

State

# Salvadorian refugees complicate illegal alien problem

United Press International  
Citizens of war-torn El Salvador are trying to enter the United States in record numbers by crossing the Texas-Mexico border, say U.S. Border Patrol agents who report the refugee onslaught has reached alarming proportions. They say the number of El Salvadorian refugees — combined with illegal alien traffic from other Central American countries — is putting a large burden on already overworked Border Patrol agents. They (the Salvadorians) are coming out of the woodwork, so to speak, W.G. Luckey, an investigator with the U.S. Border Patrol in Harlingen, said Monday. "We are catching them every day. Listen, every jail in the Rio Grande Valley is filled up. We are catching all we can get."

Border Patrol agents say the increase in refugees trying to enter the country is partly due to reports from Washington that U.S. officials might grant the aliens some form of amnesty. And the agents say such reports only make a bad situation worse, because an inadequate number of Border Patrol employees are kept busy with "everyday" problems such as drug trafficking and other criminal activities. The patrol arrested 28 Salvadorian men, women and children in a single swoop Saturday. Six Mexican nationals and three "transporters" — smugglers who transport an illegal alien across the Rio Grande River for a fee — also were arrested, officials said. Another group of 55 Salvadorians was caught

in February near Brownsville after crossing the border in boats from Mexico. Luckey said most of the Salvadorians pay an average of \$1,500 to \$2,000 per person to smugglers who are operating large rings inside that Central American nation. Once in Mexico, the Salvadorians are brought into the U.S. by people who charge a fee of about \$20 per person to cross the Rio Grande. "In fact, the (Salvadorian alien) problem in Kingsville is so bad they are now being housed in motels," Luckey said. He said the number of Salvadorians entering the U.S. illegally rose dramatically "in the last few weeks. We have no idea why. We are being completely overrun here."

Mexican and Guatemalan authorities are unable to check the traffic because of their own manpower and equipment shortages, and the problem adds to pressure on the United States, officials say. It costs an average of \$300 to \$400 in air fare alone to deport an El Salvadorian from the United States, officials say. There are additional expenses involved in agents' salaries and overtime, feeding and even medical treatment for sick aliens. Jim Kerr, assistant chief of U.S. Border Patrol in McAllen, Texas, admits the civil war in El Salvador is contributing to the problem. However, he was also critical of recent efforts in

Washington to grant some kind of amnesty to the illegal aliens, which he said would only attract more. "Any time you have an upheaval and word gets around there might be some form of amnesty, there is always a group that will try to take advantage of it," Kerr said. "I just work for the organization and I don't make the policy," he said. "But personally, I think this amnesty idea is ridiculous because it pardons those who have broken the laws of the U.S." Kerr said the only way to solve the problem is to make it extremely hard for aliens to enter the country and equally difficult for them to secure employment.

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## Drug rings under FBI scrutiny

United Press International  
NEW YORK — FBI Director William Webster said Tuesday the agency will assume an increasingly active role in narcotics investigations, an area the FBI has traditionally shunned. Webster said the bureau's concern about narcotics trafficking stemmed partly from the FBI's ongoing investigation into organized crime. "We see that narcotics is clearly one of the main sources of illicit revenue" of organized crime, Webster said. He also said drug trafficking had been recently linked to jury fixing and the slaying of a federal judge in Texas. "This type of arrogance has to be met," Webster said. He was in New York City to receive an award from the Riot Relief Fund, a civic group that provides financial assistance to the families of slain police officers. Historically, the FBI has shunned narcotics investigations because of a fear its agents would be corrupted. Webster added the FBI also lacked the "undercover capability" to successfully conduct long-term investigations into drug trafficking. The capability, he said, was established through the bureau's intensive investigation into organized crime. He added the FBI no longer feared large numbers of its agents might be corrupted by probing drug operations. "We have no major corruption concerns," he said. Drug investigations at the federal level are conducted principally by the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs. "DEA and Customs are simply overwhelmed in terms of manpower," Webster said. The director said the FBI's increased activity in drug enforcement would not mean an expansion of the bureau's jurisdiction in criminal matters. But he said some of the FBI's traditional strengths, such as expertise in financial matters, would be used more frequently in drug investigations.

## Tech won't get new lab building yet

United Press International  
LUBBOCK — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said Tuesday he favors construction of a \$22 million dollar soil moisture and plant stress research laboratory at Texas Tech University but admitted that no funds for the lab building will be available this year. Bentsen, who was in Lubbock for a briefing on the proposed project, which would be built on Texas Tech land if funded by Congress, told university officials: "I must tell you we're not going to get that building this year." He added, however, that he will "try to hold on to the research money." Dr. Sam Curl, dean of Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences, noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking Congress for \$1 million in research money in 1982 and \$22 million for construction of the laboratory. Increasing the reliability of agricultural production — including the development of drought-resistant grain and fiber crops — would be the goal of the fully funded program. Bentsen pledged to continue to try to get the building funded but noted that "this is not the year for it."

