

State

Nguyen Van Nam: 'I don't want to fight over here'

Vietnamese seek court help in Gulf fishing violence

United Press International
HOUSTON — Vietnamese fishermen Thursday asked a federal judge to issue orders and appoint special deputies to stop the Ku Klux Klan and native Texas shrimpers from taking violent action — allegedly being readied as late as last weekend — to drive refugees off the Texas coast by force.

"We have come to love our new home and to hope that for us and for our children the American dream will become a reality," said

Nguyen Van Nam, president of the Vietnamese Fishermen's Association, in announcing the lawsuit.

"I used to be a soldier. I don't want to fight over here," said Nam, a former Vietnamese army colonel.

Louis Beam, Texas Klan grand dragon indicted in Dallas last week for using federal land for paramilitary training, called the suit "an attempt to intimidate the Klan." He said it would fail and promised the Vietnamese "a lot

better fight than they got from the Viet Cong."

The Klan and a group of fishermen led by Gene Fisher of Seabrook, a named defendant, held a cross-burning rally Feb. 14 at Santa Fe near Galveston Bay. Beam demonstrated how to burn Vietnamese boats and threatened violent action if the Vietnamese were not off the bay by May 15, the start of fishing season.

The suit said the Klan and fishermen as late as Sunday were conducting joint paramilitary exercises on the east side of Galveston Bay and asked U.S. District Judge Gabrielle K. McDonald to issue a preliminary injunction forbidding violence against the Southeast Asian refugees.

The plaintiffs charge that American fishermen and dock operators who have been friendly to the Vietnamese fishermen also have been threatened and intimidated.

The suit on behalf of all Vietnamese fishermen on Galveston Bay accused Beam, the Klan, the Seabrook-Kemah Fishermen's Coalition and individual Texans of various violations of antitrust, civil rights and anti-racketeering laws. It alleges criminal conspiracies and attempts to restrain trade.

Vietnamese and Texas fishermen have feuded along the Texas coast since the refugees started pouring into the area in 1979.

The Americans have complained that Vietnamese use illegally large boats and have crowded coastal waters that already were barely supporting American fishermen. They have accused the Vietnamese of ignoring local customs.

The Vietnamese say they have violated no laws and want only to live and work peacefully in their new home.

Two Vietnamese men were tried for murder and acquitted in the 1979 shooting of an American fisherman at Seadrift on San Antonio Bay. Several Vietnamese boats have been burned. The Vietnamese blame Americans.

Nam said 51 of 58 members of his association had promised to leave the Galveston Bay area and seek other employment if they could sell their boats and homes.

However, he said they wanted to be able to keep fishing if they could not sell out by May 15. He also said several members of his association want to stay and were seeking court protection.

"We are asking the court to issue an injunction against the named defendants," he said, "enjoining them from any acts or conduct that would deprive the association's members of their legal

rights to pursue their commercial fishing operations as protected by the laws of the state of Texas and the United States."

Beam told UPI: "It's an attempt to intimidate the Klan and make us give up this fight. However, exactly the opposite will be the result. I don't expect the Vietnamese to be any more successful in this fight than the last."

"Only a fool could expect these Texans to give up their birthright without a fight and I promise them (the Vietnamese) a lot better fight than they got from the Viet Cong."

Airline's troubles may lead to default

United Press International
GRAPEVINE, Texas — Braniff International Airlines stock continued its decline in active trading on the New York Stock Exchange Thursday while news of the airline's financial woes, which analysts have termed "shocking" and "blunt," spread through Wall Street and the airline began its painful task of belt-tightening to prevent a default.

As of mid-afternoon, the price of Braniff stocks had declined more than 20 percent from \$5.16 to \$4 during the previous 24 hours. In morning trading alone, airline stock lost 16 cents, and analysts expected the decline to continue.

What triggered the concern was an auditors' report to company stockholders saying Braniff has until Sept. 30 to increase its net worth by almost 75 percent or likely will be forced to default.

In a letter to Braniff shareholders, customers and employees, company Chairman John J. Casey, who has refused to accept any salary since assuming the position last March, stopped short of saying the airline would survive. Casey, however, promised he and his management team would do everything possible to return Braniff to profitability.

The airline's auditors told stockholders Wednesday the company may be unable to survive its deep financial troubles. The financial report raised the possibility of default by the end of September.

The company's annual report, also released Wednesday, said the airline was required to maintain a consolidated net worth of \$175 million and if the airline did not meet that requirement on Oct. 1, 1981, default also could occur. It noted Braniff's consolidated net worth on Dec. 31, 1980, was \$101.5 million.

The report admitted actual default was prevented in 1980 by "waivers of certain (loan) covenants, which expire Sept. 30, 1981."

The report said Braniff's net loss for the year was \$131.4 million, liabilities exceeded current assets by \$143.2 million and long term debt totaled a staggering \$583.6 million.

Casey in his letter admitted, "We are anticipating continued increases in jet fuel costs, a further decline in the nation's economy and airfare discounting over Braniff's routes as new competitors seek a share of our market."

The statement was a reference to fierce competition by American Airlines and Delta Air Lines, which have moved into traditional Braniff high profit routes.

Ray Chanaud, a Braniff spokesman, said Thursday despite the possibility of default raised by the auditors, Braniff officials expected significant financial improvements to be reflected in first quarter earnings, to be issued April 21.

In addition to personnel layoffs at Braniff, employees recently approved a pay-cut, profit sharing plan to reduce the company's expenses.

In New York, the Wall Street Journal quoted analysts as saying that company had not been making any progress on its problems despite its efforts to do so.

One analyst was quoted as saying, "What's quite shocking is that it (the annual report) is so blunt."

Resolution names arillo state mammal

United Press International
AUSTIN — The House Thursday approved a resolution making the armadillo the official state mammal.

The resolution was a two-year effort by Rep. Don Henderson, R-Houston, who carried the legislation on behalf of elementary school children in his district who made the request.

"But this also is a mandate from West Texas, from the mail we've received," Henderson said.

Rep. Bennie Bock, D-New Braunfels, told Henderson he did not consider the armadillo the state's favorite mammal, especially since longhorn cattle also are unique to the state.

"We got a lot of mammals other than this one, which doesn't amount to nothing," Bock said.

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