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U.S. warships still shelling Lebanon

United Press International
BEIRUT — A U.S. destroyer firing 5-inch guns pounded rebel positions east of Beirut Thursday and U.S. warplanes roared over the area in a show of force aimed at halting rebel shelling of Christian east Beirut.

The renewed naval fire followed a devastating 10-hour bombardment Wednesday by the U.S. battleship New Jersey and a second ship from the 6th Fleet that shook buildings across the capital.

In Damascus, Syria threatened retaliation if the U.S. naval bombardment intensified and the rebel Druze Moslem militia of Walid Jumblatt warned U.S. interests in Beirut would be physically endangered by renewed shelling.

U.S. Marine helicopters airlifted

another 50 U.S. Embassy employees and their families from west Beirut, which was seized by Moslem rebels Tuesday in a drive to oust President Amin Gemayel, a Christian.

Ignoring Syrian and Druze warnings, the USS Moosbrugger fired 150 rounds from its 5-inch guns in retaliation for rebel artillery attacks on Christian east Beirut and other Christian enclaves north of the city, a Marine spokesman said.

The spokesman, Maj. Dennis Brooks, said the naval fire was directed at anti-government positions east of Beirut but could not confirm the exact targets.

Druze-operated Voice of the Mountain radio said U.S. ships fired 25 rounds per minute in the latest barrage, which coincided with sporadic fighting along the "Green

Line" separating the Moslem-held west from the east.

American F-14 Tomcat fighter-bombers roared over Syrian positions east of Beirut shortly before the barrage began but Brooks denied reports they carried out bombing raids.

The planes drew anti-aircraft fire with Moslem militiamen firing .50-caliber machine guns as the war jets streaked westward out of the Lebanese mountains over Beirut in the afternoon.

A Druze spokesman in Damascus charged that at least 18 people were killed and 80 wounded in Wednesday's bombardment of positions in a Syrian-controlled area near Hamana, 15 miles east of Beirut in the Upper Metn mountains.

Acting on orders from President Reagan, the New Jersey unleashed a

relentless barrage of 16-inch 1-ton explosive shells that crushed entire buildings. The shells from the battleship's big guns can be fired more than 20 miles and blow a crater 100 yards wide.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Wednesday's naval bombardment was ordered because the rebel shelling was "exceptionally disruptive" to U.S. efforts to reconstitute the Gemayel government.

Jumblatt, however, told CBS news that Gemayel must go.

"Either the civil war will continue and Lebanon will just disappear or Gemayel will realize he's just an American puppet and a big loser, and if I have to give him advice it's better for him to (commit) suicide," Jumblatt said.

Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist

Party warned the U.S. Embassy in Damascus "that the people's mass reaction against U.S. interests in Lebanon may be uncontrollable if the United States continues to massacre the Lebanese people."

About 100 non-essential U.S. Marines were withdrawn from Beirut, and Marine helicopters airlifted another 50 U.S. Embassy employees or family members from the west Beirut seaford, Brooks said.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Jon Stewart said no plans were made for evacuating an estimated 5,000 American citizens from Lebanon, although non-essential embassy staff were taken out because of the "current circumstances."

In all, 140 Americans have been airlifted to the USS Guam offshore and then transferred to the Mediter-

ranean island of Cyprus.

Approximately 1,120 Marines were left on the ground, with a total of 353 non-essential servicemen taken to ships this week. Brooks said the movements were not part of the total withdrawal ordered by Reagan this week.

In its World Service broadcasts, the BBC notified the estimated 2,000 British subjects in Lebanon to prepare for evacuation by two ferries steaming from Cyprus to the port of Jounieh, 12 miles north of the capital.

In west Beirut Shiite militiamen broke up bars and gambling houses, forcing Shiite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri to order his men off the street and ask police to resume patrols of the war-battered predominantly Moslem sector.

Moreno to face 2 more charges

United Press International
RICHMOND — Prosecutors said Thursday they plan to proceed with at least two more capital murder cases against Eliseo Moreno, convicted and sentenced to death this week in the slaying of a state trooper, although trial date in the case of Moreno's slain-in-laws has not been set.

Moreno, 25, a former lawn mower repairman from Bryan, was convicted Monday of killing Department of Public Safety Trooper Russell Lynn Boyd on Oct. 11. He was sentenced to death by injection Wednesday.

But despite his conviction, prosecutors in Brazos and Waller County plan to take Moreno to trial, first in the deaths of Esther and Juan Garza in College Station and possibly for the deaths of three elderly Hempstead residents.

Moreno, still in the Fort Bend County jail in Richmond where he was tried, will go to Harris County diagnostic unit before he is transferred to the Texas Department of Corrections death row near Trinity.

The Garzas, who were related to Moreno's estranged wife, were shot to death in their apartment. Eye witnesses testified during the Boyd trial that they saw Moreno shoot the couple and flee from their home. Moreno is charged with two counts of capital murder in those deaths.

