

nation

# Carter to expel diplomats, toughen Iran sanctions

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Carter has decided to expel all Iranian diplomats from the United States as one step in a series of new measures aimed against Iran, administration officials said Monday.

The officials said the expulsion of the remaining 35 Iranian diplomats accredited to Washington would only be one of several steps — including economic measures — to be announced later.

The decision was made after Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said the 50 U.S. hostages in Tehran will not be turned over to the Iranian government by their Moslem captors.

The decision was made after policy advisors met through the morning and into the afternoon. A State Department spokesman described the session as an analysis of the "confusing" situation in Iran.

Officials said that the expulsion of the diplomats had long been on the list of possible measures, but the State Department had previously hesitated to recommend closing one of the few avenues of communication with the Tehran government.

Before the meeting, Carter told reporters that Iranian "terrorists" offered to turn over the hostages to the government and the government refused.

# Hostages won't get exercise equipment

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Iranian embassy Monday refused to accept a delivery of exercise equipment in-

tended for the 50 Americans held in Tehran.

A professional physical health association attempted to deliver the 50 boxes of physical fitness equipment after allegedly being told twice by the embassy that they would be handed over to the hostages.

Dr. Ross Merrick, a vice president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, told reporters the embassy had twice assured the group that the equipment would be delivered.

But alliance spokeswoman Jane Habiger said the embassy refused to accept the equipment after Merrick drove it there in a station wagon.

Merrick said the equipment was specifically selected to be used in small or restricted areas, such as the

# Triumph recalling TR7 cars

United Press International  
DETROIT — Jaguar Rover Triumph Inc. said Monday it is recalling all 1975 through 1978 Triumph TR7 coupes because of a potential defect in the mechanism which raises the retracting headlights.

A total of 47,776 vehicles are included, the company said. Corrosion could cause the electric motor which raises the headlight to fail, leaving it in the down position, JHT said.

While most failures would be limited to one or the other headlight, an investigation by Triumph engineers has confirmed that simultaneous malfunction of both headlights may occur, the company said.

JHT said it knows of no accidents attributable to a headlight malfunction.

# Student pilot lands in mud

United Press International  
WILLIS, Okla. — A report of a wrecked airplane near Lake Texoma sent search teams scrambling Monday, only to discover the downed aircraft had crashed several days ago.

Federal Aviation Administration officials said the small plane had emptied to land on what a student pilot from Fort Worth thought was a sand bar in the Red River, but it instead turned out to be a mud hole.

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# U.S. doubts Russia utilizing nerve gas

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Despite claims by some U.S. officials, experts are doubtful the Soviet Union is really using lethal nerve gas in Afghanistan against rebellious tribesmen, sources said Monday.

The reports of nerve gas use surfaced several months ago when U.S. intelligence began receiving statements from refugees and Afghan army personnel who fled into Pakistan.

The Soviet Embassy here, authorities in Moscow and Soviet representatives in Afghanistan all deny reports Soviet troops are using nerve gas.

Informed officials said confusion may have arisen because Soviet forces do appear to have used tear gas and other incapacitating agents.

These gases can cause death if the dose is concentrated enough. An Afghan tribesman who witnessed deaths caused by tear gas might well believe the Soviets were using lethal nerve gas, one official said.

"We've received a lot of reports to the effect that they are using nerve gas," the official said. "But the reports are often second- or third-hand."

Other officials said the United States still has not received any conclusive evidence — neither a sample of the gas, nor the opportunity to

examine the body of a person who died from exposure to some kind of gas.

U.S. officials wanted the reports to come to public attention so they informed the media.

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