

Erecting of Chaplin statue meets opposition in London

United Press International LONDON — A statue of Charlie Chaplin in his native London met with a great deal of opposition from the city's Communist Party.

Now it looks like Iltydd Harrington's dream of a statue of one of the world's greatest film comedians is going to come true this summer.

But Harrington, deputy opposition leader of London's government, said the Greater London Council, had to wait more than two years to get a statue of Chaplin, one of his childhood heroes, actually cast in bronze.

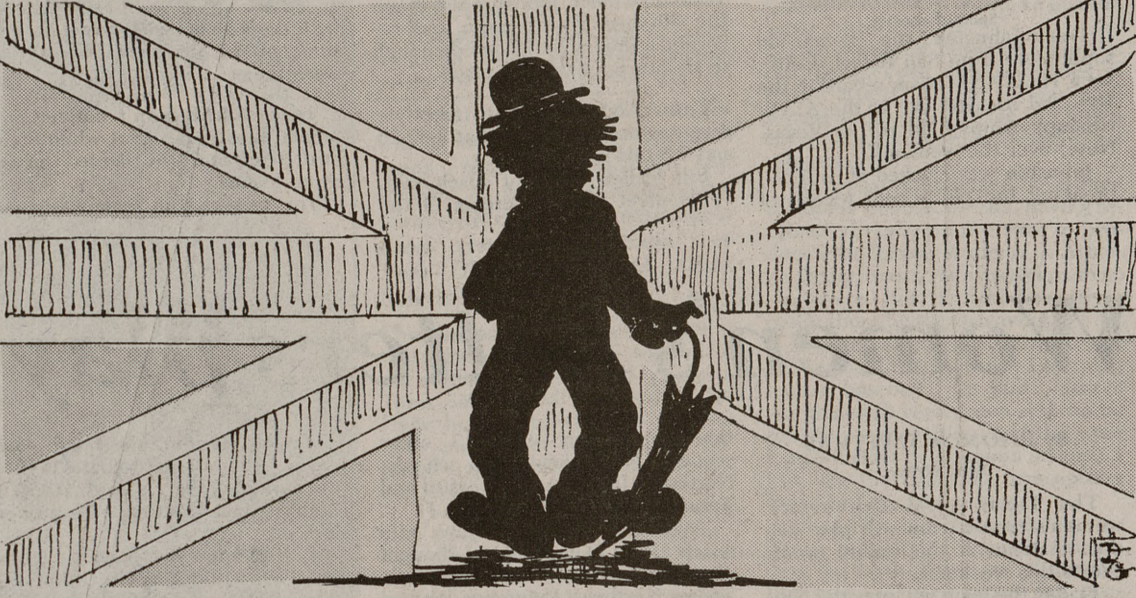
"If you start an idea, everyone wants to put it down," grumbled the 40-year-old native of Wales.

"There's a great deal of inertia in London on this type of thing."

People are scared of making decisions. That's the trouble with Britain today.

Chaplin was born and grew up in the south London's toughest neighborhoods. Yet the council had Harrington down when, just days after "The Little Tramp" died on Christmas Day 1977, he formally broached the idea of a memorial statue.

Only when a private company offered a few months ago to pay 90 percent of the statue's \$20,000 cost did things really get off the ground — that was after cities in India and Italy already had erected Chaplin statues.



John Doubleday, a 32-year-old British sculptor, was commissioned to do the statue and Harrington recently saw Charlie Chaplin in bronze, unveiled for private inspection in a west London foundry.

But where to put it? The fight began all over again.

Harrington, who works as a schoolmaster when he's not at city hall, wanted it erected in the area of

Chaplin's unhappy childhood, near his birthplace in London's Southwark, south of the River Thames.

Sculptor Doubleday, however, wanted a more central site for his work. A lengthy debate settled on Leicester Square.

"It's the heart of the entertainment area of London," Harrington said. "Quite a lot of people feel the area needs one or two objects in it

which will bring in more people to look. But personally I don't share their view."

He contended the statue will be more a tourist attraction than a memorial in its new planned location.

"I think it's unfortunate, because in the southern part of the city we have a very barren urban environment," he said.

