

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 78 No. 72 USPS 0453110 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, December 13, 1983

Islamic truck bomb crashes into embassy

United Press International
KUWAIT — Islamic terrorists slammed a truck loaded with explosives into the U.S. Embassy Monday in a bombing blitz against seven American, French and Kuwaiti targets that killed at least five people and wounded 77 others.

There were no serious American casualties in the embassy bombing. The same Islamic fundamentalist group that claimed it killed 240 people at the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut and 63 others at the U.S. Embassy in the Lebanese capital claimed responsibility for the new terrorist onslaught in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti authorities said seven installations were struck by truck and car bombs in the 90-minute string of attacks, including the French Embassy and the airport of the Persian Gulf oil sheikhdom.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said the known toll in the embassy bombing stood at four dead, 37 wounded and two missing. He said some of the wounded were in serious condition.

Romberg said that besides the 37 wounded, some Americans were slightly hurt in the attack but all 65 Americans assigned to the embassy and their 237 dependents were accounted for.

Two of the dead were foreign nationals working in the embassy maintenance section, Romberg said. The identities of the other two were not immediately known.

Kuwait's official news agency said another person was killed in a car bombing at the airport 30 minutes after the embassy attack, bringing the

casualty toll in the seven bombings to five dead, two missing and 77 wounded.

A group calling itself the Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, claimed responsibility for the seven bombings in a telephone call to a Beirut news agency. The same group claimed responsibility for the Oct. 23 suicide bombing at Marine headquarters in Beirut and the April 18 bombing at the U.S. Embassy in the Lebanese capital.

The organization, with links with Iran, has been behind a string of suicide attacks that have killed 573 people, including 257 Americans, at U.S., French and Iraqi targets in the past two years.

Monday's attacks began at 9:40 a.m. when a Mercedes truck — the same type of vehicle used against the Marines — slammed through the gates of the seaside U.S. Embassy compound and headed for the main buildings.

Asked if any defensive actions had been taken at the embassy gate, Romberg said, "I don't think there was any time. The truck came careening around the corner" and into the compound.

In the confusion following the blast, conflicting versions emerged on the fate of the driver of the suicide vehicle, with some witnesses telling the official Kuwait News Agency KUNA he dove from the truck before it hit the building.

Cars were tossed through the air and the entire area was covered with smoke and flames. The embassy chancery escaped the worst of the blow, but hours after the explosion,

part of the severely damaged three-story administration building collapsed.

Director general of KUNA, Daoud Suleiman, said some of the other blasts were caused by high explosives and others by small charges inside vehicles packed with butane gas cylinders designed to incinerate their targets.

Suleiman said an attempt to bomb a U.S. residential compound misfired when a small charge in one vehicle exploded but failed to ignite the truckload of 60 gas canisters.

Some 3,000 Americans live in Kuwait.

The attack on the U.S. Embassy appeared to be the only suicide mission of the 90-minute spree, with the remainder apparently car bombs of different types.

The French Embassy, the third target of the morning, was hit by a car bomb parked in the street outside. French officials reported extensive damage to the building, but said only three people were cut by flying glass.

A U.S. construction company was among those attacked by car bombs.

The Kuwaiti targets included the airport, an oil complex, an industrial area and a control center for the Ministry of Water and Electricity. An eighth bomb was dismantled.

Kuwait's government, alarmed by the violence in the normally quiet oil sheikhdom, vowed to take the "staunchest and harshest" measures against those responsible.

The United States has blamed the Iranian regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for strikes by the Islamic Holy Jihad.



Construction

Dean Saito, Battalion photo

This worker is silhouetted by the sun as he works Monday atop a bank in Bryan.

Dunn refuses information

Dean found in contempt

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — University of Texas medical school dean Marvin Dunn was found in contempt of a grand jury Monday for failing to turn over documents naming suspects in a series of infant deaths at Medical Center Hospital.

District Court Judge David Berchermann, saying Dunn's actions precluded a Bexar County grand jury from completing its investigation, found Dunn in contempt and fined him \$100.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Nick Rothe argued that Dunn intentionally withheld hand-written notes and a preliminary report by Dr. A.W. Conn of Toronto from the grand jury.

Conn conducted an in-house investigation of infant deaths in the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit that occurred between 1978 and 1982. The existence of the documents was not known until late October, when Dunn voluntarily turned them over during a grand jury appearance, Rothe said.

But Rothe said the documents should have been released March 22, when the grand jury issued a blanket subpoena asking the hospital for all notes, memoranda and other information on the case.

Dunn supplied the grand jury with a second Conn report in March, but prosecutors said Conn's initial report and notes were more detailed and could have allowed the investigation to move faster.

Rothe said Conn's initial report and hand-written notes had one thing in common from other documents released by Dunn to the grand jury.

"They named somebody and some facts about a particular individual," Rothe said. "They named individuals suspected of misbehavior."

Rothe said UT officials were more concerned about the potential for lawsuits against the system than they were about cooperating with the grand jury.

UT officials did not "play by the rules," he said, because they never asked that the subpoena be quashed or sought a motion for protection before the subpoena was returned.

Dunn's attorney, Gerald Goldstein of San Antonio, argued that Dunn cooperated fully with the grand jury and correctly withheld the documents on the advice of UT attorneys.

"It is not yet a crime in America to rely on your attorney's advice," Goldstein said.

