

# U.S. sends tough message to Iran; threatens expulsion of diplomats

United Press International  
The United States has sent a tough message to Iran, threatening it with a trade embargo and the expulsion of most of Tehran's diplomats from Washington unless the 50 American hostages are freed, reports said today.

The latest reports follow a weekend of contradictory statements from Washington and Tehran — where the hostages Monday entered their 149th day in captivity — over whether President Carter had sent a conciliatory message to Ayatollah Khomeini.

"They have sent me an ultimatum," President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was reported by the New York Times to have told a close associate Monday after a "special" meeting of

the ruling Revolutionary Council that ran past midnight.

But Tehran Radio quoted Bani-Sadr's press adviser Monday as denying that Carter had sent any ultimatum or threatened to expel Iranian diplomats. Western news reports said Carter sent a message to Khomeini Saturday proposing formation of a joint committee for solving the problems between the two countries.

CBS said the Revolutionary Council had decided to transfer the hostages to government control but a militant spokesman at embassy said in a telephone call to London Monday that "there is no plan to move them to another place."

The Times said the ultimatum was believed contained in a letter to

Bani-Sadr from Carter setting a deadline of some time Monday, the date set a week ago by the administration when it said it was considering stern measures against Iran.

The measures were reported to include an embargo on trade of all goods except food and medicine, the expulsion from the United States of Iranian diplomats, leaving only a skeleton staff at the Iranian embassy in Washington, and a request to American allies to take economic steps against Iran.

At the same time, Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh predicted the 50 hostages would be transferred from the militants' control at the occupied U.S. Embassy to the Iranian government's control, the Washington Post reported.

CBS News carried a report Monday saying that the Revolutionary Council had decided to move the hostages out of the embassy. The Iran working group at the State Department said it knew nothing of such a report.

A spokesman at the Foreign Ministry reached by telephone in Tehran Monday denied there would be a transfer of the hostages, saying it was a plan "left over from a few months ago. It is not about to be implemented now."

The spokesman also said Iran was not "bothered by this threat" (the New York Times report of the alleged ultimatum to Bani-Sadr).

"We are not bothered by this threat — we receive these threats daily from the United States and we

do not take them seriously," the spokesman said. "We do not fear the United States."

The reports were the latest in confusion over letters Iran alleges Carter sent.

Ghotbzadeh, quoted by Tehran Radio and monitored by the BBC in London, repeated Iran's position Monday that Carter had sent a conciliatory message to Khomeini during the weekend.

The White House denied "any such letter" had been sent but spokesman Jody Powell Sunday confirmed a statement by the Swiss government that its diplomats in Tehran had transmitted messages from Carter to Iranian officials.

Powell, campaigning in Milwaukee, Wis., for the Carter campaign, said he would "not dispute" the Swiss statements. Apparently, the crux of the matter is Iran's claim that it received a conciliatory message.

ABC News said formal messages that were "firm and businesslike" were sent from the State Department to Iran's Foreign Ministry.

The Times quoted Bani-Sadr after the Revolutionary Council meeting as saying, "A decision has been reached" on the reported "ultimatum" from Carter. The decision was not disclosed.

White House officials early Monday had "no comment" on the reports, spokeswoman Kate King said, adding that nothing but budgetary matters were scheduled for Monday.

# Famous for 'tumbling strings,' Mantovani, 74, dies in home

United Press International  
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS, England — Mantovani, the violinist whose use of "tumbling strings" turned easy listening music into big business, died Sunday in a nursing home. He was 74.

The bandleader was the first man to sell a million stereo albums in the United States.

Once called "the man who could make a hymn out of a rock number," Mantovani's sweetening of somber classics and pop melodies alike won him an adoring audience.

Born in Venice, Italy, on Nov. 15, 1905, as Annunzio Paolo, Mantovani was trained as a violinist by his father.

"Father was a great musician," he said. "Leader to Toscanini, professor at two Italian conservatories, gold medalist, knighted for his music."

At 16, Mantovani found work in a restaurant band in Birmingham, England and Sir Thomas Beecham once sent the young man a note of congratulations after hearing him play the Saint-Saens violin concerto.

know," Mantovani said. "And a virtuoso concert artist sometimes doesn't have enough fodder for years."

"There were women at my feet when I used to play in West End restaurants," he said. "I used to worry in case any of them swept me away."

He took British citizenship in 1933 and continued his success through World War II. In 1945, he became musical director to Noel Coward.

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