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Begin to resign

United Press International
JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Menachem Begin, his personal and political troubles overriding pleas from his allies to remain Israel's leader, has made a final decision to resign, Israel radio said today.

The authoritative radio did not identify its sources, but said everyone who met with the prime minister today was convinced Begin's decision to quit was final and that he would tender his resignation to President Chaim Herzog.

Another report on Armed Forces Radio quoted an unnamed partner in the ruling coalition as saying Begin would resign.

None of the reports could be immediately confirmed. Before meeting with coalition leaders to officially inform them of his final decision, Begin held talks with U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane.

Israel Television said McFarlane

carried a personal message from President Reagan, apparently asking Begin for a further delay in Israel's planned military redeployment in Lebanon, where two U.S. Marines died Monday in fighting between religious factions.

The Israeli troops nevertheless appeared poised today to begin the redeployment, with Israeli newspapers reporting the pullback to south Lebanon was near.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., where Reagan is vacationing, aides declined immediate comment on Begin's resignation, except to say it was an internal matter.

Begin, 70, kept Israel in suspense Monday, agreeing to delay his final decision at the request of coalition leaders.

"I gave a commitment to make up my mind by tomorrow morning and I will do it," Begin was quoted as saying Monday by Ehud Ulmert, a member of the prime minister's Likud Party.

Emerging from a meeting with Begin at the prime minister's residence Monday night, Ulmert said, "Nothing transpired this evening to change my opinion (he) is resolved to retire."

Israeli news media reports said Begin, in his second term as prime minister, would quit and name Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir as his successor.

"Everyone begged the prime minister to change his mind," Deputy Prime Minister David Levy said after Begin's three-hour meeting with coalition leaders Monday.

"I hope that everything we said today about the future, about the tests facing the nation, about Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) will indeed have their effect," Levy said.

The television said three key coalition partners, Tami, the National Religious Party and the right-wing Tehiya Party decided Begin's resignation would have no effect on their participation in the government.



staff photo by John Makely

Temporary space — we hope

Shown making the best of a bad situation are Rex Woods and Brian Livingstone, from Spring, along with Rusty Stapp and

Todd Trostel, from Dallas. The four freshmen are currently housed in a study carrel in Aston Hall.

West Texas drought draws federal aid

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Drought-stricken Schleicher, Reeves and Loving counties in West Texas were declared disaster areas Monday, Rep. Tom Loeffler, R-Texas, said.

Loeffler said the formal declarations were made by Agriculture Secretary John Block.

Loeffler's office released the announcement as Loeffler made it to those attending the West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in San Angelo.

The federal disaster area declaration enables affected farmers and

ranchers to qualify for the emergency loan programs administered by the Farmers Home Administration.

They are also exempted from paying federal taxes on livestock they must sell because of the drought.

Loeffler said through a spokeswoman that the Small Business Administration informed him by letter that it will soon designate the 23 stricken West Texas counties as an economic injury disaster area.

Once that happens, owners of small businesses will be eligible for economic injury disaster loans, if they are unable to obtain credit and working capital from private sources.

The loans, at 8 percent interest, will be for amounts equal to the loss due to drought, with a ceiling of \$500,000 per small business.

"This is further good news for those who have suffered economic hardship due to this terrible drought," Loeffler said in his statement.

The other counties which have already been declared disaster areas are Brewster, Crane, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Sutton, Terrill, Upton, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Ward, Winkler, Coke, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan, Howard, Andrews and Ector.

Who's Who Selection process undergoes changes

by Karen Schrimsher
Battalion Staff

A different procedure will go into effect this year for selection of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Instead of being nominated by other students, faculty and staff, eligible students will apply for selection by filling out an application and depositing it in one of nine boxes stationed around the campus, or turning it in at the Department of Student Services. The procedural change was made because of the difficulty of obtaining nominees' updated addresses.

To be eligible for application to Who's Who, a student must fulfill the following requirements:

- An undergraduate student must have 92 credit hours as of September, at least 30 of which must have been taken at Texas A&M. This year veterinary medicine students will be eligible if they became seniors in May, and medical students that became seniors in June.

- An undergraduate student must have an overall grade-point ratio of 2.5.

- A graduate student must have completed one semester at Texas A&M in which he has completed a minimum of 12 credit hours for which he receives grade points. This excludes hours for 681 and 691 courses since those courses do not earn grade points. A graduate

student must have a grade-point ratio of at least 3.5.

- A professional student (enrolled in either the College of Veterinary Medicine or the College of Medicine professional curriculum) must have an overall grade point-ratio of at least 3.0.

- The student must be active in campus and/or community activities and show qualities of leadership as indicated by positions held in various organizations.

- Applicants must not be on probation of any kind as of this Wednesday.

Fifty-two students will be selected by a committee composed of faculty, staff and students appointed by the vice president for student services and the student body president.

Applications may be obtained from boxes located in the Housing Office, the Corps commandant's office, the Memorial Student Center, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Kleberg Center, the office of the dean of veterinary medicine, and the office of the vice president for student services.

The applications will be accepted Sept. 12-30.

The awards will be presented at a Who's Who reception in conjunction with Parents' Day Weekend on Friday, April 13, 1984.