Goldstein also argued that Dunn could not be held in contempt of a grand jury that is no longer in session; that Conn's notes, which he described as personal writings, were exempt from compulsory production; and that releasing the information would have violated fifth amendment rights.

"Dr. Dunn's conduct was not contemptuous, your honor, it was commendable," Goldstein told Berchermann.

But Berchermann, saying the withheld information was "really important," found Dunn in contempt.

Although Dunn could have been fined \$500, Berchermann called Dunn's October release of the documents a mitigating factor and find him only \$100. Goldstein said he would appeal the ruling.

The grand jury last month indicted nurse Genevieve Jones for injury to a child in the alleged drug injection of 4-month-old patient.

Jones, who worked in the hospital's pediatric unit, also is scheduled to go on trial for murder Jan. 16 in Georgetown for the death of a Kerrville infant.

Cigarette starts UT fire

United Press International
AUSTIN — A fraternity house fire that killed a University of Texas coed and injured six people was apparently sparked by a cigarette, investigators said Monday after interviewing one of the hospitalized victims.

Fire investigator Lt. Jerry Wolf said he established the probable cause after talking with UT junior Frederick Paul Pestorius, 20, of Barington, R.I., who was seriously burned in the fire. The fire began in Pestorius' room.

The fire killed Margo Helen McFee, 19, of San Antonio, who was visiting in Pestorius' second-floor room at the Lambda Chi Alpha house early Sunday when the fire erupted.

"It was accidental and it was smoking related," said fire department spokeswoman Debbie Brown. "Apparently one of them was smoking, but we don't know which one."

Two other fraternity brothers, Dan Whitworth, a freshman from Brownsville, and Mike Ford, a sophomore from Kingwood, were treated at Brackenridge hospital for cuts.

Two firefighters were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation and a third was taken to the hospital with a sprained knee after a piece of building siding fell on him.

A wall fell, apparently trapping McFee in a back hallway where she was overcome by smoke inhalation. The fire destroyed two-thirds of the wood frame building.

It took two hours to find the body in the rubble. The fire was first reported at 6:17 a.m.

Pestorius tried to rescue McFee, a sophomore business major at UT, and former Texas Military Institute homecoming queen and cheerleader, but he was overcome by the heat and smoke.

A Brackenridge Hospital spokeswoman said Monday Pestorius was in serious but stable condition in an intensive care ward, suffering from second and third-degree burns over 18 percent of his body.

The four-alarm blaze destroyed 13 of the U-shaped stucco building's 22 living units west of the UT campus.

Fire Capt. Danny Stamper said that strong winds quickly spread the blaze throughout the fraternity house, and 14 fire trucks were needed to control it.

Several fraternity members said they dove out of second-floor windows just ahead of the flames, losing everything but the clothes they wore. Only eight of the 40 fraternity members were at the house at the time of the fire.

"It's a tragedy," said fraternity president Scott McEuen. "Everyone is in shock."

The fire was the third to strike a UT fraternity this year. The vacant Tau Kappa Epsilon house was damaged on Nov. 20, and a Feb. 11 fire destroyed the Zeta Psi fraternity.



Dr. Dawn Merton and Clarisse

Aggie raccoon rehabilitated

by Leslie Yoder

Battalion Reporter

Clarisse is a seven-month-old raccoon. And she's been an orphan for most of her life. Clarisse's misfortune began when her mother abandoned her before being weaned.

Fortunately for Clarisse, she was rescued last May after being abandoned and taken to the Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Department where Dr. Dawn Merton, a veterinarian, has been taking care of her ever since.

Merton said that a relative of an employee at the clinic was spraying insecticide on a plum tree when he discovered Clarisse and her mother up in the tree. Both raccoons became frightened and fell to the ground. Then, the mother ran away.

"Even though Clarisse was abandoned at such a young age," Merton said, "she was in good health when we got her."

Raccoons are susceptible to feline and canine diseases such as distemper and parvo virus so Clarisse was given vaccinations as a preventative measure, she said.

To provide a natural environment for Clarisse, Merton put several logs together within a large cage and covered the floor with hay.

"Hanging from one of the logs is an empty bucket that Clarisse uses to burrow in," Merton said. "We also have a couple of buckets filled with water in the cage because she loves to play in them."

Clarisse's diet includes high-quality cat food, although wild raccoons will eat anything from fruits and cheeses to small animals, she said.

Raccoons are active during the night and sleep during the day, but Clarisse's clinical rehabilitation has caused her to be more active during the day when Merton spends the most time working with her.

Merton takes Clarisse for walks outside of the clinic on a regular basis to help her get more accustomed to a natural environment.

Merton said that she doesn't support having wild animals as pets because she values their right to be wild.

"Most wild animals that are kept as pets develop nutritional imbalances and die," she said, "because

people aren't aware of these special needs.

"A raccoon needs to be put in an environment where they have free access to the outside," Merton said. "Yet, they also need to be fed at the same place everyday until they get used to their environment and eventually they will go off and begin foraging for themselves."

Merton said that Clarisse doesn't know how to completely forage except by what she knows through instinct.

"If we were to let her go someplace where she didn't have access to food," Merton said, "she'd die from starvation."

But wild animals will always maintain some of their wild instinct, she said.

"Last year, we heard of a bobcat that really tore up a baby," Merton said, "and it was put to sleep. I've just heard of so many wild animals ending up bad because they were kept as pets."

Within several weeks, Clarisse will be sent to live on a ranch in Austin to complete her rehabilitation.