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Iran TV broadcasts prelude to spy trials

United Press International
In what may be a prelude to spy trials for the 50 American hostages, Iranian television broadcast a film showing what it said were two of the captives describing espionage activities by the occupied U.S. Embassy.

The midnight broadcast came hours after the militants holding the embassy threatened to kill the hostages, in their 159th day of captivity, if the United States took the "slightest" military action against Iran.

In a banner headline story today, the Islamic Republic newspaper announced a march Friday in Tehran by members of Ayatollah Khomeini's popular "army of 20 million" — a term used for all those opposed to the release of the hostages.

"The nation will renew its pledge tomorrow to defend the Koran and Iran," the newspaper, organ of the ruling clerical group, said.

The two alleged hostages on the film spoke English, but their names and some of their statements were made inaudible by a Persian language narration, the Washington Post and other American newspapers reported.

During the telecast, one of the hostages, who had dark hair and was wearing glasses

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and camouflage pants, displayed what the television said was electronic monitoring equipment in a supply depot on the embassy compound.

The other man, who had blond hair and wore a V-neck sweater, showed a photograph of an alleged spy plane. He spoke to two militants in a room with a door marked "Defense Attache."

The broadcast made no mention when the film was made.

Several Iranian officials recently said spy

trials for the hostages have not been ruled out.

American officials denied the Iranian television report and said the equipment probably was standard radio and telephone communications equipment.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh said he favored having relatives of the hostages visit them in the occupied embassy and he would bring the question up to the Revolutionary Council.

But he was countered by the militants who said, "there is no need for other people to visit."

Ghotbzadeh warned any nation supporting the United States "must face action similar to that Iran has taken against America," Tehran Radio said.

Anti-U.S. feeling is being further intensified in Iran by official pronouncements the troubles with neighboring Iraq are Washington's doing.

Iranian cadets to go home following Carter decision

By DEBBIE NELSON

Campus Staff

The soft sound of a reverently rendered "Auld Lang Syne" echoed in an eerily quiet Duncan Dining Hall Wednesday night, as Corps of Cadets outfits said goodbye to Iranian cadets.

All eight Iranian members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, as well as six former cadets completing their degree requirements, have been ordered to leave the United States by midnight Friday.

The action is a direct result of President Carter revoking military and diplomatic visas for Iranians in the United States. It is one of the sanctions made against Iran Monday because of setbacks in negotiations for the release of hostages being held at the American Embassy in Iran.

Col. Robert Gibson, USMC, professor of naval science at Texas A&M, said Wednesday he received word of the visa revocation slightly before midnight Tuesday from his immediate superior, the chief of Naval Education and Training in Pensacola, Fla.

The orders were followed by a letter from the secretary of defense, Gibson said.

Non-military Iranian students attending the University are not included in the order, as they are not in the country on military visas.

"They (the cadets) are a group of fine young men, a credit to the University. They have done a good job academically," Gibson said. "I hope someday they are able to return to Texas A&M and complete their studies."

The 14 Iranian students, who are or have been enrolled in the Naval ROTC program

of the Corps, have until Friday to settle finances with the fiscal office, obtain transcripts, and dispose of personal belongings.

One Iranian former cadet who asked not to be identified said the situation is unfair. He said in two weeks he would have completed his undergraduate degree, since grades for seniors are turned in April 25.

Six of the deported cadets are seniors, he said. He has talked to his professors and to the Dean of Engineering about receiving credit for this semester's work, but said, "it's hopeless, nobody can help."

Gibson said credit for this semester's classes will be determined by instructors on an individual basis.

Twelve of the students are in the college of engineering; two are in the college of business, the senior said.

The ex-cadet said he is partly happy to leave, because he will get to see his family in Iran. But he added, "All of our American friends got depressed that we have to leave. They say we don't have anything to do with politics."

"I hope relations between the countries get better," he said.

Notification of the State Department's decision came to him through a letter from the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. Navy.

Another Iranian cadet, who also asked not to be identified, said he received a call from Washington Tuesday telling him he must leave the country. He said the Iranian government has sent the cadets airline tickets for the trip back to Iran, which they should receive today.

