

Texas A&M The Battalion

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On a clear day

photo by Doug McNair

Participants in the Texas A&M University Fireman's Training School face a wall of smoke during a fire-fighting practice session. Members of fire

departments across the nation attend the school to learn the latest techniques for fighting urban and industrial fires. The school lasts from July 26 to July 30.

230 injured in Lebanon

United Press International
Israeli gunboats and warplanes pounded Beirut for a seventh straight day today and Prime Minister Menachem Begin said U.S. envoy Philip Habib must have an "unequivocal commitment" that in 48 hours the PLO will leave the Lebanese capital.

Begin's statement came a day after some of the fiercest fighting in the 8-week-old invasion of Lebanon. Relentless barrages killed 120 people and wounded more than 230 others Tuesday.

"Last night we met with Mr. Philip Habib. He did not have much good news," Begin told a new group of Israelis formed recently to support government policy.

The prime minister said Habib told him of his talks with Arab leaders and that several of the leaders expressed willingness to accept part of the 6,000 to 8,000 guerrillas trapped in the besieged Lebanese capital.

"But until now it is not clear if the terrorists are truthfully willing to leave Beirut," Begin said. "He (Habib) will find out in the next two days. So he promised us."

"He said he must get 'an unequivocal commitment' that they'll leave," Begin said.

The prime minister repeated his demand that the PLO troops, trapped in west Beirut by 35,000 Israel troops and armor, must leave Lebanon.

But he vigorously denied a quote attributed to him by Rep. Paul McCloskey, R-Calif., to the effect Israel "has the right to destroy Beirut even though they kill 10 Lebanese and five Palestinians for every Palestinian soldier."

"Not one word like that came out of my mouth," Begin said.

Habib talked Tuesday with Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his more than five-week attempt to avert a bloody showdown in Beirut.

Israeli newspapers reported Jordan's King Hussein told the U.S. envoy guerrillas carrying Jordanian passports with no record of security offenses would be allowed into Jordan. About 2,000 guerrillas could fall

into this category, reports said. Today's air and sea attacks, which began after a brief early morning lull, were aimed at the semi-deserted Sabra refugee camp in the heart of Moslem west Beirut, the city's southern suburbs and the coastline of the besieged city.

The guerrillas wheeled their mobile anti-aircraft guns out into the streets of the besieged city and fired Soviet-made SAM-7 rockets at the attacking warplanes. There were no reports of any aircraft hit.

Police said at least 120 people had been killed in Tuesday's daylight Israeli land, sea and air bombardment. Scores of civilians were feared trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

The police said another 242 people were wounded, many of them seriously. The Palestinian news agency Wafa said 247 civilians were killed and another 295 seriously wounded in six consecutive days of Israeli air raids.

Lebanese television said 84 people died when a 9-story apartment building in the expensive waterfront neighborhood of Raouche was destroyed by the attacking Israeli warplanes.

A high-rise building housing the Canadian, Swiss, Greek and Yugoslav ambassadors also was hit, but none of the diplomats were injured. Canada said it would protest the attack and possibly move its offices out of the area.

Palestinian and leftist gunners fired nine giant rockets into the Christian-controlled resort-port of Jounieh, 12 miles north of Beirut, where a shell earlier hit the West German Red Cross vessel Flora, killing one crewman.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Butros left for Saudi Arabia today to join counterparts from four other Arab nations and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in talks on the Lebanon crisis.

PLO guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat sent messages to the French, Cuban, Soviet and Saudi Arabian heads of state appealing for "immediate action to the Israeli war of genocide."

Soviet grain, Mideast topics

Reagan to face nation tonight

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan — mulling over Soviet grain and Middle East peace efforts and troubled economy — faces the nation tonight in a nationally broadcast conference.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan was in the final stages of deciding whether to extend one year a wheat agreement with the Soviet Union that expires Sept. 30.

Speakes said he was leaning toward short renewal instead of negotiat-

ing a new, long-term pact. They did not rule out the possibility Reagan would announce his decision at the news conference, scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. EDT.

No announcements but plenty of questions were expected about U.S. peace efforts in embattled Lebanon, where Israel has encircled Beirut — trapping members of the Palestine Liberation Organization inside.

The State Department Tuesday, in an action reflecting U.S. concern over Israeli operations in Lebanon, said

the United States is indefinitely suspending shipments of cluster-type artillery ammunition to Israel.

This will be the 12th news conference of Reagan's presidency and again the shadow of the sagging economy will be hanging over him when he steps before the bright lights and cameras.

Congressional Budget Office Director Alice Rivlin said Tuesday even if Congress passes the tax hikes and spending cuts now under consideration, the federal deficit could swell to

\$150 billion in each of the next three years — about 50 percent higher than White House projections.

The White House responded by calling Mrs. Rivlin "unduly pessimistic" about the economy and the impact of the administration's recovery program.

Mrs. Rivlin said she based her projections, in part, on the recession and high interest rates.

The president Tuesday sought to apply some personal pressure on big city bankers to start a bandwagon rolling for lower interest rates.

Officials say water supply plentiful

by Rebecca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
Hot summer weather usually brings concern about water shortages, but city officials say College Station and Bryan have plenty of water this summer.

"We don't anticipate any problems unless we have equipment problems," College Station City Manager North Bardell says.

