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The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 78 No. 98 USPS 0453110 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, February 20, 1984

SCONA ends despite speaker's dilemma Speaker misses plane

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff Writer

After three days of breakfasts, lunches, brunches, receptions, speeches, group discussions and late-night parties, everyone involved in any way with the 29th Student Conference on National Affairs greeted the final day of the event with conflicting emotions.

"After a year of hard work and planning, I have mixed feelings about the conference," SCONA 29 chairman Alan Hill said in a speech at the awards brunch Saturday.

"I'm happy with the way things went and I feel good about the conference," he said, "but at the same time I'm kind of sad that it's over."

Those feelings seemed to be felt by just about everyone at the brunch, as people wandered around, many in tears, bidding farewell to new friends and hugging co-workers.

"I can't believe it's over," tearful Hospitality Vice Chairman Shannon Yetts said.

There were many people involved in SCONA 29, too. Twenty-eight executives in charge of everything from operations to finance, about 80 general committee members, faculty advisors, sponsors, and many more behind-the-scenes people that remain anonymous made the 3½-day conference possible.

But, as Hill told everyone at the brunch, the conference would not have been possible without the 140-plus delegates.

The delegates, coming from across Texas and the rest of the North American continent, were the ones who stimulated discussion on what the speakers had to say. They were the ones who were chosen by their



SCONA speaker Arthur Miller talks with delegates

respective colleges for the leadership abilities they had demonstrated in the past and for their potential as future leaders.

Besides their role as the real "thinkers" at the conference, the delegates, who came from places such as California, Iowa, New York, Canada, Honduras, Mexico and El Salvador,

appeared to be having quite a good time at the conference.

Many of the Canadian delegates arrived in town a day or two early for the conference, and wasted no time in acquainting themselves with the campus.

Shelley Paulson, a delegate from

Canada, found Texas A&M to be a great tourist trap.

"I've already bought two Aggie t-shirts, a mug and some stickers," she said, decked out in maroon and white at the post-conference party Saturday night.

And the speakers seemed to be having a good time, too.

Harvard law professor Arthur Miller, who delivered an address Thursday on media and privacy and was in the area for the first time, walked into the pre-speech press conference with a Texas A&M mug, and later that day had visited the Cow Hop, Charlie's and the Dixie Chicken before leaving College Station.

Warning sent to guerrillas

United Press International

BEIRUT — Israeli warplanes struck Sunday in an area overrun by Druze Moslem rebels last week in an apparent warning not to let Palestinian guerrillas approach Israeli-occupied south Lebanon.

The Israeli strikes also hit alleged Palestinian headquarters in the mountains east of the towns of Bhamdoun and Hamana, which have been pounded repeatedly, most recently nine days earlier.

Israeli officials said the planes screamed in from the sea to hit a building taken over by "terrorists" in Nname on the outskirts of Damour, the coastal town 11 miles south of Beirut that was taken by the Druze from the Lebanese army on Wednesday.

UPI reporters found the target

was a sawmill. There was no military equipment at the site and the only confirmed casualties were one Bangladeshi employee killed and seven Bangladeshis injured.

Lebanese officials said surface-to-air missiles were fired at the Israeli planes but Israel said all planes returned safely to base.

The Israeli attack followed warnings by the Israeli government to the Druze not to allow Palestinians through their new conquests toward the Israeli troops holding south Lebanon.

The attack followed days of Israeli patrols north of their occupation zone in south Lebanon along the coast that also seemed a warning to the Druze.

The Israeli airstrike and continued artillery exchanges between the

Druze and the remnants of the Lebanese army came as the Italian contingent of the multinational force began its withdrawal from Beirut.

The first Italian convoy moved out of their west Beirut headquarters at dawn, crossing the "green line" that divides the capital into religious enclaves, and loaded an Italian ship docked in east Beirut.

After a night of savage fighting along the "green line," the guns went silent for the Italians, although one soldier was later hit by a stray bullet at the port.

