

world

# Japan supports U.S. in crisis

**United Press International**  
TOKYO — Japan agreed in principle Thursday to join the United States in imposing economic sanctions against Iran but sought American assurance of oil supplies to counter the Iranian threat to retaliate by cutting off shipments.

Japan also plans to go ahead with a joint Japanese-Iranian petrochemical project in which Japan would invest \$83.3 million despite the sanctions which are aimed at forcing

the release of 50 American hostages in Tehran, government officials said.

The officials said the agreement came at a 1-hour, 15-minute meeting between Philip Habib, a senior adviser to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and Acting Foreign Minister Masayoshi Itoh in which Habib called on Japan to join the United States in the sanctions against Iran.

Habib said the U.S. measures include a ban on all exports, except food and medicines, and their

transportation to Iran and refusal to extend new loans, they said.

Itoh agreed in principle to join the United States but sought U.S. assurance that Washington would find alternative sources of oil supply for Japan, said the officials.

Japanese firms have contracted to import 530,000 barrels of Iranian oil daily or a little over 10 percent of Japan's total oil needs this year.

Japan criticized Iran last month for holding the hostages in violation of international law and demanded their immediate release.

Japan may ask for U.S. cooperation in maintaining oil supplies from major international distributors, which have notified Japanese refiners of a drastic cut in their supplies this year, government sources said.

Specific measures to be taken by Japan would be made public after

Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira and Foreign Minister Saburo Okita return from their current trip to Australia and New Zealand early next week.

Since Japanese companies came under fire from the United States for buying high priced oil on spot markets, the government decided to maintain oil imports at the level before the outbreak of the hostage incident Nov. 3, and suspended insuring Japanese exports to Iran.

The United States also wants Japan and West European allies to coordinate action against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, officials said.

Japan pledged to increase aid to Pakistan this year when U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown stopped over en route from a trip to China last weekend.



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# Chinese immigrants tell of survival

**United Press International**  
HONG KONG — They walk, swim, drift on rafts of plastic pillows with ping pong paddles as oars. They risk drowning, sharks and the bullets of Chinese soldiers.

In 1979 more than 75,000 illegal immigrants from China's southern Guangdong Province were caught trying to sneak into the British colony of Hong Kong and were sent back to the mainland.

But an even greater number, at least 100,000 according to government estimates, managed to slip past the colony's defenses into what is one of the most densely populated and expensive cities of Asia.

Successful immigrants, located by a Western reporter, described in interviews why they risked death to leave their native land despite its

new modernization program and political liberalizations of the post-Mao era. The names used are fictitious.

"I wanted to help my family," 20-year-old Heng Yulin, a sturdy farm boy from a village 25 miles from the colony, said through an interpreter.

"In China, only officials' children get good jobs. I wanted to go to a university but I failed the exams, so when I graduated from middle school a year ago I was sent back to the farm."

Last June, Heng and two of his friends left their village. They walked for six nights, hiding by day, and swam for three hours down the mouth of the Pearl River, before clambering out of the water at Yuen Long village on the British side of

the border. "I didn't tell my parents I was leaving because they would have stopped me," Heng said. "Parents are now afraid to let their children leave because it's so dangerous."

"I sent my family a telegram to tell them I had made it safely. Later I learned they were fined 1,000 yuan (\$665) because I had left. They had to borrow the money from neighbors. If they hadn't paid, officials would have confiscated their bicycle."

Heng works every day in a factory making architectural models, trying to earn enough to pay off his new

debts so he can begin sending money to his parents and their other three children. He earns \$100, plus room, board and two days off per month.

"Communism is very idealistic, but you have no personal freedom," Heng said. "Capitalism is a world where men eat men and only the strongest survive. But I prefer capitalism because I have more opportunities."

"It is hard to compare China and Hong Kong, but in my village of 2,000 I knew everybody. Here I don't even know the other people

who live in my building."

Slender, shy Chou Min-Chai came to Hong Kong to join six other members of his family. One by one, legally and illegally, they had fled Canton over the past two decades.

Chou, also 20, said, "After finished middle school in Canton when I was 17, I was sent to the countryside."

A year and a half later Chou was allowed to join his father on the Portuguese island colony of Macao, later slipped illegally into neighboring Hong Kong with the help of a snakehead.

# Arab bomb-maker dies as 2 blasts rock tourist hotel in London; no guests killed

**United Press International**  
LONDON — Two bombs rocked a tourist hotel near London's famed Oxford Street Thursday, sending hundreds of panicked guests into the streets and killing an Arab who police believed was making explosives in his room.

The first explosion occurred at 7:30 a.m., when most of the guests

of the popular Mount Royal Hotel were still in bed. A hotel guest suffered cuts and bruises and six hotel rooms also were severely damaged.

The second blast came just minutes before noon and no injuries were immediately reported, but hundreds of panicked hotel guests and shoppers at nearby stores fled into the street.

Police said the second bomber died as he was being taken to the first blast.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the dead man was about 35 and "Arab origin" and apparently had been "handling" explosives when the bomb went off in his room. His identity was not immediately known. The spokesman said the name on the hotel register "is not necessarily who he is" and the name was not released.

Although no group immediately claimed any link with the bombing, the man's Arab background made it likely the Irish Republican Army was involved.

Last month, in London, a recent bombing, a small explosive was thrown at a window of the Turkish Airlines office, also near Oxford Street. An American group claimed responsibility for that bombing.

The moderately priced Mount Royal Hotel, a favorite of American tourists, has more than 700 rooms, most in the \$44 to \$55-a-night range.

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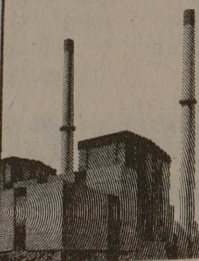
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**Giant snowball kills boy-builder**

**United Press International**  
LONDON — A giant snowball careened down a hill and crushed the death of a 7-year-old boy who had helped fashion the prize, then tried to stop it from rolling away.

Police said Anthony Bowers, 7, Tuesday night when the snowball, 10 feet in diameter and weighing several hundred pounds, buried him near his home in Telford.

Police said Bowers was building a snowman on a hillside with two companions, when the huge ball suddenly began rolling away. The boy chased after the snowball and died beneath its weight after he jumped in front of it.

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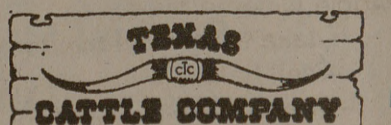
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