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Shiite leader: Hostages taken from airplane

Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shiite militia leader Nabih Berri said Monday that the more than 30 American hijack hostages had been taken off their plane secretly and hidden in Beirut so they would not be hurt in a rescue attempt.

Airport officials said later they believed the hostages were still aboard the plane, but a senior Reagan administration official said Monday evening the administration believes all the hostages except the crew have been moved from the plane and dispersed around Beirut.

The hijackers commandeered the TWA flight Friday, demanding that Israel free hundreds of Shiite Moslems captured during its withdrawal from southern Lebanon and that Spain release two Shiites held there.

The U.S. State Department said Monday it believed a total of 43 people were still held hostage, including a group reportedly taken off the plane during an earlier stop in Beirut. During that stop early Saturday, the hijackers killed one American, who was identified Monday as Robert Stethem, a 23-year-old Navy frogman.

The British Broadcasting Corp. quoted Berri as saying that if Israel did not free the prisoners, he would give the hijackers, who have identified themselves as Shiites, full control of the hostages.

Beirut's Christian-controlled Voice of Lebanon radio said the hostages were distributed in groups of three or four in strongholds of Berri's Shiite militia Amal.

Just before midnight, the hijackers acknowledged that the captain remained at the controls of the Boeing 727. But the controller earlier said he had no communication with the plane's captain, John L. Teslake, during the exchanges with the hijackers.

A hijacker called the control tower for food at 8 p.m. — "only for those who are fasting, the others later" — which apparently meant the hijackers, observing the Moslem holy month of Ramadan by going without food during the day. He would not say how many "others" were aboard.

In Washington, a State Department official said the United States has "no reason to doubt" that the hostages have been taken away.

A spokesman said the department believes 43 people were being held — 42 Americans, including a dual national, and a Greek national — but the figures could not be confirmed.

U.S. officials say Berri is the key to ending the hijack and freeing the Americans.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said at the White House that President Reagan's national security adviser, Robert C. McFarlane, telephoned Berri early Monday and told him he "has in his hands the ability to end the hijacking."

Two young gunmen took control of the jet soon after it left Athens, Greece, and released hostages during stops in Beirut and Algiers, Algeria.

Israeli officials have indicated a willingness to free the Shiite prisoners in response to a public request from Washington, but the Reagan administration says Israel must make the decision. Spain has refused to release the two men it holds. The U.S. position is that it will not negotiate with terrorists.

Israel also refuses to deal with terrorists, and apparently feels a public U.S. request would avoid the impression that it had violated the policy.

An airport official who is a member of Berri's Shiite militia Amal said he served lunch to the hostages on the plane Monday afternoon, long after the time Berri said they were transferred to a hiding place. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

"I took 40 chicken lunches," the official said. "They (the hostages) washed their hands and began eating. They were all there."

Several other airport officials, who also declined to be identified, said no hostages left the plane after the release Sunday night of American Robert Peel Sr., 58, who was taken to a west Beirut hospital and then flown to Cyprus.

Before Peel's release, TWA officials had said there were at least 31 hostages and crewmembers still on the plane.

Berri said the hostages were being held in west Beirut, the Moslem sector of the war-torn capital, in which the airport is located, but would not be more specific.

If the Americans have been taken from the aircraft, there could be two separate groups of hostages. TWA and the White House say up to 12 passengers were removed from the plane during an earlier stop in Beirut.

The senior attendant on Flight 847, Uli Derickson, was among those released and told reporters in New York that seven passengers with "Jewish-sounding names" were escorted off.



Photo by GREG BAILEY

And They're Off!

Bulldozers broke the early morning silence as they rounded the first turn at the new alumni center construction site. Construction of the

center began Monday. The construction site is at the corner of Jersey and Houston streets across from the campus police station.

Accused of passing military secrets

2 more indicted in spy case

Associated Press

Federal grand juries in Virginia and California on Monday indicted Arthur J. Walker, older brother of the alleged mastermind of a spy ring, and Jerry A. Whitworth, a retired Navy radio man and friend of the ringleader, on charges they conspired to pass military secrets to the Soviets.

Whitworth, 45, was indicted by a grand jury in San Francisco, about eight hours after another grand jury in Norfolk, Va., returned a seven-count indictment saying Arthur Walker passed classified documents on Navy ship repair to the Soviet Union.

The Virginia grand jury's indictment charges that Walker, 50, a defense contractor employee, conspired with his brother, John A. Walker Jr., and "with diverse other persons both known and unknown" to give classified information to the Soviets from about Jan. 1, 1980 to May 20, 1985, the day John Walker was arrested.

Also charged in the alleged espionage ring are

John Walker's son, Michael L. Walker, a Navy seaman, and Whitworth, of Davis, Calif.

Arthur Walker, who has been held without bond since his arrest May 29 at his Virginia Beach home, will be arraigned Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk.

Conviction on all counts could result in several life sentences and fines up to \$40,000.

Along with one conspiracy count, Arthur Walker is charged with six other counts stemming from two alleged incidents of espionage in 1981 and 1982.

None of the counts involve Arthur Walker's years in the Navy. He retired in 1973 as a lieutenant commander teaching antisubmarine warfare tactics and holding a "top secret" clearance.

