

World

Salvadoran government remains 'on a war footing'

United Press International
SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — President Jose Napoleon Duarte, bolstered by 54 U.S. military advisers and \$50 million in U.S. financial aid, warned his government will remain "on a war footing" as long as the Soviet Union, Cuba and Nicaragua are arming leftist guerrillas.

In a move criticized by House Democrats as "uncannily like Vietnam," the Reagan administration said Monday 25 more military advisers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines soon will be sent to the tiny Central American nation.

The State Department said as

part of the sharp step-up in help, another \$25 million in economic and military aid has been granted to El Salvador's military-Christian Democratic junta, doubling total aid to \$50 million. It said the 25 military advisers are in addition to those already in the Central American nation, raising the total to 54.

Duarte in a nationwide radio address Monday said he was willing to hold peace talks with leftists, but warned El Salvador "is on a war footing and will stay that way as long as Russia and Nicaragua continue sending arms to the guerrillas."

He said the government would

need U.S. military aid "so long as the Cubans, Russians and other nations continue sending arms to the guerrillas."

Salvadoran military officers claimed government troops killed 300 guerrillas — with some plunging to their death in 900-foot gorges — during a four-day assault on rebel strongholds on the slopes of the Conchagua volcano overlooking Fonseca Bay in southeastern El Salvador.

Government forces suffered only seven wounded and captured "all types of war materiel," another army officer said.

The military's body counts could not be independently verified.

Last week the Defense Ministry said 1,500 guerrillas were holding the volcano.

The Defense Ministry said helicopter gunships attacked guerrillas near San Sebastian and San Esteban Catarina, 30 miles east of San Salvador, and 40 rebels were killed in fierce fighting.

They said two soldiers died and seven were wounded in the gun battles, 2 miles on either side of San Lorenzo, scene of bloody fighting last week.

One military spokesman said "individuals with foreign features, among them some of the black race" were among the rebels killed Monday, but the report could

not be confirmed.

The bodies of 14 people were found dumped in the southwestern village of Atiquizaya, authorities said. They were among 20 killings reported Monday in political violence that has claimed over 13,000 lives since Jan. 1, 1979.

In Washington, 44 House Democrats opposed the increase in U.S. military advisers to El Salvador in a telegram to President Reagan, urging talks between the junta and the opposition instead of a "military solution" to the violence.

Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass. said the Salvadoran junta "is in-

creasingly brutalizing its own people. As its own support weakens, our support widens, and now

we're looking for outside bogeymen. I think it's just uncannily like Vietnam."

Pakistanis negotiate with hijacker

United Press International
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani officials arrived in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan Tuesday to negotiate the release of an airliner which hijackers threatened to blow up with 141 people aboard.

At least two men — perhaps as many as 11 — opposed to the military government of Pakistan seized a Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 720 jet en route from Karachi to Peshawar Monday and ordered it to Kabul, an official said by telephone from Kabul.

"All the passengers are safe," he said. "They are on board. The negotiators have arrived and they are talking to the hijackers."

Officials in Pakistan told reporters earlier there was a single hijacker who called himself Alamgir and said he was a supporter of the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and opposes the military dictatorship of President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq.

"There are more than two hijackers," the

airline official said in Kabul. He said their demands were unclear.

But officials in Pakistan said the hijackers demanded freedom for 80 political prisoners in Karachi.

According to reliable sources in Islamabad, the hijack leader had 10 accomplices on the plane. Pakistan officials also said one hijacker was demanding the release of his father and brother from jail in Karachi.

They threatened to blow up the aircraft if demands were not met and were prevented from flying out of Kabul. The hijackers were reported armed with hand grenades and light arms and the leader identified himself only as Alamgir. Authorities say the name must be an alias since no such name appeared on the passenger list.

The negotiating team that arrived in Kabul consists of director general of civil aviation Vazir Zada, a PIA airlines director who was not identified and the Pakistani charge d'affaires in

Kabul, Rao Ali Bahadur.

While the team was en route to Kabul, diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis got under way.

The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, Vitaly Smirnov, met with Pakistani officials in response to an earlier Pakistani call on the Soviet Union, the United States and other countries to use their diplomatic missions in Kabul to ensure the safe return of the passengers, crew and aircraft.

A government press release said diplomatic envoys of some of the countries promised "positive assistance in solving the hijacking problem."

Officials said 130 passengers and 11 crew members were aboard the four-engine jetliner when it was hijacked. Four unidentified foreigners were on board, airline officials said.

The Soviet controlled Radio Kabul reported the passengers were given food, warm clothing and other unspecified facilities.

Final attempt to raise balloon fails

'Double Eagle V' won't make trip

United Press International
NAGASHIMA, Japan — The huge "Double Eagle V" balloon was a heap of polyethylene Tuesday and plans by its crew to make the first trans-Pacific flight were called off for at least a year.

Before dawn today, on the third and final attempt to pump thousands of pounds of helium into the vessel, a cable snapped loose, thrusting the balloon into the air and dragging the unmanned gondola 30 yards along the ground.

"It's over," crew member Ron Clarke said of the bid by three Americans and one Japanese resident of New York to make the un-

precedented 6,000 mile drift. "We just don't have any helium."

Captain and flight leader Ben Abruzzo was fatalistic. "I guess this wasn't meant to be," the veteran balloonist said. "I don't know why. I guess this just wasn't our time."

Abruzzo, 50, said they didn't have enough helium to make another try at sending the limp balloon aloft, adding, "We don't have a balloon we can trust."

Another crewman, Rocky Aoki, who owns a chain of restaurants, said, "It was a total failure. But we will try again around this time next year."

The team's first balloon was damaged Sunday night and the backup was ruined in today's failure, the second attempt to get the balloon filled and the gondola off the ground.

The crew members began pumping helium into the balloon shortly after midnight. It was tied to a trailer truck along with some 15 tons of weight to prevent it from rising prematurely.

But a second cable holding the onion-shaped balloon snapped loose and broke, forcing the crew — Aoki and Abruzzo, Clarke and co-captain Larry Newman — to cancel the historic million-dollar

journey in Nagashima, 200 miles southwest of Tokyo.

Clarke, Abruzzo and Newman come from Albuquerque, N.M.

Abruzzo, Newman and Maxie Anderson made a 3,150-mile voyage across the Atlantic in 1978, the first manned balloon flight across the smaller ocean.

Tattoo convention draws curious stares

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — Several hundred admiring spectators whistled and cheered at the hundreds of tattoos covering the 79-year-old grandmother's body.

Elizabeth Weinzal gingerly lifted the skirt of her cotton dress so the crowd could see her legs. The white-haired woman from Portland, Ore., appeared in the Sixth World Tattoo Convention's beauty contest.

The three-day convention, which began with a beauty contest Friday, attracted fans and artists from all 50 states as well as Canada, Australia and Europe.

Admiring eyes focused on the thousands of tattoos in bright red, pink, yellow and blue covering Hollace Fletcher's upper body. Chosen the Best Tattooed Man of 1981, the 29-year-old Louisiana native said he was "typical, I think, of most people who have it done."

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