

# Khomeini hands powers to Bani-Sadr

United Press International  
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini today handed over his powers as supreme commander of Iran's military to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Iranian news reports said.

The announcement of the change came in a terse report by the official Pars news agency and in a Tehran Radio broadcast monitored in London.

In his message to the president,

Khomeini, 79, said, "At this sensitive stage when the need for centralization is greater than at any other time," Bani-Sadr was appointed to "represent" him as the supreme commander, as defined by Iran's new constitution, Tehran Radio said.

"It is hoped that with your efficiency, the affairs of the country and the armed forces will continue running according to Islamic principles," the message added.

Khomeini's order, coupled with an ear-

lier decision by the ruling Revolutionary Council to give Bani-Sadr, 47, full executive powers, broadened the president's power base considerably.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan reported during the weekend Khomeini granted Bani-Sadr the power to remove the militants holding the hostages for 108 days and hand over the Americans to government troops, another possible indication Khomeini intended to give the president

the authority to make decisions that had been made by the ayatollah since he took power last February.

Khomeini has been hospitalized in Tehran with a heart condition since Jan. 24. In Vienna, U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim told the Austrian newspaper Die Presse today the hostages could be released within two weeks.

The release would be achieved through the efforts of the committee set up by Wal-

dheim to examine Iran's charges of the crimes during the shah's regime, the secretary-general said.

He stressed the five men appointed to the commission had passed muster with officials in Washington as well as Bani-Sadr and Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh.

Thus, formal acceptance by Iran was all that stood in the way of the commission to begin its probe.

Western news reports said informed

sources said Bani Sadr was expected to give his written approval today, but the head of the president's secretariat, identified only as Dr. Taghavi, told a Western reporter: "Iran has not yet officially approved."

Iran verbally informed U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim Monday it accepts the five international jurists he has chosen for the panel but Waldheim was awaiting a formal, written communication from Tehran before announcing the commission.

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Chat with Staats

Dwayne Staats(l.), the Texas A&M Basketball Radio Network's chief announcer, interviews Coach Shelby Metcalf after the Aggies beat the University of Texas last weekend. Tonight's game against Texas Christian University will be the last home game of the season for the Aggies. Coverage of the game will be carried live over the radio network, and will

also be televised, beginning at 8 p.m. The game is especially important since the SMU Mustangs defeated the Arkansas Razorbacks 62-58 Monday night to move the Texas Aggies into sole possession of first place in the Southwest Conference. For details, see page 8.

Staff photo by Brian Blalock

## Groups encourage minority politics

By LAURA CORTEZ  
City Staff

Efforts are being made in Brazos County to encourage minorities to become more politically active.

The Mexican-American Democrats, a statewide organization which is part of the Democratic Party, and the Black Voters League Council, a local group, are both playing a major role in the effort.

Daniel Hernandez, chairman of Mexican-American Democrats, said the major goal of the organization is to educate the Hispanic community about the political process.

He said the group, which is made up of about 55 members, stresses voter registration and tries to make people aware of the candidates and the issues.

"The organization also tries to sensitize the candidates to the concerns of the Hispanic community and the community in general," Hernandez said.

He said that although most of the statewide and local issues concern the entire community, there are some issues that affect the Hispanics, especially those in the low income bracket, to a greater extent.

"It is important that the Hispanics are unified and act as one cohesive group," he said.

The organization will endorse various Democratic candidates who will run for state and county offices May 3, but it has not yet been decided which ones.

The Mexican-American Democrats will offer an opportunity for members of the community to meet the candidates and "get a feel for what they are all about" at a meet-

ing Feb. 28, Hernandez said.

All of the Democratic candidates from this area will be invited, and questions concerning the issues will be addressed to them by a panel made up of members of the organization.

Hernandez said that the Hispanics were "late in coming into the political game," but Mexican-American Democrats is working at making up for lost time.

Another group concerned about the voice of the minorities in the local political system is the Black Voters League Council, headed by Olemuel Davis.

Like Mexican-American Democrats, the organization stresses voter registration, knowledge of the candidates and participation in political affairs.

"We do not tell the people who to vote for, but if they are unaware of who is running for office, we provide information about the candidates," Davis said.

The group sponsors such activities as block meetings, primarily held in black neighborhoods, to provide residents with answers to questions about the political process, candidates or issues, he said.