Questions concerning application for Who's Who should be directed to Christine Carter, senior secretary, Department of Student Services, 110 YMCA.

'It's something our alumni deserve'

Former Students plan new building

by Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Association of Former Students is making plans for a new home.

The Association, now located in the Forsyth Alumni Center in the Memorial Student Center, has experienced such rapid growth since 1970 that it has outgrown its present location, associate executive director James M. Jeter said.

He said he wants the new building, which is to be located at the corner of Jersey and Houston Streets, to be a symbol of Texas A&M for everyone.

"It's something our alumni deserve," he said. Jeter said the Association has leased a little more than three acres of land from the University to build on. The building will have between 25 and 30 thousand square feet, he said, and probably will be a two or three story building.

He said he wants a \$20 donor to feel as comfortable in the building as a million dollar donor.

Jeter said the Association of Former Students is different from those at other universities because it is smaller and younger. But, he said that the Association has national recognition for having a large amount of participation from members. The association has about 100,000 members.

Night launch successful for shuttle

United Press International
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The shuttle Challenger rocketed a black American and his four crewmates into orbit early today, riding a brilliant plume of orange flame that turned night into day in a spectacle seen 400 miles away.

It was like an instantaneous sunrise. The flame gushing from Challenger's twin booster rockets cast an eerie orange glow that brightened in seconds to virtual daylight intensity over the rain-soaked spaceport.

"It was daylight almost all the way up," commander Richard Truly re-

ported from an altitude of 29 miles, 2 minutes into the unprecedented night flight.

Truly, co-pilot Daniel Brandenstein and mission specialists Guion Bluford, Dale Gardner and Dr. William Thornton flew the winged space freighter first into a preliminary orbit and finally into a safe orbit about 184 miles high.

Bluford is the first American black in orbit and Thornton, at 54, is the oldest man ever to reach orbit.

A major test objective was achieved 1½ hours after launch when the Chal-

lenger's communications were relayed to Earth for the first time by NASA's new \$100 million tracking satellite for 34 minutes, bypassing ground stations across the United States.

Challenger, making its third flight and the eighth in the shuttle program, began the six-day mission when its three hydrogen engines and two booster rockets roared into life at 2:32 a.m. EDT — 17 minutes late because of rain and clouds in the area. It was the first shuttle launch delay since the third shuttle flight 17 months ago.

Principal goal of the mission is to launch a \$50 million three-in-one satellite for the government of India Wednesday morning. The satellite is designed to relay up to 8,000 telephone calls simultaneously across India, beam television directly to 100,000 rural antennas and take weather pictures.

The astronauts also will make the first night landing. They are scheduled to glide in the darkness to a landing on a brightly illuminated desert runway at 12:25 a.m. local time Labor Day at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Oklahoma prison riot over

United Press International
HOMINY, Okla. — Officers rounded up the last of nearly 750 inmates and moved them from a fire-ravaged prison early today, ending a riot that left one prisoner dead and 23 inmates and officers injured.

A Corrections Department spokeswoman in Oklahoma City said the prisoners, who had battled guards and burned buildings Monday night, were fed, loaded onto buses and taken to other facilities.

Department spokeswoman Joyce Jackson said officers regained control of the Conner Correctional Center, all fires were out, food was taken in and the prison was evacuated. She

said the inmates were being taken to other state prisons and none would be housed in county jails.

Authorities identified the man slain in the rioting as Greg Hodges, 27, who was serving a 12-year sentence from McCurtain County for second-degree murder.

Corrections Department Director Larry Meachum said an autopsy would be required to determine the cause of death, but Dennis James, a hospital administrator in Hominy, said Hodges suffered gunshot wounds to the chest.

All of the inmates were rounded up by 4 a.m. CDT, officials said. Meachum had said an hour earlier that 130 inmates still were "not

cooperating," and a spokesman for Gov. George Nigh said earlier that only 200 inmates were under control and another 500 were believed to be loose within the medium-security facility.

John Reid, the governor's news secretary, said the facility housed 748 inmates and "the entire prison was involved" in the rioting.

Officials said 20 inmates and three guards were injured.

Nigh declared a state of emergency and summoned 100 members of the National Guard from Bartlesville and Ponca City and at least 120 Highway Patrol troopers to help quell the riot and regain control of the prison.

Retiree recovers \$100,000 bond left on copy machine

United Press International
HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — A 70-year-old retiree who left a \$100,000 bearer bond — his life savings — on a copy machine more than a month ago had it back today, minus a \$25,000 reward, in what he calls an "unbelievable" happy ending.

Bob Weinberg said when he realized he had lost the bond "I was so sick about it, because me and my wife needed the income for our remaining years. And then we had willed the rest to our three children."

Weinberg discovered he had lost the bond Aug. 17. When his plight was reported in the newspapers Mon-

day, he received a call from Robert Platt of Hallandale, Fla., who said the man who had the bond had been trying to return it by advertising in the same papers.

Weinberg then got in touch with Vincent Panaro, also of Hallandale, who said he had the bond. Weinberg had promised a \$25,000 reward and he came through.

On Aug. 17, he had gone to a savings association to clip and cash his first \$4,000 coupon. When he opened the bond envelope, he found it empty. That's when he realized he had left it in the Xerox machine.

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