While in Beirut, the Italian peacekeepers had two soldiers killed and less than 30 wounded. The Americans lost 265 troops in Lebanon and the French lost 77 soldiers. The British did not have casualties.

An Israeli military source said

Sunday's attack was "purely against terrorist activity from the building" and was not carried out to support U.S.-backed Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

The Israelis invaded Lebanon in June 1982 to rid it of Palestinian guerrillas and have occupied southern Lebanon ever since. There have been recent unconfirmed reports that Palestinian gunmen had returned to southern Lebanon.

Outside Beirut, Druze and Christian Phalange radio reported artillery exchanges at the last army position in the mountains, the village of Souk El Gharb, which is only 3 miles from the presidential palace.

Both sides reported the other hitting population centers in the region of the main battle, with the Druze reporting attacks on mountain villages

and the Phalange describing shelling on suburbs of Christian east Beirut.

With Gemayel beset by a series of rebel victories, the government said Foreign Minister Elie Salem and presidential security adviser Wadie Haddad both left for talks in Washington.

Druze radio said the raids by the Israeli warplanes both in the mountains and along the coast "caused material damage but no casualties except some civilians in Nameh."

Huge stores of wood in the sawmill were burning out of control an hour after the raid.

A seriously wounded Bangladeshi man staggered out of the burning mill.

"Thirteen of us live in the factory. I worked there for two years. There were no Palestinians," he said.

Soviets ready to start relations with Reagan's administration

United Press International

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union said Sunday it is prepared to start improving relations with the United States if the Reagan administration will negotiate on the basis of "equality and equal security."

The message, carried by the Communist Party newspaper Pravda in an editorial devoid of the harsh language of most recent Soviet statements, came six days after the selection of Konstantin Chernenko as the new Soviet leader.

"The Soviet Union is most definitely in favor of agreeing on large-scale measures for strengthening trust," the editorial said.

The editorial said the Soviet position was outlined by Chernenko during a meeting last Tuesday with Vice President George Bush, who was in Moscow for the funeral of President Yuri Andropov. Andropov died Feb. 9.

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"The general secretary made the point that Soviet-American relations should be based on equality and equal security, on mutual consideration for legitimate interests of the other side."

point that Soviet-American relations should be based on equality and equal security, on mutual consideration for legitimate interests of the other side," Pravda said.

"If the American side were to show a practical willingness to abide by these principles, this would make it possible to start normalizing relations between the two countries," it said.

Absent from the editorial was Andropov's demand the United States show a "readiness" to remove nuclear-tipped Pershing-2 and cruise missiles from Europe before the Soviet Union agrees to resume Geneva talks on limiting medium-range nuclear weapons.

Andropov's demand was printed in Pravda on Nov. 25, two days after the Soviets walked out of the talks and about a week before the initial deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Germany and Britain.

A Western diplomat said the omission of references to Andropov's demand "was no accident."

"It sounds like they are approaching the question of relations on a broader scale than just missiles in Europe," he said.

Bush last week said it was too early to predict if his meeting with Chernenko would lead to a resumption of the Geneva negotia-

tions. He characterized the spirit of the half-hour session as "excellent."

Pravda repeated two steps first outlined by Andropov for improving the chances for a renewed dialogue with the United States.

"If, for instance, the United States were to obligate itself, as the Soviet Union has done, not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, this would have a substantial influence on the world climate," Pravda said.

Or, it said, "An international agreement not to use armed force at all would also make for a sizeable measure of trust."

Both proposals have been rejected in the past by the United States as unenforceable declarations issued mainly for their propaganda value.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek, journeyed to Aggeland and talked about his famed series. See story page 7.
- SCONA speakers give their views on the exclusion of the media in the Grenada invasion. See story page 4.
- The Aggies settle for 3rd place in the SWC indoor track meet held over the weekend. See story page 10.

State

- The Texas Coalition of Black Democrats voted to support Jesse Jackson over Walter Mondale in the 1984 presidential election.
- Texas police officers say they're protesting off-duty jobs by issuing less tickets. See story page 8.