

Nation

First ex-hostage sues Iran for failing to block seizure

United Press International
In Arkansas, Michigan and New York today, five freed hostages took center stage for more homecoming celebrations, but the controversial agreement that won their release already is the subject of legal battles, as waged by the twin sister of the late shah of Iran.

Detroit planned a soulful "Celebration of Freedom" today for Charles Meser Jr. and Army Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Rochester, N.Y., and declared Tuesday "Freedom Day" for former hostage Col. Thomas E. Schaefer.

Arkansas planned to welcome home its native sons, Robert Blucker and Marine Sgt. Steven Kirtley, with a parade, a legislative reception and

an "All-American" lunch of hamburgers with Gov. Frank White.

With the fanfare — and stories of hostage abuse — subsiding, new attacks on Iran are coming from the nation's courts.

Lawsuits challenging the hostage agreement between Iran and the United States were filed Monday in New York and New Jersey.

Ashraf Pahlavi, 61, the twin sister of the late shah, Monday invoked the "Doctrine of Unclean Hands" in seeking the dismissal of a \$3 billion embezzlement suit brought against her by the Iranian government.

Pahlavi charged Iran violated "the laws of every organized nation" in holding the 52 American hostages.

If New York's state Supreme

Court does not dismiss the embezzlement case, she argued, it will give the appearance of "condoning immoral and illegal acts."

Iran filed the suit against Pahlavi and a \$56 billion suit against the shah in November 1979, charging they had funneled billions out of the country through the Pahlavi Foundation, the late monarch's investment company.

Attorney Paul O'Dwyer, representing the Iranian government, cited the agreement releasing the hostages as evidence the United States recognized the present regime as being the successor to the shah.

Suits challenge hostage terms

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A Marine stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran when it was seized by militants has filed a suit against Iran for failing to prevent the taking of hostages.

In what is believed to be the first lawsuit by one of the former American hostages, Gregory Allen Persinger, a Marine sergeant, sued the Iranian government Monday seeking \$420,000 in damages.

Persinger and his family of Sea-

ford, Del., charged in the suit filed in U.S. District Court that Iran's security personnel made no attempt to fight off the militants Nov. 4, 1979, or to rescue the Americans held hostage in the embassy.

Persinger charged he had been "illegally arrested and detained and subjected to threats and other attacks on his person, freedom and dignity."

He said he was subjected to intimidation by the militants and par-

aded in front of the demonstrators outside the embassy, blindfolded with his hands bound and near "menacing and chanting" crowds.

Persinger said he was repeatedly interrogated during his captivity, threatened with execution by firing squad and subjected to other "intimidating and coercive tactics."

His parents, Lawrence and Jacqueline Persinger, said they were subjected to severe emotional and psychological distress.

As a result of his 444 days in captivity, Persinger said he has suffered physical and mental injuries and will be required to undergo medical treatment.

Under the agreement between Iran and the United States reached to gain the release of the 52 Americans, suits of the sort Persinger filed are barred.

The agreement calls for establishment of a nine-member arbitration board to settle all legal claims.

Abused illegal aliens seized in NY City

United Press International
NEW YORK — Eighty-four illegal aliens, many of them packed into a city truck and left without food for days, have been seized in one of the largest raids on human smuggling in the city's history.

The aliens, several of whom have college degrees, paid \$500 apiece to be brought to the United States, officials said. They were captured Monday in the Bronx after a woman called police to report people going in and out of a parked truck.

Fifty-one aliens were found cowering in the locked trailer-tractor. The other 33 were found crammed in

an apartment in the building. Most of them came from the Dominican Republic, officials said.

The driver, Roopnarine Singh, and another man who was not immediately identified, were arrested. Authorities said they would be charged with illegal transportation of aliens.

Singh allegedly told police he could not open the truck because his brother, who was inside the building, had the keys.

As the officers headed up the stairs to the fourth-floor apartment, they were fired upon. Singh ran inside the apartment, police said, and the offi-

cers called for reinforcements.

When they returned, they found 33 more illegal aliens in the apartment, along with a .25-caliber automatic pistol and \$10,150 hidden in a stove.

Investigators said most of the aliens were from Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, and were flown from that country to Mexico City on Jan. 17. They were trucked along back roads to the United States border, and crossed the border on foot at El Paso.

There, they were loaded into the tractor-trailer and driven to New

York. Officials said the aliens had to sit on the floor of the vehicle amid the litter of clothing, empty soft-drink cans and plastic jugs used as toilets. The people in the truck had not eaten for two days, officials said.

"This is the largest seizure in a smuggling operation in the New York area in seven years," said Henry Dogin, district director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The 84 aliens were being held in a detention center at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Soviet aircraft intercepted 180 miles from Cape Cod

United Press International
OTIS AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. — Two Soviet aircraft were intercepted off the Massachusetts coast Tuesday by U.S. Air National Guard fighters and escorted down the eastern seaboard, Air Force spokesmen said Tuesday.

The two Russian TU-95 BearD aircraft were intercepted by two U.S. F-106 fighter planes on Jan. 26 about 180 miles off Cape Cod, Air National Guard Maj. Richard Penny said.

That was the closest the Soviet jets came to the U.S. continental shelf, he said.

He said the U.S. fighters took up positions about 500 yards off the wings of the Soviet planes and escorted them to a position parallel

to the New Jersey coastline, where they were picked up by other U.S. aircraft.

Penny said the planes were escorted down the U.S. coast past the tip of Florida, but he did not say what happened to the Soviet planes after they left coastal air space.

"This was the first intercept by the North American Air Defense Command of Soviet aircraft off the continental United States this year," Penny said.

It was the second such interception in the past two months off the Massachusetts coast. The Air Force reported a similar incident in December.

The Russian planes were picked up at the New Jersey Coast by fight-

ers from the New Jersey Air National Guard from Atlantic City, Penny said.

They were later escorted by Air Force planes from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, and by aircraft from the Florida Air National Guard out of Jacksonville International Airport.

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Battered whale gets marine park care

United Press International
RANCHO PALOS VERDES, Calif. — A battered and apparently 900-pound pigmy sperm whale found on a local beach has been taken to the Marineland Aquatic Park in an effort to save its life.

"He's almost dead," Marineland spokeswoman Lisa Noah said Monday shortly after the whale was spotted in a salt water tank. "He's in a state of shock."

Marineland officials, who gave the animal a 50-50 chance for survival, said the whale appeared to be suffering from an illness that has not yet been diagnosed.

"We have four trainers in wet suits walking him around the tank in a sling with towels, guiding him around so he doesn't bump into the sides and hurt himself more," Noah said.

The trainers planned to "stay up with him through the night if we

have to," she said, adding that the trainers had tried but failed to get the injured whale to eat some squid.

The 8-foot-long whale beached itself near El Segundo Monday morning.

"He's so scraped up from the rocks and surf he just couldn't make himself go any more," Miss Noah said.

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