"We fully intend to try Moreno in those cases," said Assistant Brazos County District Attorney Rob Boyles. But no trial date has been set.

"We want to get Moreno into our jail before he goes to the Texas Department of Corrections." The case is considered a capital offense because prosecutors claim Moreno also was burglarizing the Garza's home. Waller County prosecutor Jim

Keeshan, who successfully prosecuted Moreno this week, said he may want in the future to try Moreno in the deaths of James Bennett, Ann Bennett and Ellie Wilkins, who were slain when they would not cooperate with Moreno.

"Those cases are murder and the maximum he could get is life in prison. We have not made a decision on whether to go to trial. And no decision has been made for the trial of the kidnapping of the Shirley family," Keeshan said.

The five Shirleys were kidnapped from Hempstead and forced to drive Moreno to Pasadena, where he gave the unharmed family his last \$6 so they could return home.

But, Keeshan noted the kidnapping case was very strong because there are five eye witnesses ready to testify.

Defense lawyer Robert Scardino Jr., who described his client as "polite, almost condescending," said Moreno initially wanted to personally argue to the jury for death. But, he was convinced by his family, lawyer and a priest to allow Scardino to try and get him life in prison.

The jury chose death by unanimously answering three questions during deliberations: was the shooting deliberate, was Moreno a danger to society and did he act unreasonably to any provocation by the victim. If all three questions were answered "yes," presiding state District Judge Oliver Kitzman had no choice but to order death.

Scardino maintains his client had a serious alcohol problem that triggered the five-hour crime spree across 130 miles of East Texas and he is not a danger to society.

Keeshan said he had no doubt the jury would convict Moreno.



Goosed in the park
John Mapes, a senior political science major from Kerrville, takes a study break and feeds bread to the geese in College Station's Central Park. Park officials are implementing a program to improve maintenance in local parks. Related story, page 6.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

College of Engineering to limit enrollment in each department

By KAREN WALLACE
Staff Writer

Beginning next fall, the College of Engineering here will limit the number of students in each engineering department, an official in that department said Thursday.

The change should ease the strain on faculty, facilities, and resources, said Associate Dean Leland A. Carlson.

"The enrollment has increased three times as much as the faculty since 1970," Carlson said. "The total number of students enrolled has increased 219 percent while the teaching faculty has increased only 108 percent."

The imbalance leaves the faculty with a heavy teaching load, he said, adding that it's also difficult to plan space and facility use for this many students.

The goal is to reduce the undergraduate enrollment from the present number of over 10,000 down to

8,000," he said, "and to increase the number of graduate students from 1,157 to 2,000."

The new program will begin with incoming freshmen next fall and will be phased in over the next four to five years, he said.

"None of the students already enrolled will be affected," he said.

The new program requires freshmen at the end of the year to submit an application to the dean of engineering in order to apply to the department of choice. In order to apply, freshmen must have a grade point ratio of at least 2.0, have 30 semester hours and have received credit for certain semester hours depending on the desired field.

Each department then decides how many sophomores it can take and accepts the best qualified students, Carlson said. The primary factor is the students grade point ratio, he said.

The student who doesn't qualify for admission can stay in engineering but can't take any sophomore level engineering courses, he said.

"The student has to decide if he wants to switch to another field and remain an Aggie or stay in his field and change universities," he said.

The program will replace the previous 2.5 grade point ratio rule where a student had to have a 2.5 to remain in the college of engineering. This rule was too severe for some departments and too lenient for others, he said.

"This enables us to go on a program by program basis," he said. Carlson said there are many reasons why the program will be good.

First, the program forces students to make important career decisions earlier than they do now, he said.

"Students will look at their career choices more realistically and much earlier than they did before," he said.

Also, the quality of instruction will increase because the number of students compared to the number of faculty members will even out a little more, and space and facilities can be better managed, he said.

The program will have some problems though, he said.

More students want to study computer science, petroleum engineering and electrical engineering than the departments have space for, he said. Many students applying to these departments will be turned down, he said.

"But it is better to limit enrollment and provide quality education," he said. "We can't continue to take just lots and lots of students in with our limited resources."

The program, which has been in the planning stage for several years, has already been implemented in 23 other universities in the United States including the University of Texas at Austin.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- College Station park officials want to begin a "Park Partners" program to help speed up park maintenance. See story page 6.
- Students are often the culprits in campus bicycle thefts on the Texas A&M campus. Story, page 7.

State

- The San Antonio Gunslingers of the United States Football League were given permission Thursday to play in Alamogordo Stadium, ending a long legal battle. See story, page 15.
- Members of an Austin church, tired of wading through "vomit, beer bottles and urine" to enter their establishment, want to move from their location across from the University of Texas campus. See story, page 4.
- David, the "bubble boy", shows sign of improvement. See story page 3.