Gunman releases infant hostage from rail car

United Press International
RALEIGH, N.C. — A gunman holding out for the fourth day in
a fetid Amurak sleeping compartment handed a crying 4-year-old girl to an FBI agent today but police said the girl's mother and

month-old brother were apparently dead.

The gunman, who identified himself as Mario Rodriguez, said a man was also lying dead in the tiny compartment, but police discounted the claim.

The girl was freed early today after the gunman was told by FBI gent Raymond Ayres, "I'm going to the hospital anyway, let me

The girl, wrapped in a pink blanket, was handed to Ayres through the window of the sleeping car after negotiators convinced Rodriguez they would not shoot him. She was in "fair to

good condition" at a hospital.

Police have believed since Friday that a woman, thought to be the mother of the two children, is dead. Rodriguez has said her decomposing body is in a top bunk of the 6-by-10 foot compart-

Some police officers stationed closest to the sleeping car wore masks today because of the stench apparently from the woman's decomposing body.

Although the 9-month-old child could be heard crying often Friday and Saturday, the crying gradually became more irregular and stopped Sunday morning. Rodriguez said the baby, which officials first thought was a girl but said today they believed was a

boy, is dead. "The baby is dead, allegedly," Police Chief Frederick K. Heineman said. "We don't have reason to believe he's lying.

Police said a man identified from an Amtrak passenger list as W Rodriguez, a woman and the two children got on Amtrak's Silver Star at Jacksonville, Fla., Thursday night bound for New York. Mario Rodriguez has claimed a man he identified as William Rodriguez is dead. Heineman discounted the claim, saying "it's

possible but improbable" a dead man was in the compartment. Police said they believed Mario Rodriguez and W. Rodriguez ere the same man.

Heineman described the gunman as a "man of many extremes." I have never run into anyone like him before nor have any of the other hostage negotiators that are here," Heineman said. "He is highly unpredictable."

Tay Beasley, a spokesman for Wake County Memorial Hospital where the 4-year-old was taken, said she is "active, she has been crying and talking. We have just brought in a nurse to act as an

Ms. Beasley said the girl appears to understand Spanish better Raleigh Police Capt. C.L. Price said Ayers, who speaks Spanish,

had been able to establish a relationship with Rodriguez. Price said Rodriguez feared he would be shot if he gave up the

girl.
"When Rodriguez went to the window, he showed both hands and said 'Don't shoot me," Price said. "The negotiator assured him

After the girl was released, police attempted to resume negotiations with Rodriguez, who has wavered between threatening police officers and threatening to kill himself.

Sunday night, Rodriguez lowered a 9-millimeter handgun wrapped in a white cloth from the window of the compartment. In return, authorities tied a bag containing soft drinks and cigarettes to the rope and Rodriguez pulled it back into the compartment.

Police said Rodriguez still had a .45-caliber weapon.

Now you know

United Press International
An old home remedy that keeps the refrigerator smelling fresh may also help people avoid salt to kill oral bacteria. The research is funded by baking soda manufacturer Arm and Hammer. expensive gum surgery. Baking soda—though largely forgotten in recent times — has long been known as a tooth power. Now there is lab evidence for its effectiveness in preventing gum dis-

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The September issue of Science Digest magazine reports that scientists at the University of California, San Francisco, have recently conducted tests that focus on the power of baking soda, Epsom salts and table

salt to kill oral bacteria. The re-

Bacteria were inhibited by all three compounds but were inhibited by baking soda at lower concentrations than were necessary with Epsoms salts and table

Oral biologist Ernest Newbrun said baking soda seemed to take special aim at gum diseasecausing bacteria, affecting them more than they did other bacteria. "Now we are doing rate studies to see how fast they're killed," Newbrun added.

Arena collapse kills 2

United Press International MEXICO CITY — A bull-fight arena packed with 1,500 spectators collapsed Saturday, crushing hundreds of people under metal and wood debris. Two people were reported dead and an estimated 200 were injured, police said.

Police spokesman Jaime Lara said 75 ambulances from the Red Cross and the city rescue squad helped to take an esti-mated 200 people to hospitals. He said two people were re-

ported killed. Half of the Carlos Arruza Plaza, constructed of metal tubing and wood, apparently collapsed from the vibrations of a

landing helicopter Saturday afternoon, Lara said. The helicopter was bringing bullfighter Antonio Lomelin to the plaza in San Pedro Actopan, a neighborhood in the south-western part of Mexico City.

More than 1500 people were watching the bullfights when the plaza collapsed, Lara said.

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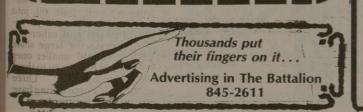
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