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The Weather

Yesterday	Today
High 63	High 69
Low 50	Low 46
Rain trace	Chance of rain slight

OPEC makes plea for peace

United Press International
BALI, Indonesia — Indonesia President Suharto, leader of the world's largest Moslem nation, opened the OPEC summit meeting today with a plea to Iran and Iraq to end the first war ever between members of the powerful oil group in the interests of Islamic unity.

But delegates from the two Middle East oil-producing nations nearly came to blows shortly before start of the oil ministers' meeting — the first high-level OPEC gathering since the Iran-Iraq war began nearly three months ago on Sept. 22.

In a glaring reminder of the war, Iran left an empty chair at its table, graced by a large picture of its oil minister, Mohammed Tadjoyan, who is being held by Iraq as a prisoner of war.

To ease the prospect of verbal conflict, conference organizers changed the alphabetical order of seating, inserting Indonesian delegates between those from Iran and Iraq.

In a speech opening the session on the lush island holiday resort of Bali, Suharto, head of the world's largest Moslem nation, said the unity of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Nations and the interests of the Third World were jeopardized by the conflict.

"I would like to make an honest appeal to our beloved brothers who are now in dispute, Iran and Iraq, to seek the best conceivable solution to their conflict as soon as possible," he said.

On behalf of the "140 million Indonesian people who believe in God almighty," Suharto urged a solution to the Middle East conflict, saying it threatened the stability of OPEC and would retard the development of Third World nations.

"In conformity with the teachings of Islam and Mohammad the prophet, let us settle the dispute between us like we settle it among brothers," Suharto said.

A key question before the delegates is whether to continue the price freeze adopted earlier this year. One proposal would have the freeze maintained with Saudi Arabia hiking its crude prices from \$30 to \$32, which would make prices charged by the cartel members more uniform. The prices range from the Saudis' \$30 to \$37 charged by Libya. The Saudis contribute a fifth of U.S. imports.

The start of the meeting was delayed for 40 minutes while the oil ministers huddled in a back room in an attempt to avoid a free-for-all at the conference.

Conference sources said the Iranians and Iraqis "were on the point of clashing by hand and were just pulled back."

One source said the quarrel began during an attempt to fix the agenda for the meeting, scheduled to last two days with the possibility of a one-day extension.

"We're not going to discuss your agenda, we're here to discuss the war and our (captured) oil minister," the source quoted an unidentified Iranian delegate as saying.



She couldn't have done it without her

Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Graduating senior Aymara Edwards has a rather unique way of expressing her thanks to her mother at the graduation ceremony Saturday.

Edwards, who was awarded a degree in liberal arts, was one of 2,082 students who were graduated in two ceremonies Friday and Saturday.

Bani-Sadr criticizes Carter

United Press International
With the American hostages nearing their second Christmas in captivity, Iran's President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr accused President Carter of lacking motivation to end the hostage crisis and possibly wanting to leave the problem to the incoming Reagan administration.

A White House spokesman termed "ludicrous" the statement, broadcast on the CBS "60 Minutes" program Sunday night. "We won't dignify it with a comment," the spokesman said.

In the interview conducted by Mike Wallace Dec. 4, Bani-Sadr said in a cryptic statement he did not know where the Americans, now in their 408th day of captivity, were being held.

"When I say I don't know, it doesn't mean that I'm completely ignorant of the situation," Bani-Sadr said.

"I know that they have been taken to various cities throughout Iran. And I have asked questions and investigated the treatment they're receiving and their health.

"When I say I don't know," he said, "I'm referring to the question of responsibility. I am not at all responsible for their situation."

Bani-Sadr repeated his belief that the seizing of the Americans, which he opposed, has backfired and the Iranians "became hostages ourselves."

But he said Carter no longer seemed interested in getting the hostages freed.

"It is probably true that Jimmy Carter wanted to solve the problem and free the hostages in the past," Bani-Sadr said. "But there is a difference between Jimmy Carter before the elections and Jimmy Carter after the elections. That is, the motivation to bring about the release of the hostages is gone.

"I think he (Carter) either wants to solve the problem in such a way that criticism against him is minimized, or he will leave the problem for Mr. Reagan."

In Washington, U.S. officials waited for the formal Iranian response to the latest U.S. proposals on meeting the four conditions for the release of the hostages.

In Tehran, the Rev. Phale Hayle of Columbus, Ohio, at the head of a delegation of black clergymen, sought a meeting with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as part of a bid to establish ties with Islamic religious leaders.

Hayle restated the group's intention not to bring up the hostages, but said in a telephone interview with UPI in London, "We will talk about it if the subject is brought up."
He said the delegation expects to stay in Iran "a few more days."

A&M graduates a record 2,082; ambassador proposes trade zone

By LIZ NEWLIN

Battalion Staff
Texas A&M University can graduate about 15 students a minute.

Quick as that seems, the 4-second walk across stage represents four years — or more — of work.