Since each of the cadets can only take 65 pounds of luggage with him, all must dis-

pose of most personal belongings.

One cadet reportedly sold a 1979 Buick Cutlass for \$1,800.

Dr. Wayne Gosnell, director of international student services, said the ordering of the Iranian Texas A&M cadets to leave the country has caused "a great deal of anxiety" among the 79 Iranian students on campus.

Gosnell said he has asked the district Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office in San Antonio about the status of non-military Iranian students. "They (the INS) don't really know," Gosnell said. "They're waiting to find out from Washington, so we're sort of in limbo."

However, Gosnell said the INS informally has said it doesn't anticipate any revocation of visas for the other Iranian students.

Gosnell said most of the Iranians he has talked to are "very sincere, dedicated students," caught in the middle of the political situation.

Mostafa Mostafavi, president of the Society of Iranian Students, said, "This (deportation of the cadets) is not really a logical way of solving the problem. It's making things more complicated."

He said President Carter chose this plan of action because it is an election year and he wants to please the voters.

Although there has been some question of Iranian diplomats seeking political asylum in this country, Gibson said he does not believe any of the cadets will remain in the country.

A UPI story from the White House Tuesday said the 60,000 Iranian students in the United States would not immediately be affected by the visa restrictions.



Another shine for 'Sully'

Photo by Dave Einsel

Freshman cadets from Squadron 10 were up at 5 a.m. today to perform an ancient Texas A&M ritual, shining the bronze statue known as 'Sully.' Located in

front of the Academic Building, "Sully" is the full-length likeness of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, president of the University during its formative years.

Credit puts farms in stranglehold

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Leaders of major farm organizations have told Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker that high interest rates and tight credit are strangling agricultural economy.

Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland and Edward Hjort, the department's chief economist, also attended the closed meeting. Following the meeting Wednesday, Marilyn Carlson of Lodgepole, Neb., president of the National Cattlemen's Association, said, "Agriculture is just at the lowest ebb ever and that message came across loud and clear to the Federal Reserve."

Cattle producers lack credit at reasonable rates to rebuild herds and feed cattle, Carlson said.

He said if the current money crunch continues, consumers will pay more for beef and other food.

Volcker reportedly assured leaders of the 10 farm groups credit restraints are not being imposed on small businesses and agriculture.

Hjort said, "The key point that was made from the Fed's side is that it's their policy to not have any special restraints for agriculture or small business."

Farm leaders urged the Federal Reserve to use a special mechanism that would funnel seasonal loans into rural banks this spring.

Ed Osborne of Tulelake, Calif., representing the American Agriculture Movement, said current anti-inflationary policies

are "like pouring gas on a fire, they're making it worse."

He said if higher prices were paid for raw materials, including food, the agricultural sector could operate on earned income instead of borrowed money.

In a summary of a new agricultural outlook report, Agriculture Department economists said farmers are hurt more by high interest rates and tight credit this year than in previous recent tight money periods.

Economists said agricultural financial markets are more closely intertwined with other financial markets than during past tight credit periods and farmers must borrow more money to plant crops than they once did.

Farm prices are depressed, in part, because middlemen paying high interest rates are buying only minimum amounts of grain and livestock because they cannot afford to build up inventories.

"Higher interest rates have also been accompanied by a rapid appreciation of the dollar during the first quarter of 1980, which may in turn be contributing to the price weakness of some commodities most dependent on export markets," economists said.

To make matters worse, economists said, if the level of farm income anticipated during the second quarter is adjusted to an annual rate, farm income would fall 31 percent in 1980 compared to last year.

Bowler, 99, plans one last roll at 100

United Press International
SOUTH HAVEN, Mich. — Edwin "Pop" Barker learned to bowl about the same time Teddy Roosevelt made his charge up San Juan Hill.

And he's still at it. "I just want one more year out of it. I want to be bowling on my 100th birthday," said the spry 99-year-old kegler, who rolled his first ball down a lane in 1898.

Last year he had to reduce his bowling schedule from seven leagues, five nights a week, to one league every Wednesday night.

