

Salvadoran officials meet with rebels second time

United Press International
COSTA RICA — Special U.S. envoy Richard Stone joined government officials from El Salvador and representatives of the Salvadoran guerrilla forces in a round of talks Tuesday, seeking an end to the four-year civil war. "One of my jobs is to facilitate dialogue with the Salvadoran Commission and the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN) and Democratic Revolutionary Front (FRD). Stone said Monday on his arrival in San Jose, the Costa Rican capital.

Sources close to the FMLN-FDR rebel coalition said Stone would meet Tuesday with guerrilla leader Guillermo Ungo and Jose Morales Ehrlich, a leading Christian Democrat and a former member of the U.S.-backed junta that ruled El Salvador until the March 1982 elections.

In Bogota, Colombia, Francisco Quinonez and Bishop Marco Rene Revelo, of the Salvadoran government's Peace Commission, met for two hours Monday with Oscar Bonilla and Carlos Molina, representatives of the guerrilla front, in the first face-to-face encounter between the

two groups. Following their talks in the office of Colombian President Belisario Betancur, the four men met with journalists, but declined to make any statements.

In San Salvador, Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Constituent Assembly and head of the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance party, sharply criticized the left for sending what appeared to be third-level representatives to the meeting in Colombia.

"What they want is to mount a show and they don't believe

either in the democratic system," said D'Aubuisson.

In Honduras, Defense Minister Col. Amilcar Castillo Suazo said there is a possibility that the region will re-activate the nearly defunct Central American Defense Council in order to "stand up to communism."

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, with Panama as an observer, established the defense council in the 1950s, but the organization fell apart after the 1969 "100 hours" war between Honduras and El Salvador.

Ads for Honduran vacations generate little U.S. response

United Press International
HOUSTON — A newspaper in several newspapers, featuring a picture of a smiling woman in flowered dress, beckons U.S. visitors to explore "undiscovered" Honduras.

The ad, in newspapers in Houston, New Orleans, Miami and New York, tout the "hundreds of miles of sun-drenched beaches," and beckons Americans to "enjoy horseback riding

and hunting in forests of mahogany and pine."

The ad campaign was sponsored by the Honduras Ministry of Tourism. But after three weeks, the promise of romantic bungalows overlooking uncrowded beaches has enticed only one booking on the four day vacation tour.

"We had a 'Mr. and Mrs.' who signed up out of New Orleans," said John Stengele, national sales manager for Caribbean Holidays travel agency in New York, handling the booking arrangements. "Other than that, we've had a lot of inquiries."

Some Houston travel agents expressed concern over anyone trying to promote tourism in Honduras, where there are border skirmishes with neighboring Nicaragua and camps for refugees from the civil war in El

Salvador are located.

Stengel said although Honduras may not now be a popular destination, plans for the ad campaign were prepared by the Honduras government last year before problems escalated. He said the government does not expect the tourist campaign to be a success for two or three more years, or until after volatile Central American politics stabilize.

Egyptians keeping watchful eye on possible Begin resignation

United Press International
CAIRO — Egypt, the only Arab country formally at peace with Israel, is worried about the possible "negative effect" that a resignation by Egyptian Prime Minister Anwar el-Sadat could have on Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Egypt is watching carefully for news on Begin's resignation, although we consider it a purely domestic affair," said Dr. Butros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs.

"What we care about is that it not have a negative effect on the peace process."

Ghali's remarks Monday came the first official Egyptian reaction to Begin's possible resignation. The government carefully reserved comment and Egyptian leaders would not say who they would like to see as a successor.

While Egyptian leaders would not publicly state a preference for a successor, they are known to have a strong dislike for Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir — a strong contender for Begin's post.

Egypt may look more favorably on a new role in the Israeli government for Ezer Weizman, the former defense minister who visited Cairo last week and met privately with Mubarak.

That Mubarak met with Weiz-

man at all was significant in light of the strain in Egyptian-Israeli relations caused by the invasion of Lebanon and Israel's settlements policy on the West Bank.

Egypt recalled its ambassador to Tel Aviv last year to protest the invasion and the treatment of Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied areas. Egyptian officials said it was unlikely the ambassador would soon return.

U.S. carrier sent to Lebanon coast

United Press International
BEIRUT — A U.S. aircraft carrier was ordered to the coast of Lebanon in a show of force Tuesday and a French soldier was killed in an ambush on the third day of factional warfare in Beirut.

The nuclear-powered USS Eisenhower steamed to within sight of the Beirut waterfront one day after two U.S. Marines were killed and 14 others wounded in fighting that engulfed the capital Monday.

"We want to bring it out so everyone can see it," Marine spokesman Maj. Robert Jordan said. "We don't want anyone to be fooled as to our capabilities."

Robert Pugh, the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy, said the Eisenhower was coming to the Beirut waters "as a show of support in view of what happened to the Marines yesterday."

Masked Shiite gunmen fought government troops in the streets of West Beirut again Tuesday and Beirut reports said French and British peacekeeping units came under attack.