Texas A&M graduated 2,082 students in two ceremonies Friday and Saturday, a record number for December graduation. Of those, 289 received master's degrees and 87 earned doctorates. Among undergraduates, 299 were graduated with honors.

A man who was graduated from Texas A&M 15 years before, almost to the day, told the new graduates they should be builders. Ambassador Albelardo L. Valdez said that although his degree from Texas A&M is in civil engineering, he builds bridges in a different setting, among foreign nations.

As U.S. chief of protocol, Valdez greets foreign dignitaries who visit America and works with 142 ambassadors stationed in Washington, D.C.

He proposed the United States and Mexico create a free trade zone that would extend 200 miles on either side of the United States-Mexico border.

"We need to become more innovative in our approach to trading with other countries," Valdez said, adding that such a common market would be a "great boon to free trade in this hemisphere and a great step forward."

Eventually, he said, the experiment could be expanded to a common market for the whole Western Hemisphere.

"We must increase economic opportunity in this hemisphere through free trade," he said. The free trade zone would help both Mexico and the United States, he said.

"I believe that such a zone would help attract industry to both sides of the border and to provide badly needed jobs on both sides," he said.

He said the graduates stood at the beginning of a new era, the era of development. He said the world, whose population is expected to hit 6½ billion in 20 years, must be developed to meet its increasing needs for food and jobs.

Also during the weekend military commissions were earned by 83 graduates in separate ceremonies addressed by Lt. Gen. William R. Richardson, commander of the Army's Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The commissioning ceremony included presentation of the Doherty Award to Michael A. Snow, a 1980 spring graduate on active duty as an Army second lieutenant. The \$3,000 award is presented to an individual whose Corps of Cadets career personifies the "soldier, statesman, knightly gentleman" ideals of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, president of Texas A&M from 1891 to 1898 and formerly governor of Texas.

Millions honor Lennon Sunday

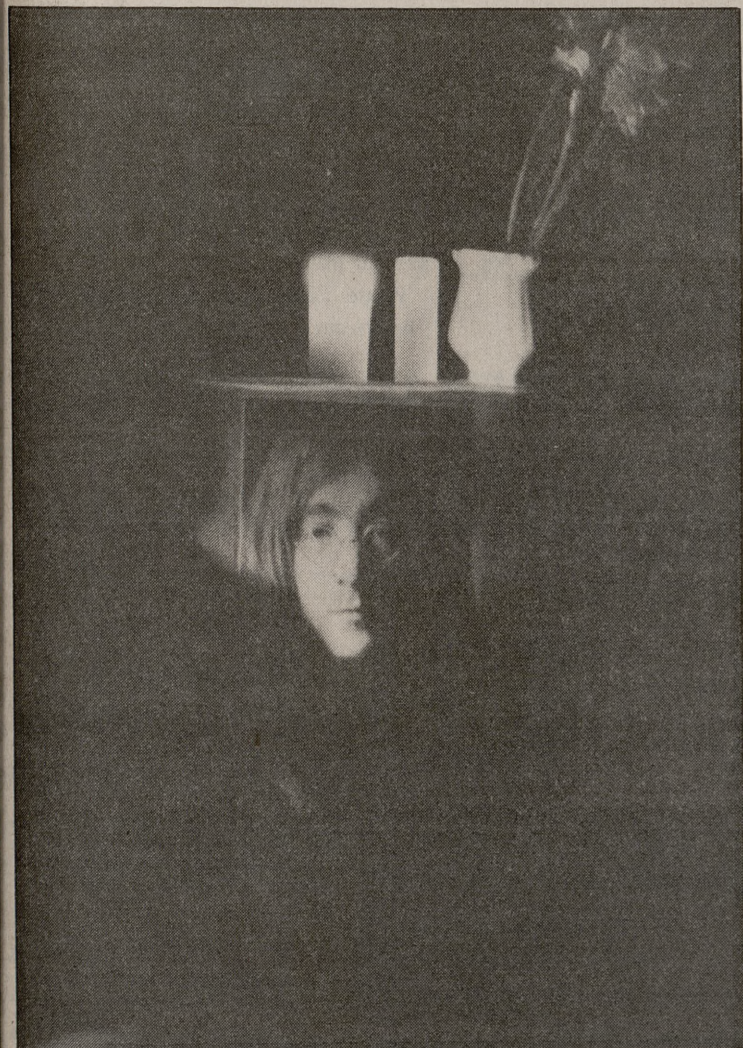


Photo by Larry Chandler

Texas A&M students and area residents pay their last tribute to the late John Lennon in a candle-light ceremony at Bee Creek Park Sunday.

United Press International
On the day millions of rock fans gathered solemnly to honor the memory of John Lennon, a man who sang about peace, shots rang out in New York's Central Park and hysterical English teen-agers stormed a stage in Liverpool.

While fans sang "All you need is love" Sunday, Lennon's accused killer feared for his own life. Mark David Chapman's attorney said death threats had been scrawled on his cell wall and Chapman was afraid someone would try to poison him.

