

# Father believes son is alive in Vietnam

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — An Austin man says he has information his missing son and other crewmen of the sunken drill ship Glomar Java Sea are alive in Vietnam.

The father of a crewman missing from the drill ship Glomar Java Sea, which sank Oct. 25 during a typhoon off the China coast, says a government official told him some crewmen are alive in Vietnam.

Douglas Pierce of Austin, father of John Pierce, 29, of Stephenville, Texas, refused to name the U.S. government official who told him 10 Americans and 11 other crewmen are alive in Vietnam.

Vice president Dick Vermeer of ship owner Global Marine Inc. of Houston said: "We talk to the State Department every day and we don't know that information to be true."

Officials had raised the possibility crewmen drifted to Vietnam west of the sinking site if they managed to use lifeboats to survive the onslaught of Typhoon Lex, which the ship supposedly was designed to ride out.

None of the 81 men aboard the vessel when it sank has been found.

The Glomar Java Sea was drilling in the South China Sea under contract to Atlantic Richfield when it sank. Divers have located the vessel underwater off Hainan Island, but they have found no sign of its crew.

Pierce has filed a federal court suit accusing Global Marine of negligence and seeking \$8.5 million in damages.

Patricia Cates, wife of missing crewman Bernard Patrick Cates of Midland, also has filed a federal court suit accusing Global Marine of negligence and seeking \$5 million in damages.

Pierce said his son had asked for a transfer from the vessel because of communication problems between English-speaking and Chinese crew members.

"Obviously things happen very quickly on a drilling ship and communications are vital," the father said. "For the first time in four years (of offshore work) he was afraid."

Global Marine has filed documents in federal court disclaiming responsibility and saying it did everything possible to keep the ship safe.

In Hong Kong, a U.S. Marine Board of Investiga-

tion reconvened Monday to hear testimony about the sinking. The five-member board is scheduled to hear more testimony in Houston next month.

Houston lawyer Michael Shelton, representing Pierce and Mrs. Cates, is attending the hearings in Hong Kong, Pierce said.

Vermeer said Global Marine met in Washington last week with an organization of relatives of U.S. soldiers missing in action in Vietnam. The organization provided advice on obtaining information about Americans in Vietnam.

Company officials also contacted Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, who Vermeer said reiterated previous statements a Vietnamese search had turned up no survivors.

"We are working though the State Department and on our own," Vermeer said. "There's not a lot of progress."

Michael Abrams, Washington attorney for Air Line Pilots Association, asked Lorenzo if the board of Continental met a few weeks before the bankruptcy filing and discussed the options involved.

# Border drug smuggling causes demand for new aerial radar

**United Press International**  
CORPUS CHRISTI — A senior state law official told a congressional hearing Tuesday that more than half of the Texas-Mexico border is not covered by radar detection at a time when increasing plane loads of marijuana are being flown in from Mexico.

Col. James B. Adams, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, appeared on a state law enforcement panel as the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control

ended a two-day hearing in South Texas in which it determined that efforts to control the trafficking and use of drugs in the area have been inadequate.

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., chairman of the panel that will draw up the next national program for dealing with narcotics smuggling and use, was particularly critical of what he said was a lack of cooperation among agencies and of concerted community involvement in dealing with the problem.

Adams said in a prepared

statement that heroin, cocaine and marijuana continued to enter the state by land, air and sea and that Texas led the nation in the manufacture of drugs and that marijuana was becoming a more important domestic crop in the state.

"Our state has an extensive land border with Mexico, a major source in our country for marijuana, and the majority of this border is untouched by radar," Adams told the panel. "As long as this condition exists, the smuggling of marijuana by general aviation aircraft is going to continue to be a major problem of Texas law enforcement officials and the state's citizens." Adams said 36 marijuana-laden aircraft were seized during 1982 in Texas and another 10 marijuana-related air crashes were reported. During the first 10 months of 1983, he said 25 drug-related aircraft seizures and three drug-related crashes occurred in the state.

Additionally, Adams said drug smugglers have begun using more vehicles and carrying smaller loads across the border to avoid prosecution under recently passed legislation providing stiff mandatory sentences for persons convicted of traf-

ficking in large quantities of narcotics. Recent seizures have increased in size down to only 25 to 50 pounds in each vehicle, he said.