Colombians report progress with guerrillas over captives

United Press International BOGOTA, Colombia — The government reported some progress in talks with leftist guerrillas holding 32 hostages, including 19 diplomats, in the Dominican Embassy.

Sources said another round of negotiations may be held today.

Despite the optimistic report on the latest meeting Monday, a guerrilla offer to free five of the hostages if the government "showed good faith" in the talks had not materialized by Tuesday.

The negotiations in a van parked outside the embassy, the sixth session since the hostages, including Ambassador Diego Asencio, were seized 28 days ago, produced "antagonism" than in the previous five meetings, a government

communicate said.

"Progress was made within the framework of the constitution and laws of Colombia," the government said.

The talks Monday followed what has become an established routine with a blackhooded woman representing the so-called April 19 guerrillas, also known as M-19, sitting down to talk with Camilio Jimenez and Ramiro Zambrano, two Colombian foreign ministry officials.

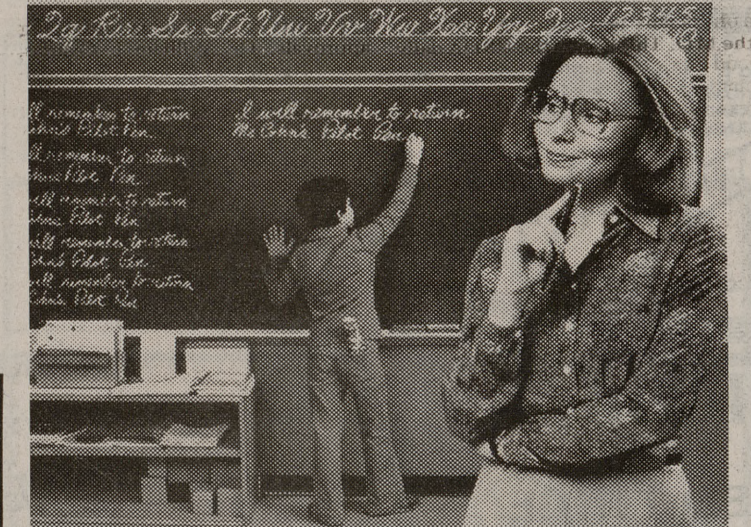
As before, hostage Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan accompanied the woman to the van and attended the talks as a witness.

Before the talks began, a neighbor who lives near the embassy said a woman guerrilla had yelled to her, "We are prepared to celebrate April

19 here."

The date will mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the leftist group.

The one-hour and 42-minute talks ended with smiles on the faces of the three men and an exchange of handshakes.



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South Koreans sink communist spyboat

United Press International SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean military units sank an armed North Korean spyboat Tuesday less than 48 hours after repulsing frogmen infiltrating from the north, the defense ministry said.

Four South Koreans were killed — one navy man and three fishermen who were gunned down when the fleeing North Korean vessel fired indiscriminately at fishing boats. One fisherman was missing and one South Korean navy man injured.

It was the second bloody clash between the two Koreas since early Sunday when three armed North Korean frogmen were shot and killed as they crossed to the south at a point less than 15 miles from Seoul.

Barely 45 hours later, the North Korean spyboat approached the southeastern coast and was spotted

early Tuesday 12 miles east of Pohang.

A South Korean navy high-speed patrol craft approached the unidentified vessel and ordered it to heave to, the ministry said.

Instead, the North Korean boat opened fire and then began fleeing eastward into the Japan Sea, according to the announcement.

The patrol boat, while giving chase, radioed a message for air sup-

port and as a result a joint sea and air operation sank the North Korean vessel at a point 35 nautical miles east of Pohang.

Following the Sunday incident, the United Nations Command led by a U.S. Army general sought a meeting of the Korean Military Armistice Commission to protest the infiltration, military sources said. North Korea has not yet responded, the sources said.

Israel can live, says PLO chief

United Press International VIENNA — Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat denied in an interview published Tuesday that his movement wants to destroy Israel.

"It is my intention neither to kill or destroy anyone," Arafat told the daily Die Presse in reply to a question on whether the aims of the PLO included the destruction of Israel.

Arafat's remarks were made in Beirut during an interview with Die Presse.

It was the first time the PLO leader has publicly denied his aim was the destruction of Israel. During his visit to Austria last year he carefully avoided making any such statement.

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