Although the organization does not endorse candidates, Davis said the group will express its views about certain candidates if a person asks.

He said the group, made up of about 100 members, does not limit its services to the black community, and anyone can become a member.

"We consider ourselves public servants and will work in whichever areas of the community need our help," Davis said.

## Refugees may move to Guyana

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A group of U.S. relief agencies is working on a plan to resettle Indo-Chinese refugees at the site of the 1978 Jonestown massacre in the Guyana jungle.

A State Department official said Monday night the U.S. government was not involved but confirmed private agencies had the proposal under consideration.

Andrea Braithwaite, third secretary of the Guyanese Embassy, said there was "some discussion" of the plan between her government and relief agencies "but I do not know they will be put into Jonestown or that the deal will go through."

Spokesmen for two of the relief agencies behind the proposal said no final decision had been made.

"The plan is," said a spokesman for the World Relief Corp. of Wheaton, Ill., "we would actually have to go down there and build a community. All the Guyana government would give is citizenship and a 25-year lease."

He said the agencies would spend from \$6 million to \$10 million.

"Right now, one of the most critical needs for the solution to the refugee problem is a permanent settlement," said Franklin Graham, president of World Medical Missions and Samaritan's Purse of Boone, N.C. "I checked into Guyana as a permanent site and it looks good."

Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, said Jonestown had been made available for the project, which he said would start out on a "pilot" basis.

The Jonestown settlement could now accommodate 1,500 refugees but would require a lot of work to house a "developing community," he said.

The Chicago Tribune, which first reported the project, said plans called for eventually resettling 100,000 Indo-Chinese. Graham said under present plans organizers wanted to see how the pilot project fared before deciding on taking more refugees.

Graham said representatives of the Hmong, a Laotian ethnic group, would inspect the site "probably sometime within the next 30 days" and then a final decision would be made.

More than 900 American followers of Peoples' Temple cult leader Jim Jones died in the mass suicide-murder Nov. 18, 1978, in the Jonestown settlement.

The World Relief spokesman said he had been told the Guyanese government asked the Thai government for permission to take the refugees almost two months ago but has

received no answer.

He said the proposal originated with staff members of his agency.

"It occurred to some of the young people on our staff," he said, "that Jonestown was a black experience in the history of mankind and we would like to turn that around and turn it into a real positive experience."

## Pancake race begins today

United Press International

OLNEY, England — Women of Olney warmed their skillets today for the 31st running of the Great Trans-Atlantic Pancake Race, determined to retain their trophy against a strong challenge from their Liberal, Kan. foes.

The all-woman contest, which has become an international event attracting hundreds of spectators in both towns, is run first in Olney and later in the day in Liberal. The two towns have competed for 30 years.

Going into today's race, Liberal had an 18-12 edge on Olney.

The Great Trans-Atlantic Pancake Race began as the Olney Pancake race on Shrove Tuesday, 535 years ago.

"Tradition declares the race was first run in the year 1445 A.D., pancakes at the time being a popular dish and receiving royal favor," reads a booklet entitled "The Worthies and Booklets of Olney Parish Church."

Shrove Tuesday, the last day before Lent, traditionally was given over to "many pranks ... forming part of a last-fling celebrations before the long Lenten fast."

"How the race originated nobody knows. Perhaps a harassed housewife, hearing the shriving bell, dashed off to the church still clutching her frying pan," the booklet said.

War interrupted the festivities until they were revived in 1949 by Rev. Ronald Collins, vicar of Olney.

In 1950, Liberal's Junior Chamber of Commerce, in search of a special project for the year, issued a challenge to Olney and the Great Trans-Atlantic Pancake Race was born.

The towns compete for a traveling trophy, an engraved skillet that spends the year with the winner.

## Drill team Freshman cadets stand out at Mardi Gras

By SUSAN HOPKINS  
Campus Reporter

The Texas A&M University Fish Drill Team did not appear to be the life of the party.

Amidst the painted faces, colorful costumes, exotic music and drunk people at Mardi Gras in New Orleans last weekend, FDT members stood out in their fresh green uniforms, cleanly-shaven heads, shiny boots and white gloves.

The 40-member drill team wasn't there for the fun and excitement most college students seek when they go to Mardi Gras. But they did add color to the eighth annual Tulane University Invitational Drill Meet, where they won first place overall.