One French Legionnaire was killed and two others wounded in an ambush on a French unit in West Beirut, the reports said.

Details of the attacks on the peacekeepers were sketchy, but a spokesman for the 2,000-man French contingent said assailants fired a "projectile" at a French unit.

A Lebanese soldier was killed in the new clashes, bringing to 38 the number of people reported killed, including 15 Lebanese army soldiers. More than 130 others were wounded in the three days.

The fighting between the Amal, a Shiite Moslem militia, and government troops resumed with sniper fire and intermittent explosions that paralyzed Beirut's southern suburbs and made crossing between east and west Beirut hazardous.

However, there were no reports of incidents involving the Marines.

"It's quiet around our positions since last night," said a spokesman for the 1,200-Marine peace-keeping contingent, which maintains a base at the Beirut airport south of the city.

"We're still under condition four," he said. "This means our men are out of the foxholes and altogether more relaxed."

With the escalating violence, a Marine spokesman said the

Eisenhower, which had been on duty in the Mediterranean, was ordered to Lebanese waters and to stand 3-5 miles offshore — visible to those on land.

Jordan said Air Force jets on the air craft carrier were ready for possible action during Monday's bombardment of Marines positions.

"The aircraft were standing by aboard the Eisenhower and were ready to respond if our salvo did not repress the fire. We were ready to defend ourselves to the degree necessary," he said.

The Pentagon identified the Marines dead as 2nd Lt. Donald Losey, 28, of Winston Salem, N.C., and Staff Sgt. Alexander M. Ortega, 25, of Rochester, N.Y.

The incident sparked a flurry of activity. A crisis management team of the Reagan Cabinet was ordered to the White House to consider the growing violence.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., deputy press secretary Larry Speakes stressed President Reagan's intention to keep the Marines in Lebanon. But several members of Congress called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

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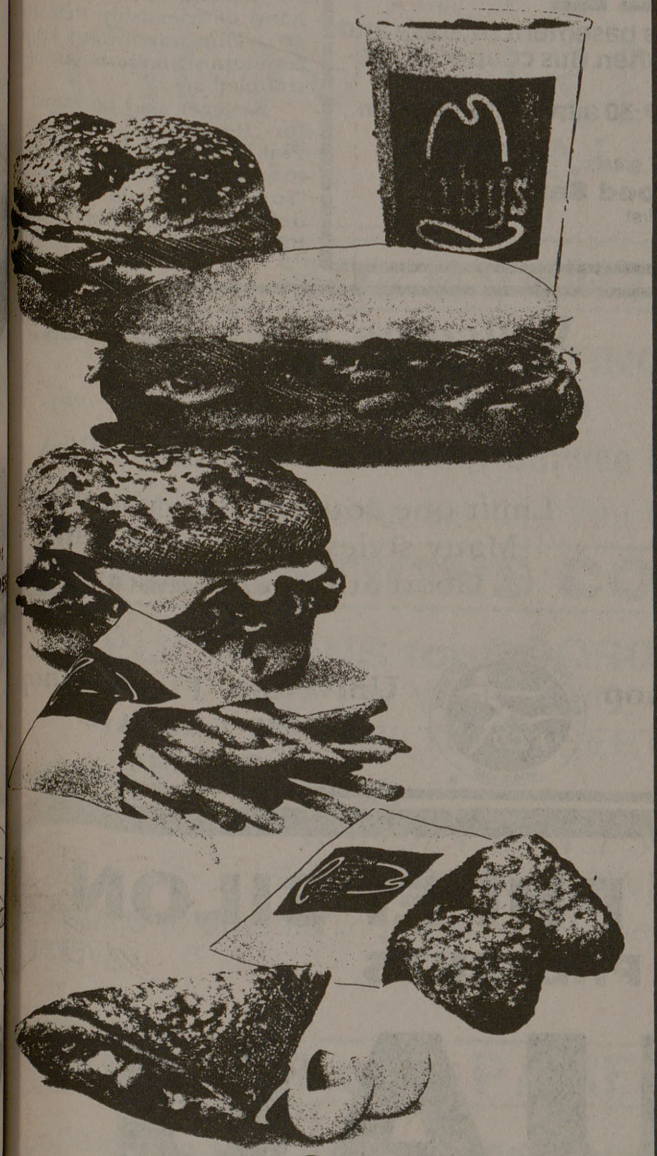
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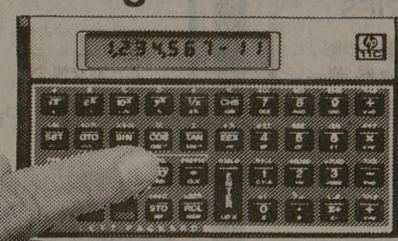
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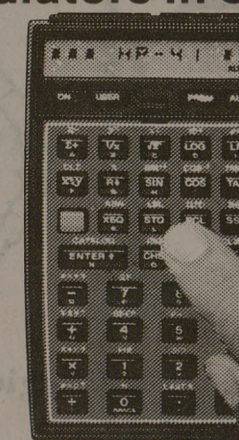
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