In three of those counts, the federal grand jury charged that on Sept. 2, 1981 Arthur Walker took, possessed and delivered to the Soviet Union a damage control book for the USS Blue Ridge, an amphibious command ship based in Yokosuka, Japan.

Three other counts charge that on April 28, 1982 Walker took, possessed and delivered to the Soviet Union casualty report messages for amphibious assault ships.

He got the documents from his employer, VSE Corp., a Chesapeake, Va., company where Arthur Walker worked as an engineer, the indictment said.

The indictment accuses Walker of photographing the damage control book and a portion of the casualty report messages at the Virginia Beach office of John Walker, a private detective. Arthur Walker then gave the information to his brother, who was a Soviet agent, the indictment said.

The damage control book is a repair manual that all ship personnel must be familiar with, said Petty Officer Rex Kramer, a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet Surface Force in San Diego, Calif.

"It does give some detail about some of the systems in the ship that a foreign government might want to know about," he said. "I would be worried about it."

Drug influx rises on Texas Border

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Customs calls it the "Mexican trampoline," and it has created a dramatic increase in the flow of cocaine across the Texas-Mexico border, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said.

According to Customs Service figures, there were 25 percent more seizures of the illegal drug along the Texas-Mexico in 1984 than in 1983 — but the amount seized increased by 4,800 percent.

"They call it the 'Mexican trampoline' because of the drugs coming from South America, bounced into Mexico and then into the United States," Bentsen, D-Texas, said.

He said U.S. Customs Service officials now estimate that 30 percent of the cocaine smuggled into the United States comes through Mexico.

According to Customs Service figures, Bentsen said, only nine pounds of cocaine were netted from 39 seizures on the Texas-

Mexico border in 1983. In 1984, there were 52 seizures netting 436 pounds of the illegal drug.

The national figure in 1983 was 52.7 pounds seized along the U.S.-Mexico border in 209 seizures.

In 1984, there were 293 seizures netting 2,144 pounds — an almost 4,000 percent increase in the amount of the drug seized from a 70 percent increase in the number of seizures.

"It is a serious and growing problem and it's obvious that they've moved their attention, that drug smugglers, from Florida, where we've had a real crackdown, over to the Texas-Mexican border," Bentsen said.

"We had a small slowdown at the beginning of this year at the time that our drug agent down in Mexico was murdered. Then again, you had a strict enforcement along the border and the smugglers moved their attention away from that. But they've obviously moved back to the Texas-Mexican border."

White signs bill tripling college tuition

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A bill that triples college tuition was signed into law over the weekend by Gov. Mark White. The bill touched off a demonstration of angry students at the Capitol 2½ months ago.

The Legislative Budget Board has estimated the bill would bring in revenue totaling \$285.8 million over the next two years.

Other researchers say that estimate could be high, however, because medical, dental and veterinary tuition increases were scaled back from the original proposal.

The demonstration of 2,000 students at the Capitol was directed at Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who proposed tripling tuition, but it was White who waited until the last day to sign the proposal.

"This session we had the option of not raising tuition, which would have forced us to cut back in programs and services in higher education and consequently diminish the value of degrees from Texas institutions, or we could have increased tuition," White said. "We chose the latter."

"But in doing so we insisted that money be set aside for those stu-

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dents who might not be able otherwise to afford the cost of tuition."

The increase is the first substantial tuition hike since 1957, before the vast majority of the student demonstrators were born.

The measure would raise academic tuition for a Texas resident from \$4 per semester hour this fall to \$12. Tuition would go to \$16 per semester hour in the fall of 1986 and would increase by \$2 per semester hour each two years until it reaches \$24 in the fall of 1995.

Tuition for nonresidents, who now pay \$40 per semester hour, also would triple, to \$120 this fall and would remain at \$120 next year. After that, it would be set at an amount to cover the actual estimated cost of a year's college education, which is now pegged at \$120 per semester hour.

Resident medical tuition would climb from \$400 per academic year to \$1,219 this fall with subsequent increases to \$5,463 in 1989. Nonresidents would pay four times the resident rate, beginning with \$4,876 in 1985 and rising to \$21,852 in 1989.

The Texas Research League said the nonresident rate scheduled to take effect in 1989 is less than half of the current cost of a medical education, estimated by the (College) Coordinating Board at \$54,629.

Dental and veterinary school tuition would follow the medical school pattern but at lower rates. For example, resident dental tuition would go up from \$400 to \$900 a year and veterinary tuition would rise from \$400 to \$800 with subsequent increases.

Law school tuition, which is now the same as that for general aca-

ademic courses — \$4 per semester hour — would jump to \$24 in the fall, and then increase each year by \$12 per semester hour until it reaches \$60 in 1988. Nonresidents would pay \$150 per semester hour.

While White claims that Texas will rank 50th in state tuition levels in 1985, others have placed Texas' tuition and fee charges at 46th among 48 states surveyed.

The new law would eliminate several tuition exemptions under which certain nonresidents are charged the cheaper resident tuition.

The law would require universities to set aside 15 percent of resident tuition and 5 percent of nonresident tuition to fund educational grants and loans but those percentages would decline in 1987.

At least 20 percent of the tuition "set-aside" would be used for an emergency loan program, with a maximum interest rate of 5 percent. The standard repayment period would be 90 days but that time could be extended.

Two percent of resident medical tuition would be set aside to repay student loans for physicians who serve with certain designated state agencies or in economically depressed areas of the state.