He said two vessels also have been seized with marijuana aboard on the Texas coast this year. He said these figures support reports that Texas was becoming a more important landing site for international narcotics traffickers now that a crackdown in Florida has made it tougher to get boatloads of drugs ashore there.

"Texas also leads the nation in the amount of illegal drugs being manufactured," Adams said. "During 1982, 19 laboratories manufacturing illegal drugs were put out of operation by the DPS in cooperation with other police agencies. Through October 1983, 24 clandestine laboratories have been seized with a total of \$6 million worth of methamphetamine and amphetamine."

He said law enforcement agencies in Texas have located and destroyed 36,272 marijuana plants growing in 88 separate plots in 55 Texas counties this year.

# Lake Travis area blaze controlled

**United Press International**  
JONESTOWN — Nearly 300 volunteer firefighters gained control Tuesday of a fast-moving brush fire that menaced homes and businesses in the Lake Travis area, authorities said.

Travis County sheriff's office spokesman Curtis Weeks said at least 10 homes were voluntarily evacuated in advance of the wild fire. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

"There's a lot of smoldering, but it looks under control," said Cedar Park Police Chief

Randolph Doyer, who viewed the scene from a helicopter.

Firefighters said the blaze near the Jonestown community in northwest Travis County was whipped by 30-mile-per hour winds that quickly spread the flames over the hilly terrain about 20 miles west of Austin.

"Right now we've got it pretty well under control and contained, but with this wind you never know," said Jonestown Fire Department dispatcher Weldon Horton. "We've got all these hot spots and it could blow again and take off 100 mph."

Horton said more than 100 firefighting vehicles from six Central Texas volunteer fire departments were used to douse the fire. Firefighters planned to remain on watch during the night to make sure the fire did not flare up again.

Gov. Mark White dispatched helicopters from the Texas Army National Guard to help combat the fire. The choppers were outfitted with two special "fire buckets" that dumped water over an area 75 yards wide.

There was conflict over how many acres were destroyed during the nearly four hours the fire burned out of control.

Weeks estimate the acreage at 2,000, but Doyer and Horton said it appeared to be only about 200 acres.

The Jonestown Fire Department called for volunteers, including off-duty Austin firefighters, to battle the fire, and obtained firefighting equipment from the Travis County Fire Control District.

The cause of the fire, which is believed to have started near the Nameless Valley Ranch, was not known.

# A&M economists blame Congress for energy crisis

by Kelly Miller

Battalion Reporter

Two Texas A&M economists, Dr. S. Charles Maurice and Dr. Charles W. Smithson, are blaming Congress for the energy crisis of the 1970s.

While many Americans fault the Organization of Petroleum Countries and big oil companies, Maurice and Smithson say the government's policies on price controls and limited exports caused most of the problems.

The economists say the government shouldn't interfere in the free enterprise system, but should let supply and demand control the market's natural course.

"We let the market operate in 1981 and as soon as we did, the prices leveled off," Smithson says.

Maurice and Smithson say the ingenuity of human beings has always found a way to overcome past crises.

"People don't need the government to tell them ways to conserve energy," Maurice says. "They'll simply do it themselves."

They've done it in the past and they'll do it in the future."

The economists' theory of supply and demand will continue to eliminate shortages examined in a book they are writing.

"We have a very optimistic view of the world," Smithson says. "That's why we've named our book *The Domsday Book — 10,000 Years of Economic Crises*."


Maurice and Smithson say Reagan administration should deregulate natural gas immediately, instead of steadily devaluing the industry over the next three years.

"Natural gas is high priced and simply because of regulation," Maurice says. "If they regulate within a year, natural gas prices will begin tumbling down, just like gasoline prices did. That's the bottom line."

Smithson says the low prices caused by regulation sound good to consumers, eventually lead to shortages.

"The lower prices sound very good," Smithson says, "they just lead to shortages. It put a lid on prices, shortages bound to occur."

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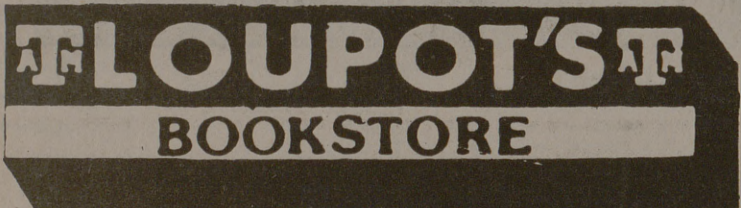
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