with the smaller fixed-wing airlines in the commuter trade — flights of 200 miles or so between congested points.

"Congested points" is the key phrase. The helicopter's one big advantage over the fixed-wing plane is that it can take off and land vertically from close in to the business district of a city.

One big problem of the commuter airline is that customers lose a big part of the time they have saved by flying while sitting in crawling buses or taxicabs between downtown and the airport at each end of the flight.

"Our biggest Chinook helicopter, the 44-passenger job, can land or take off in a pinch at an area only 75 feet in diameter," a Vertol executive told UPI. They could make landings on the rooftops of many buildings or any vacant lot at least theoretically feasible. Of course, there are many sound reasons for not doing anything as hair raising as that in regular airline service.

But President Gerald Tobias of Sikorsky said a lot of only three acres right in the heart of a congested area could safely handle commuter helicopter flights with up to four gates and adequate ground and terminal facilities, thus picking up and discharging passengers within easy bus and taxi or even walking distances of their offices.

Much as they hope to break into the commuter airlines neither of the makes of big helicopters is counting on it for their bread and butter.

Tobias said other, more urgent uses for helicopters will produce a minimum demand for 8,000 new whirlybirds over the coming decade for a wide variety of commercial, scientific and industrial tasks.

He said it is imperative that many communities recognize this and provide suitable heliports for helicopters to land and take off. It simply is not a good, safe idea to have the rotor-blade craft continue to land at airports designed for huge, high-speed, fixed-wing airplanes.

Sikorsky recently set some new point-to-point speed records with the 12-passenger Spirit helicopter between New York and Boston and Washington. Made under varying conditions, the record between Washington and New York was 205.17 miles an hour and the mark between New York and Boston was 188.23 miles an hour. These speeds are a little slower than those of a fixed-wing commuter plane but adequate for flights of 200 or even 350 miles considering the saving that could be made in ground travel at both ends of the trip.

Unfortunately, neither Washington nor Boston has a heliport, Tobias noted, so there was no time saving as compared with a fixed-wing plane on the speed tests.