In the doorway of Broadway Lanes, where the silver-haired Barker bowls in a league named for him 34 years ago, sits a tiny shrine to him. A portrait of a younger, thinner, cigar-toting Barker is framed with a "Ripley's Believe It or Not" listing on one side and a newspaper article on the other.

Barker earned mention in Ripley's for competing in six leagues a week when he was 88.

"I was working at a clubhouse," recalled the retired fruit vendor. "They were having a game with another team and one man didn't show up. They asked me to fill in."

"The next week, the fellow was sick again so I played again. The following week the guy died, so I stayed on the team."

Barker, who had several perfect games during the '30s, said his lighter bowling schedule has ruined his average.

"My average? Well, I don't like to say it these days," he said. "It's 109 now."

"I was carrying a pretty good average when I was bowling more but you can't expect to keep a good average when you only do it once a week."

Barker's son Edwin, 64, said his father still manages to outbowl some of the other local people.

"You have to consider even if he had an average of 10, that would be 10 more than anyone else that's 99 years old," Edwin Jr. said. "When Pop beats a guy here he goes up to him and says 'How's it feel to have a 99-year-old man beat you?'"

Barker, a great-great-grandfather, credits bowling for his longevity.

"Bowling, that keeps you in shape," he said proudly. "When you bowl, every muscle in your body is used."

He drinks milk when he bowls.

"Every once in awhile someone gives me a bottle of wine and I sneak a drink — but I'm not supposed to," he said.

"You know, I've got a bottle of whiskey I put the stopper in in 1950 and I've only taken it out twice — when I had a heck of a cold."

His bowling hand was smashed and one of his fingers broken six years ago by a bowling ball returning automatically from the end of the lane. Barker blames the still-swollen finger for occasional gutter balls.

But, he refuses to stop bowling.

"If he stopped bowling," his son said, "he'd die."

Unidentified hijacker in custody

United Press International
MIAMI — An impatient, taciturn hijacker in grimy clothes was in Cuban hands day after a 10-hour hijacking odyssey during which he held a .45-caliber automatic to the head of a stewardess.

The hijacker, a muscular black man wearing dirty jeans, a flowered shirt and a rate jacket, jumped over a fence at Los Angeles Airport Wednesday, entered the door of the Boeing 727 being readied for boarding for a flight to Chicago and put the gun to the head of one of the stewardesses, an FBI spokesman said.

"He said he wanted to go to Havana," said Arthur Nehrbass, special agent in charge of the FBI office in Miami, where the plane left for Cuba late Wednesday.

The hijacker was "relatively calm" during the flight to Cuba and said little to the seven crew members, Nehrbass said. But he turned the gun on the stewardess "every time he felt threatened," and grew impatient while the plane was being refueled at Dallas-Fort Worth airport.

"He threatened to shoot a stewardess in the leg if the plane didn't take off," he said.

"We do not at this point know who this man is," Nehrbass said. "We do not know why he wanted to go to Havana. He was very adamant."

The plane landed at Jose Marti Airport in Havana at 5:18 p.m. and the man surrendered peacefully to Cuban authorities. After a delay while storm-damaged runway lights were fixed, the plane flew to Miami.

An airline spokesman said it would leave early today, either for Dallas or Chicago.

Nehrbass said the FBI has some leads to the man's identity and will charge him with hijacking as soon as he is identified. But based on previous hijackings, he said, the Cuban government is unlikely to return him to the United States unless he requests it.

American Airlines Vice President Dave Frailey refused to identify the seven-member crew or let them talk to reporters at Miami International because of "security reasons." The FBI said the decision not to release the crew's names was strictly the airline's.

"We don't know who the hijacker was. We don't know if he has friends who still

might be around somewhere," Frailey said.

The crew was unharmed. Nehrbass said the stewardess held under the hijacker's .45 automatic for much of the trip "is in good shape. She's a very calm, self-possessed young lady."

The hijacker was a "very muscular black American in his 30s," Nehrbass said.

"One of the peculiarities was he was in a very dirty condition. His clothes were covered with grease and grime," Nehrbass said the man was wearing jeans, a flowered shirt and what appeared to be a loose-fitting karate jacket. He carried a large envelope that appeared to contain "some possessions."