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## ran, Russia reach trade accords

taited Press International
HRAN, Iran — Iran appeared
moving closer to communist Bloc countries Thursday in ation for U.S. reprisals and the or the holding of the American

soviet trade delegation was in Tehran and a number of shave been reached at an offiwel an Iranian official said.

ne official said an Iranian erial team planned to visit the Union soon to delve deeper nomic cooperation and inter-

another sign of a blossoming nship between Iran and the

Soviet Union, state-run Radio Moscow reported Thursday Iran has to expel American reporters been given permission to use Russian territory as an overland trade route "in case of emergency.

The Soviet move was seen as an attempt to counter a possible U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports.

These developments came as Iran took other major moves aimed at closer economic relationship with
Eastern Bloc members, including

A spokesman for the militants said that everything was "normal" and no announcing trade agreements Wednesday with East Germany and

The government also established diplomatic relations with South Yemen, the only Marxist state in the

In a related development, the Na-

plans to expel American reporters from Iran for a second time.

The position of the 50 Americans held hostage by Islamic militants at the U.S. Embassy for 173 days seemed to have reached a virtual statemate, with no new initiatives in

new development was expected.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini roclaimed Thursday an official day of "mourning" for the alleged slaying in neighboring Iraq of Ayatollah Sayed Mohammed Bagher Sadr, a Moslem Shiite leader Khomeini cal-

Battling between Islamic and left-wing students at universities around the country appeared to be easing off and there were no immediate reports of any fresh outbreaks.

While Iran openly shifted its fore-ign policy toward the Eastern Bloc, it withheld comment on Japanese and European Economic Community endorsement of American sanctions.

The National Guidance Ministry stopped renewing visas for American correspondents Wednesday and announced the Revolutionary Coun-

cil will decide Saturday whether to expel the reporters.

Foreign press ministry chief Abolhassem Sadegh said United Press International, which is staffed by non-Americans, would be allowed to remain for the time being

'as a link with the United States.' Scattered reports from Iran's western frontier said fighting between Kurdish insurgents seeking autonomy and government forces has not abated.

One report said the death toll within the past 24 hours was 40.

3.50

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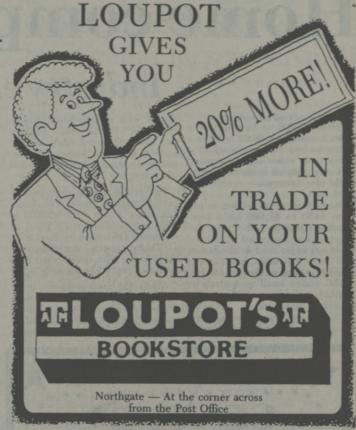
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# Group tries to aid liplomatic hostages

United Press International
GOTA — The Organization of said a military tribunal will drop ission visited the besieged ican Embassy Thursday for cond time to mediate the 58stalemate between the govern-tand leftist guerrillas holding 16

matic hostages. nmission Chairman Tom Far-Rutgers University professor, four-man delegation into the

ican States' Human Rights charges against nine jailed members of the leftist movement in a move that could meet the major demand of the M-19 guerrillas holding the

Negotiators for the embassy guer-rillas and the government held their 19th round of ransom talks

embassy to talk with the M-19 guer-rillas and their hostages who include U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio.

The OAS commission went into the embassy for the first time Tues-day and walked out two hours later with a freed diplomatic hostage, Dominican Consul Rafael A. San-

There were indications the eightweek crisis may be nearing the end.

### london gold up due to TV

LONDON — The dollar fell of \$7.50 from Wednesday's close in mply on nearly all the world's London, and \$8 on the Swiss market.

A rise in the London market was use to declining prime interest to the price of gold was steady in

caused by the controversy about a British television program concerning the death of a Saudi Arabian prin-

An ounce of gold sold for \$515 in London and \$515.50 in Zurich, a rise

There was some selling from the Middle East, possibly reflecting fears of Saudi Arabia canceling export contracts with Britain," said a dealer for Barclay's Bank Interna-

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