

Pope's request denied by Florida governor

United Press International
STARKE, Fla. — Murderer Robert A. Sullivan, at "peace with himself" after 10 years on death row, ate his final meal today and was given last rites in preparation for his execution in Florida's electric chair.

Gov. Bob Graham rejected an unprecedented clemency appeal from Pope John Paul II and refused to consider a reprieve, a spokesman said.

Sullivan, convicted of the execution-style killing of a motel clerk, was scheduled to die at 10 a.m. in the 59-year-old electric chair that has killed 197 inmates. He had to be executed by noon or the death warrant would expire.

Father Robert Boyle gave Sullivan his last rites and then

left the Florida State Prison at 7 a.m. today. Prison spokesman Vernon Bradford said Sullivan was "light-hearted and jovial when he ate breakfast this morning but when his priest left he was much more somber about the situation."

Sullivan ate a final meal of a two-pound sirloin steak, french fries and fresh strawberries at 6 a.m. Later, he was to have his head and legs shaved, take a shower and dress in a plain blue suit for the execution.

Early today, Sullivan's attorneys made another last-ditch effort with the Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee to have the execution blocked on the grounds that electrocution is "cruel and un-

usual punishment." Such appeals, however, have failed in the past.

The Supreme Court handed down a 7-2 ruling with Chief Justice Warren Burger writing a separate statement upholding the majority.

The burly, 36-year-old college dropout and adopted son of a Harvard-educated surgeon, was condemned for the 1973 execution-style murder of Homestead, Fla., motel manager Donald Schmidt, 39.

Shortly after dawn today, about a dozen anti-capital punishment protesters paraded silently in front of the Florida State Prison, carrying signs which read "Stop Legal Murder" and "It's still lynching."

Ambassador: war possible Philippines 'unstable'

by Mary Macan

Battalion Reporter
 William Sullivan, former U.S. ambassador to both Iran and the Philippines, says he fears a revolution similar to the one in Iran could occur in the Philippines, but the United States can act now to prevent it.

In a speech last night to about 100 people, Sullivan said the area is in an uneasy state of equilibrium that could become unstable. The country is in the midst of a severe economic crisis. He said economic mismanagement, corruption, a huge foreign debt and the worldwide recession have contributed to the crisis.

In addition, he pointed out that since 1965 the Philippine government has been in the hands of an authoritarian leader. President Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and abolished the position of vice president. Marcos is now gravely ill and Sullivan said he is able to work only three days a week.

He said the economic crisis and the fact that Marcos isn't as popular with the Filipino people anymore could precipitate a civil war.

Sullivan said the United States can use its weight to help restore democratic processes in the Philippines and prevent a civil war.

Sullivan noted several similarities between the Philippine and the Iranian situation. Both governments are controlled by authoritarian leaders, both countries believe that the United States can control the political climate of the region and both countries are strategically located.

However, he also listed differences between Iran and the Philippines. The United States' relationship with the Philippines has always been friendly, since the Philippines were once an American colony. In addition, the Philippines have a tradition of a democratic process of government. Another contrast is the economic situations of the two countries. The Philippines is a relatively poor country, while

Iran is sitting on a pool of oil. Sullivan said the United States could successfully intervene to prevent the Philippine situation from turning ugly. He said a good example of how not to handle the situation is the way former President Carter handled the Iranian crisis.

Marcos has already agreed to some changes, Sullivan said. He has decided to allow an election in 1986 to choose a vice president. However, Sullivan said this is not soon enough. The election needs to be held now, he said, to insure the succession if Marcos should die.

Shuttle crew successful

United Press International
SPACE CENTER — Space-lab's scientists hopped, dropped and were shocked in orbit Tuesday to test their adaptation to weightlessness, and officials on the ground were ecstatic about results so far from the space shuttle science expedition.

"If you look at what's happened so far, you've got to be excited about what's coming," said chief scientist Charles Chappell at mission control.

anticipating a scientific bonanza from the nine-day voyage.

"Now there's a new capability available to us. It opens new horizons."

Flight commander John Young and the two scientists on his "red team," Robert Parker and Ulf Merbold of West Germany, completed their 12-hour shift at midday and handed operations over to co-pilot Brewster Shaw and scientists Owen Garriott and Byron Lichtenberg.

Young and Shaw were tending to operations of the shuttle Columbia in the cockpit while the scientists worked in the 23-foot-long Spacelab in the shuttle's cargo bay. The flight deck and lab are linked by an 18-foot tunnel.

The four scientist-astronauts served as guinea pigs much of day two of the nine-day mission in an effort to learn how weightlessness affects the body, particularly the intricate inner ear system that keeps us balanced on Earth.

They whirled about in a rotating chair; they donned strange headgear to let scientists see how their eyes responded to body moves, and they underwent the hop, drop and shock tests in the name of science.

The hop and drop experiments tested the effect of the lack of gravity on basic postural reflexes.

GM gives A&M \$250,000 gift

United Press International
COLLEGE STATION — General Motors Corp. has given Texas A&M a \$250,000 endowment to provide scholarships for minorities and women.

The gift, announced Monday by Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver, is part of an agreement reached in October between General Motors and the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by which the auto manufacturer will invest nearly \$45 million in

the next five years to implement affirmative action efforts.

Of that total, \$15 million is to go for educational endowments and scholarships.

The University will receive \$50,000 each year for five years to create a perpetual endowment. The investment income from the gift will provide scholarships for minorities and women, with preference given to GM employees and their families, beginning with the 1984-85 school year.

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