Bryan City Manager Ernest Clark says the city of Bryan also does not expect a water shortage unless some unforeseen malfunction of equipment occurs.

"We feel like we have sufficient water capacity," Clark said.

Last summer, College Station did suffer a water shortage. At that time, the city was buying water from Texas A&M University.

When a University well caved in

and equipment problems showed up, a water shortage developed, Bardell said. Residents were asked to conserve water by not watering lawns or washing cars.

"We have an entirely different system now," Bardell said.

The new water system includes two wells which provide an additional eight million gallons of water to last year's water supply, Bardell said.

The maximum water consumption so far this summer for College Station was on July 20 when 6,735,000 gallons of water were consumed. Bardell said the city had no problems handling the peak consumption.

Bryan owns 16 water wells but only allows 14 to pump water, Clark said. Bryan's peak consumption so far this summer was 16 million gallons; the city has the capacity to pump 23 million gallons of water a day.

Registration possibly ineffective

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Despite an administration get-tough policy, registration for the draft has fallen sharply during the past few months, sources say.

The sources, familiar with congressional testimony that was to be given by the General Accounting Office, said since March the GAO has found only 78 percent of those required to register have done so.

This compares to well above 90

percent having signed up since the program began two years ago. It also raises the number of noncompliant to about 700,000 — nearly 200,000 more than GAO's last report a few months ago.

These and other figures were to be presented today at a hearing by a House judiciary subcommittee on enforcement of the Selective Service law.

Sources said agency representatives will testify "registration rates are

falling below the 93 percent point and in total some 700,000 young men to date have failed to register."

Former President Carter ordered the reinstatement of draft registration following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Although President Reagan campaigned against it, he has since changed his mind and decided to keep draft registration as part of his military readiness policy.

In recent weeks, in efforts to prod

more young men to sign up — as required — when they turn 18 years old, the administration has cracked down on the law.

It has indicted three young men for refusing to register and warned it would go after more. The Rev. Bary Lynn, president of Draft Action, a major anti-draft group, said the GAO figures indicate "all of the extensive publicity the Selective Service has put out over two years has failed to make a dent in this mammoth enforcement crisis."

Regents okay construction contracts

by Terry Duran

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M System Board of Regents approved more than \$19 million in construction contracts for projects throughout the System at a meeting Tuesday morning.

Preliminary plans for a \$21.5 million engineering/physics building at the College Station campus were included in these projects. The 110,000-square-foot building, scheduled to be built where Lot 7 is now, will be the most expensive and one of the largest academic structures in Texas A&M's history.

The building is meant to increase the number of mechanical engineering laboratories and classrooms and to improve physics research capabilities.

The contracts were approved in committee work sessions Sunday and Monday. This action followed heated discussion about how much extra consideration the board

should give Texas A&M supporters and Aggie-owned firms when awarding contracts to design firms.

The controversy focused on the selection of the architect/engineering firm for the engineering/physics building, which is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1986.

Design firms are normally chosen by System planning staff members. Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Construction Wesley E. Peel proposes the staff's top three firm choices, in order of preference, to the Board of Regents. Criteria for selection include technical competence, the company's size, prior work done for both the System and other customers and demonstrated support for the Texas A&M University System.

In a Monday morning briefing to the regents about the selection procedure, Peel said that, "all other factors being equal," some preference is given to firms owned by Aggies,

those employing a large number of Texas A&M graduates or those who have contributed financially to the University or the System.

Regent William A. McKenzie complained when recommendations for design firms presented later Monday morning listed only the first choice for each project, not the top three.

After a revised list was distributed, Regent Royce E. Wisenbaker moved to award the engineering/physics building contract to Preston Geren Associates of Fort Worth, instead of Melton Henry Architects, Inc., of Houston, which was the firm recommended by Peel's planning staff.

McKenzie said "dedication to the System should be a factor" when decisions about design firms are made.

Wisenbaker said Geren, who was fourth on the staff list of recommendations, had been a major force in

the design and construction of Cain Hall, the University athletic dormitory, and was once president of the Aggie Club.

The majority of the regents agreed to the change until Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright called the move "a bad mistake."

Regent Norman N. Moser agreed, saying he was "reluctant to overrule" the staff.

"I don't think Preston Geren performed all those valuable services in expectation of any favors," Moser said.

The regents voted 7-2 to give the \$140,000 preliminary design contract to Henry (Wisenbaker and McKenzie opposed). The vote was followed by the board's restatement of its desire to show "some extra consideration" to proven supporters of Texas A&M.

In other action Tuesday, the full board approved committee action

recommending:

— A \$315,000 appropriation for a detailed design of a Medical Sciences Library.

— A \$20,000 appropriation for preliminary plans for exterior renovation of the Academic Building.

— Acceptance of a \$10.1 million bid for construction of a Horticulture and Forest Science Building.

— Acceptance of a proposal of a master's program in journalism. The proposal must now go before the Texas Coordinating Board for approval.

— A \$32,000 appropriation for preliminary designs for a warehouse and chapel at Prairie View A&M University, and \$95,000 for expansion of a library at Tarleton State University.

The regents also congratulated Texas A&M's women's softball team on their 84-9 season, which included state and regional championships.

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forecast

Fair today and Thursday with highs near 100; low tonight in the 70s.

