

## English Channel tunnel project approval expected

United Press International LONDON — A tunnel beneath the English Channel, a dream first envisioned by Napoleon 178 years ago, has captured Britain's attention again thanks to the very financial considerations that scuttled it in the past.

British Transportation Minister Robert Fowler went before the House of Commons Wednesday to answer questions about the government's attitude toward the latest "Chunnel" proposal — a single-rail, \$1.54 billion project proposed by British Rail.

If London's press was anything to go by, Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government was expected to give a cautious and tentative nod to the 22-mile Chunnel, but insist taxpayers not foot the bill.

Lobbying and cajoling his way through two years of red tape, Parker argued that a single-rail link between England and France would yield a real return on investment of between 12 and 16 percent — profits that no venture capitalist is likely to ignore.

## world

# World court

## Soviet judge says U.S. actions aggravate crisis

United Press International THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A Soviet judge on the World Court Wednesday asked whether U.S. freezing of Iranian assets was in keeping with the court's order that America not aggravate the U.S. hostage situation in Tehran.

Judge Platon D. Morozov, one of the 15 judges on the panel hearing the U.S. application for release of the hostages, asked State Department legal adviser Roberts B. Owen:

"Is it possible to regard such acts, as well as threats to use other unilateral measures of coercion, and threats to use force against the Islamic Republic of Iran, as in conformity with the United Nations Charter, and with the court's order of 15 December 1979, and which required the United States government not to take any action and should ensure

that no action is taken which may aggravate the tension between the two countries or render the existing dispute more difficult of solution?"

Morozov asked seven questions, which will be answered by the United States Thursday in the final session of the public hearings on the case.

Owen said in his final argument that the United States was aware that admitting the shah for medical treatment could lead to trouble at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In response to a question Tuesday by Syrian Judge Salah El Dine Tarazi, Owen said: "The answer is that such (responsible) officials were aware that the admission of the Shah might result in some sort of violence against the embassy, and it was precisely for this reason that the United States requested assurances from the

Iranian government that adequate protection for the embassy would be provided following the arrival of the Shah in the United States."

"As I have just indicated, clear and firm assurances were provided on three occasions during the last days of October and on the 1st of November — at which point the shah had been in the United States for more than a week — the government of Iran honored its assurances in full," Owen said.

Owen appeared Tuesday in the U.S. attempt to "conclusively establish" Iran's violations of international law in the holding of the 50 hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and to require it to make reparations.

In other action before the court, Owen charged the militants with threatening at least one hostage with

a gun. Owen said a Moslem interrogator pointed a revolver at an American woman hostage in Tehran, told her one chamber was loaded then pulled the trigger repeatedly.

Owen said hostages were often threatened at gunpoint, tied to upright chairs for up to 16 hours, made to sleep on bare concrete floors and kept blindfolded as punishment in the first weeks of the crisis, now in its 138th day.

"Over and above the other severe aspects of their confinement," Owen said, "it is apparent that some or all of these individuals have been subjected to grueling interrogation under conditions which by definition constitute coercion."

He explained that much of this knowledge was based on the reports

of hostages released after two weeks of the siege.

"Several hostages were threatened with guns or weapons," Owen said. "One student who was threatened with a woman hostage showed a revolver to let her know that several chambers were loaded then proceeded to intimidate her by pointing the gun at her and then pulling the trigger."

"Happily, he stopped the experience must have been terrifying," Owen said.

In Tehran, the Interior Ministry ruled that the first round of Iran's parliamentary election, bolstering chances of victory by the hard-line Ministry that opposes any compromise freeing the American hostages, the ousted shah is returning

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## Afghan has U.S. captives

United Press International The Soviet-installed Afghan government said Wednesday it captured "Chinese agents" in the eastern province of Kabul confirmed for the first time that has an American in custody.

In an interview with the Trust of India news agency, Information Minister Maulana said the American, only as Robert Lee, and Pakistani agents were captured in riots that accompanied a strike in February.

"Robert Lee is a spy," he asserted. He added, "These agents caught red-handed. They were indulging in arson and helping in subversive activities." He said the American and Pakistani agents were killed protesting the invasion of Afghanistan. Also believed to be in custody another American — Chandler, a Boston businessman — early 30s.

## Suez Canal bypass opens

United Press International PORT SAID, Egypt — here and two freeways today inaugurated a bypass water channel leading season and from the Suez Canal south to the Mediterranean. It took \$50 million to dig at a cost of \$50 million before being signed.

The "Port Said Bypass" will allow oil tankers coming from the Red Sea to reach the Mediterranean without going through the Suez Canal itself at the same time as the canal is in strikeouts. The original canal diggings, Taylor is 2-110 years ago permits only.

With the operation of the bypass, the average 15 hours it takes a convoy to transit the canal is cut by 2 1/2 hours.

## Basman

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