

Over readmission of Egypt

Islamic Conference divided

United Press International

CASABLANCA, Morocco — Islamic Conference leaders were badly divided Wednesday on key issues ranging from the readmission of Egypt to the dispatch of a team to Tehran to win over the absent Iranians.

Participants in the fourth Islamic summit — 25 heads of state, 16 lesser representatives and Palestine Liberation Organization Chief Yasser Arafat — worked late into the night in search of accord.

Talks at the 45-member Islamic Conference Organization were scheduled to end Wednesday, but conference sources said it could be extended to reach an agreement.

Egypt's re-entry was

brought up at a closed session Tuesday by Guinea and Pakistan. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia promoted the idea, but only behind the scenes, leaving the presentation to the Asian and African members.

At Wednesday's session, Sudan and Somalia joined the others in support of Egypt, in a departure from other Arab members — Syria, Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and Tunisia, who all opposed Egypt's readmission.

Conference sources said the moderates were pressing for Egypt's inclusion in the hope it would reinforce their confrontation with the hard-liners led by Syria and Libya.

Egypt was excluded from the group in response to then-President Anwar Sadat's 1977 trip to Jerusalem and Cairo's

1979 peace treaty with Israel. Fahd's efforts to bring together Arafat, Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam and Lebanon's Prime Minister Cheif Wazzan were deadlocked. Arab delegates said they felt pessimistic about any breakthrough on Lebanon.

Talks on a common approach to seeking an end of the 40-month-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq also were stalemated because Pakistan insisted Iran, which refused to attend the Islamic summit, should join the discussion.

A Pakistani-Malaysian move to send a "goodwill mission" to Iran was being debated without any outcome.

"The problem seems to be that Iran's stand is unpredict-

able. There is no telling if they will receive the delegation at all," said an Asian delegate, who asked not to be identified.

The ministers did manage to pass resolutions on less controversial issues, such as Afghanistan, but a conference source said a "meaningfully strong stand" was being thwarted by the left-leaning Arab states' insistence that the language be softened.

The summit, which opened Monday, followed four days of apparently fruitless work on draft resolutions, ranging from Egypt's readmission, to Lebanon and the Palestinian ties with hard-line radical and conservative countries.

It is the first gathering of the Islamic group in more than two years.

Downed chopper survivors say they weren't spying

United Press International

PALMEROLA, Honduras — Two U.S. Army survivors from the Nicaraguan gunfire that killed an American pilot denied Nicaraguan charges Wednesday they were on a spy mission but conceded they may have strayed over Nicaraguan territory.

Capt. Robert Green, 39, and Capt. Christopher B. Maitin, 27, both Army engineers, gave their first public account of the attack last Wednesday that killed Chief Warrant Officer Jeffery Schwab, who was piloting the helicopter.

The three were "on a routine administrative flight, we had no knowledge we were lost and the pilot gave no indication," said Maitin at a news conference at the U.S. military base at Palmerola, 60 miles north of Tegucigalpa.

The base is U.S. headquarters for the Big Pine II maneuvers, in which Schwab was participating when killed.

They said they were 4,000 feet above an open valley when the firing first started, coming from light automatic weapons and a small machine gun, and the first shot hit the helicopter at 3,000 feet.

"We saw the tracers and heard rounds popping. When it hit, it felt like it stopped us in air," Maitin, of Enos, Mont., said.

"The pilot (Schwab) executed a superb, basically miraculous, landing without power on a road we later discovered to be in Honduras," Maitin said.

Asked if they could have strayed over Nicaragua, Green, of Dothan, Ala., replied, "It's possible."

Questioned on reports that the three had flown deliberately to the border to inspect the new road project being built by Hon-

duras, Green said, "We had no mission to do road construction or anything of that nature."

In response to a charge from Nicaragua that the three were deliberately flying low over Nicaragua to survey the Nicaraguan base at La Limonera, Green said, "That's not true."

"We didn't see anything on the ground," Green said. Both officers denied they had ever been involved in intelligence work.

Jury selected in Jones trial

United Press International

GEORGETOWN, Texas — A seven-woman, five-man jury — all but one of them parents — was chosen Wednesday to hear the murder trial of pediatric nurse Genevieve Jones, and a prosecutor predicted the "bizarre" tale of a baby's death soon would begin to unfold.

It took three full days to seat the jury, which includes a medical microbiologist, a minister's wife, two grandmothers and two grandfathers. Most of the jurors are over 40 and all are white.

District Judge John Carter granted defense motions Wednesday requiring hearings outside the presence of the jury before prosecutors can introduce certain evidence during the trial.

The evidence included a suicide note allegedly written by Jones after Chelsea's death and an Ouija board — an occult-type device some people believe can be used to receive messages from spirits — reportedly used by the nurse while she still worked at the Kerrville clinic.

Defense attorney Jim Brookshire spent most of the day questioning prospective jurors, who

could spend as long as five weeks hearing evidence in the drug injection death of 15-month-old Chelsea Ann McClellan, who was a patient at the Kerrville pediatric clinic where Jones worked in 1982.

Kerr County District Attorney Ron Sutton said he hoped to call eight witnesses after giving "an unusual" opening argument early Thursday that would reveal few details of the case against Jones, a 33-year-old mother of two.

"I want the jury to see this drama unfold like they were reading a book or seeing it on television," Sutton told reporters. "If I lay it out cold all at once, it's going to produce disbelief. It's bizarre."

The state expects to prove Chelsea died after being injected with a deadly muscle relaxant. Traces of the drug were found in the child's exhumed remains last year using a recently devised test developed in Sweden. The defense is expected to challenge the accuracy of that test.

In making his initial remarks to potential jurors, Brookshire urged them to set aside the labels

of "defendant" and "accused" placed on Jones and to think of her as a fellow human being.

"It occurs to me that as she sits here today she is innocent just like you or just like I," Brookshire said. "Simply because someone says she did something does not take away her human-

ity. She is human just like the rest of us."

In addition to the murder charge in Chelsea's death, which carries a maximum penalty of life or 99 years in prison on conviction, Ms. Jones faces eight counts of injury to a child in Kerrville and San Antonio. Those children survived.

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