In Los Angeles, a St. Louis man was held for allegedly threatening the life of Yoko Ono, Lennon's widow, and former Beatle Ringo Starr.

Ironically, Sunday's shootings in Central Park occurred within a quarter mile of where Lennon was gunned down outside his home, the ultra-exclusive Dakota apartment building, a week ago today.

Police said John Loney and Philip Guiffre of Brooklyn were leaving the Central Park memorial service attended by more than 100,000 people when they were shot after allegedly telling a drug seller to leave the ceremony. They were not seriously wounded.

Coincidentally, some of the nearly 3,000 people gathered on Cricket Hill in Chicago's Lincoln Park to honor Lennon carried signs that read, "Handguns kill people."

The scene in Liverpool — hometown of Lennon, Starr, Paul McCartney and George Harrison — was hauntingly like 1964 when the foursome known as the Beatles had just started on their way to becoming the most popular rock group in history.

A mass of surging, hysterical teen-agers stormed a stage during a candle-light vigil for Lennon attended by more than 30,000 people. Police said about 150 people, most of them girls 13 to 17 years old, were treated for shock and hysteria.

"It was just like the Beatle era all over again," said Hazel Abbott, 48, a nurse who treated some of the teen-agers. "It was the same old scenes — young girls were collapsing with total hysteria."

"I was on duty in 1964 when the Beatles had their civic reception in Liverpool and it was just the same this time around," she said.

Elsewhere, tens of thousands of Beatle fans in Seattle, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami, Detroit, and Memphis, Tenn., also paid homage in silence, beginning at 2 p.m. EST, as requested by Miss Ono.

Simultaneously, somber crowds in Raleigh, N.C., Atlanta, Hartford, Conn., Concord, N.H., Cincinnati, Columbia, S.C., and numerous other communities across the nation fell silent for 10 minutes.

Some 1,500 Beatles fans traded albums and memories at a convention in Boston and U.S. radio stations sandwiched the vigil of silence between hours of Beatles' songs. Millions more around the world joined the observance — if only by keeping silent for 10 minutes of mourning. Flags in New York City flew at half staff.

In Morrison, Colo., some 4,500 people gathered at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre, where in the mid-'60s the Beatles made their only appearance in the Denver area. After a period of silence, the audience members — some weeping — sang "Give Peace a Chance" while holding their hands above their heads and swaying to the music.

At the end of the silent vigil in Miami's Bicentennial Park, most of the 3,000 fans held up two-finger peace signs and the band played, "Give Peace a Chance."

The vigil, attended by more than 1,000 people, at Kennedy Square in downtown Detroit came to a close with someone shouting, "He lives." The crowd cheered.

Passes for shuttle bus to be issued at Rudder

Shuttle bus passes for the spring semester will be issued at Rudder Tower instead of the University Police station as in previous semesters.

The change is being made to relieve the congestion at the police station and to make it more convenient for students to pick up their passes. Don Powell, assistant director of business services, said.

Beginning Jan. 12, a special table will be set up near Rudder Exhibit Hall where the passes will be issued to students who present a spring semester fee slip or receipt from the fiscal office.

After the first week of classes, passes may be picked up at the Office of Business Services, 103 Rudder Tower. Students who prefer to purchase coupon books (10 rides for \$5) can do so at the fiscal office.

Shuttle bus routes for the spring semester will remain the same as for the fall. Prices for bus passes will also remain unchanged at \$38 for students and \$50 for faculty and staff, with a special rate of \$55 for student and spouse passes.

Persons who did not purchase a pass when registering for the spring semester may purchase one at the fiscal office.

Legal requirements delay cabinet picks

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Ronald Reagan's Cabinet selection may be out of his hands now, and legal requirements are holding up final announcement of a full Reagan team, an aide indicates.

The president-elect worked at his Pacific Palisades home Sunday on correspondence, dictation and memos, West Coast press spokesman Joe Holmes said.

Asked if Reagan was working on final Cabinet selections, Holmes said, "He's gone through his part of the process. I don't think there's much more he can do."

Holmes' statement, on which he did not elaborate, would indicate Reagan has named his choices, they have accepted and both parties are awaiting word on security clearance from the FBI and possible legal entanglements with conflict of interest laws.

Eight Cabinet and top adviser appointments were announced last week during

Reagan's low-profile visit to Washington. As he was leaving the capital Saturday to spend the Christmas holidays in California, Reagan told reporters he hoped to name the rest of the Cabinet this week.

Retired Gen. Alexander Haig, chief of staff during the final days of Richard Nixon's presidency, remained Reagan's choice for secretary of state, sources said, despite initial nervousness about the former NATO commander's ties to Nixon and Watergate.

Jewel Lafontant, a black lawyer from Chicago and former deputy solicitor general, was mentioned as a leading contender for secretary of housing and urban development.

James Watt, president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation in Denver, a group formed by brewer Joseph Coors to fight environmentalists on Western land issues, was reported to be one of those being considered for interior secretary, as is Rep. Manuel Lujan, R-N.M.