

Begin expected to call elections in November

United Press International
JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Menachem Begin quickly dropped plans to resign over a tied no-confidence vote in parliament, but analysts predicted

he would call new elections by November. Protests against Israeli actions in the occupied West Bank — the cause of the no-confidence vote — spread to the

Gaza Strip, and the U.N. Security Council scheduled an emergency session Wednesday on the flourishing violence.

Begin called an emergency Cabinet meeting immediately after Tuesday's 58-58 parliament vote over the West Bank unrest, to inform his ministers he had decided to go to the president to tender his resignation. Though a tie vote is a technical victory for the government, enabling it to continue in office, Begin, 68, told aides Monday he would regard a tie in the 120-member body as a personal defeat and resign.

But the Cabinet voted, 12-6, for the prime minister to stay on. However, analysts predicted he would call new elections by November because of his lack of a clear majority in the Knesset (parliament).

"With the participation of the representatives of the coalition, the government decided to reject the prime minister's proposal to report to the president to tender his resignation," Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor said after the session.

"The prime minister accepted the verdict and will not resign," Naor said.

The no-confidence vote was introduced by the opposition Labor alignment, Communist and centrist Shinui parties.

It was the first time Begin did not win in six confidence votes since his re-election June 30 with a razor-thin one-vote majority for his Likud Bloc coalition.



staff photo by David Fisher

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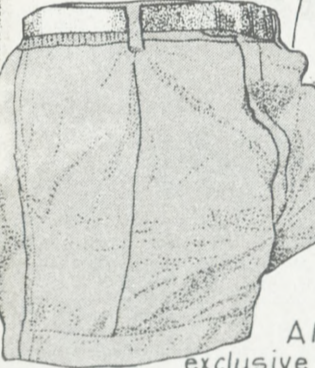


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Shuttle pilots rest despite problems

United Press International
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.— America's space shuttle pilots won the praise of mission scientists Wednesday and got an easier work schedule so they could rest up for the remainder of the ambitious seven-day orbital flight.

Jack Lousma, 46, and Gordon Fullerton, 45, were in good spirits as they began the Columbia's third day in orbit, despite a series of nagging troubles that continued Wednesday when their toilet's solid waste processor stopped.

An important test of the ship's 50-foot robot arm was postponed until today because failure of a television camera on the end of the boom was expected to complicate efforts to grasp and pick up a scientific instrument for the first time.

The astronauts have been assured of a safe re-entry Monday despite the loss of three dozen insulation tiles from the shuttle's nose and tail.

That discovery and other problems Tuesday prompted flight directors to give the pilots an extra hour of sleep Wednesday because it was obvious the astronauts were fatigued. But

there were indications that they were up and about the spacecraft before they got a wake up call at 7:21 a.m. CST from mission control.

Later astronaut David Griggs in mission control read a message to the pilots from the team of scientists responsible for some of the 14 experiments aboard the rocket plane.

"The OSS-1 (Office of Space Sciences) experimenters are all very excited about the excellent data they are getting," he said. "They would like to express their appreciation to Jack and Gordon for the terrific support they have given the OSS-1 experiments."

Lousma expressed concern when Wednesday's flight plan was revised to give them more rest. He did not want the 115-orbit mission, the third and toughest test yet for the shuttle, to omit any test objectives.

The mission commander reported trouble sleeping his first night in orbit because of annoying bursts of static in his ear phones as the ship passed over Iran and China. Engineers said it could have been caused by radar tracking the ship and an effort was made to trace the

source Wednesday.

The astronauts resolved a potentially serious problem before retiring. One of the payload bay doors would not latch during a test to see how it performed when subjected to the deep freeze of space. After turning the ship to warm up the door, Lousma reported it worked satisfactorily.

The problems that cropped up Tuesday kept the astronauts busy with unscheduled troubleshooting and impromptu tests looking at tile damage and mysterious, sparkling particle streaming from the tail.

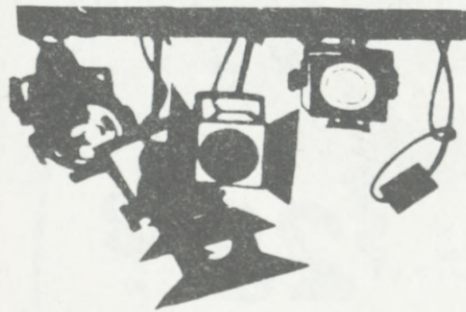
Nevertheless, they managed to conduct the first of a series of experiments designed to test a new process that may lead to the production of valuable space drugs in orbiting pharmaceutical factories.

A short circuit kept the pilots from turning on the camera mounted on the "wrist" of the arm to lead the way to an electrical and magnetic field monitor. Hutchinson said engineers and astronauts concluded the operation could be performed, and the instrument lifted, without the TV aid.

A second camera, mounted on the arm's "elbow," did work and produced a series of dramatic views of the Columbia's nose, pocked by dark splatters where 25 white ceramic tiles once were in place.

Not only were those tiles missing, but Tom Moser, deputy manager of the shuttle program office, reported films of the launch Tuesday revealed a dozen black tiles had fallen during the shuttle's blastoff Monday. Some tile debris was found on the launch pad.

All the missing tiles, Moser said, were from areas where the heat caused by air friction during re-entry wouldn't exceed 800 degrees Fahrenheit.



Weekend Entertainment

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Friday

William Reeder Band

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