The categories for the competition, against six other college and university drill teams, were platoon inspection-basic, squad basic and platoon exhibition.

Mike Holmes, FDT commander, said the team won first place with 703 out of

1,000 points in the inspection basic category, in which four drill instructors inspected members on uniform and personal neatness. They also asked them questions about themselves and the weapons they carried.

"The category is to rate us on how neat and together we look as a group but the men who inspect us are mainly there to intimidate us, and see how we react," he said.

He said another part of the inspection-basic category involved marching to commands and doing basic moves with weapons.

The drill team won second place in the squad basic competition, in which nine members drill with their Springfield rifles to the commands of team member Joe Cronin.

Holmes said platoon exhibition was the category where the drill team had a chance to show their "fancy drill."

Holmes said the 1,344 of 1,575 possible

points the team earned in the third category was unusually good considering the size of the squad. He said they were the largest group at the competition.

Scot Sturgeon, a member of the team, won third place in individual competition for his ability to throw and spin his weapon, Holmes said.

After the competition, on Friday, Holmes said, the drill team members went to Jackson Square for yell practice, then were free to tour Bourbon Street.

"It was the wildest thing I've ever seen," Holmes said. "One guy had on Christmas tree lights, and another guy had his shoes painted silver."

Holmes said the drill team saw more of the same activity when they marched in a nine-mile parade Saturday night.

He said they also did a drill exhibition aboard the H.M.S. Hermes, of the Royal Navy.

Holmes said the drill team and its advis-

ers stayed on the ship while in New Orleans, and had a chance to see how the enlisted men live — in beds 2½ feet wide, and stacked three high.

But Holmes said the sleeping conditions were not important because "whenever you walk off the field champions, holding five trophies, it's all worth it."

The FDT started in 1947 when hazing of freshmen on campus was so bad that the freshmen were moved to barracks at Bryan Air Force Base to escape the constant harassment from upperclassmen. Holmes said the freshmen started the drill team because they had nothing else to do when together.

The FDT won the national championship for five consecutive years in the early 1970s, causing the national meet to be discontinued. Texas A&M FDTs have won five of the last seven state titles.

Although about 100 freshmen started out on the team in the fall, the team is now composed of 40 members.

## Pollution threatens water supply

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Pollution and misuse of water resources threaten the quality and quantity of the U.S. water supply, a government report said today.

The 10th annual report from the President's Council on Environmental Quality listed examples of water problems ranging from dwindling supplies in the West to "acid rain" in the Northeast. Also noted were toxic chemical contamination of the Great Lakes and the impact of pollution on coastal fisheries and the Chesapeake Bay.

The council reported an overall improvement in urban air quality, but warned of serious soil erosion problems and loss of agricultural land to urban sprawl.

"The nation's water and the resources

associated with it are in trouble," said council Chairman Gus Speth.

"We cannot expect an endless supply of cheap, clean water at the twist of a faucet," Speth said. He called for prompt action on administration projects aimed at water conservation and resource development, as well as ways to protect ground and surface water from hazardous wastes.

While industry has made progress in reducing conventional waste dumped into lakes and streams, other sources of pollution — urban sewer overflows, overworked sewage treatment plants, toxic industrial wastes — are proving more difficult to control, the report said.

The council estimated the United States spent \$26.9 billion in 1978 as a result of

federal pollution control and environmental quality programs. Combined public and private spending required by federal rules amounted to an average of \$120 per person.

The report said urban air quality improved overall from 1974 to 1977, the last year for which complete data is available, primarily because of automobile emission controls.

During the four years, the number of "unhealthful days" in the 25 largest metropolitan areas — measured by the "pollutant standard index" — declined by 15 percent and the number of "very unhealthful days" was down by 32 percent.

But the study said air quality in the two largest cities, New York and Los Angeles, was "unhealthful" two out of every three

days in 1977.

Nine cities — Cleveland; Denver; Louisville; Riverside and Anaheim, Calif.; Chicago; Philadelphia; St. Louis, and Washington, D.C. — averaged more than 100 "unhealthful days" a year from 1975 to 1977, the report said.

On land resources, the report noted the loss of 3 million acres of agricultural land a year to urban sprawl and other development.

Soil erosion, estimated at more than 4 billion tons a year nationwide, is reducing productivity of farmland in Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Indiana, the report said. Agricultural runoff from eroded land is a major contributor to water pollution, it added.