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President: Terrorism an act of war, U.S. has right to defend itself

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan on Monday branded Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua as partners in a terrorist network "now engaged in acts of war" against the United States, and declared that America "has the right to defend itself."

"The American people are not — I repeat not — going to tolerate intimidation, terror and outright acts of war against this nation and its people," Reagan said.

"And we are especially not going to tolerate these attacks from outlaw states run by the strangest collection of misfits, looney tunes and squalid criminals since the advent of the Third Reich."

The audience of several thousand delegates to the convention of the American Bar Association applauded and laughed at his description of the leaders of the "outlaw states." They also gave the president a standing ovation when he said Americans will always defend their country.

Reagan pointedly did not threaten any military steps or retaliation against terrorists, saying his purpose was to "simply state the facts about the nature of international terrorism and affirm America's will to resist it."

He said terrorists are trying to cause us to retreat, retrench, to become "Fortress America." "Yes, their real goal is to expel America from the world," Reagan said.

"That is the real reason these terrorist nations are arming, training and supporting attacks against this nation. And that is why we can be clear on one point: these terrorist states are now engaged in acts of war against the government and people of the United States."

"And under international law," Reagan added, "any state which is the victim of acts of war has the right to defend itself."

So far, there have been no retaliatory strikes during the Reagan administration for the many terrorist actions directed against Americans. Robert C. McFarlane, the president's

national security adviser, recently suggested there would be strikes against terrorist training camps or supply bases.

Reagan noted the hijacking of TWA flight 847 and the killing of four American Marines in El Salvador but did not pinpoint blame on any group.

Citing Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Nicaragua as sponsors of terrorism, Reagan said, "I submit to you that the growth in terrorism in recent years results from the increasing involvement of these states in terrorism in every region of the world."

Reagan said his list was not all-inclusive, but added, "Those which I have described are simply the ones that can be most directly implicated."

The president charged that terrorists represent "a new, international version of Murder, Inc." and said their sponsors are united by "their fanatical hatred of the United States . . ."



Undercover Photo by GREG BAILEY
This little bird sought refuge under the cover of a tree's leaves as a band of thunderstorms drenched the Bryan-College Station area Monday. Today, area residents can expect mostly cloudy skies with a 20 percent chance of rain and a high of 91 degrees.

U.S. court rules against creation law

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana's law requiring creation science to be given equal weight with the teaching of evolution in public schools was ruled unconstitutional Monday by a federal appeals court.

In its ruling, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said, "The act's intended effect is to discredit evolution by counterbalancing its teaching at every turn with the teaching of creationism, a religious belief."

The court upheld U.S. District Judge Adrian Duplantier's ruling against the 1981 law, which has never been enforced. It was the only such law still on the books in the nation.

Creation science is the theory that the Earth and everything on it was created all at once some thousands of years ago. It is in accordance with the Bible's version of creation in the Book of Genesis.

The theory of evolution holds that life began billions of years ago and has gradually developed from simpler forms.

Martha Kegel, New Orleans director of the American Civil Liberties Union which fought the law in court, said, "This decision puts the Louisiana creationism law out of its four-year misery."

"With the decision today, the federal appeals court made it very clear, abundantly clear, that creationism is religion, that it is not science, and that the courts will not tolerate government promotion of religion in the science classroom."

A&M student: Ecstasy easy to get in B-CS area

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Senior Staff Writer

The pills are known as "exes," the "wonder drug," the "recreational drug of the '80s" and the "love drug," while chemists call it methylenedioxymethamphetamine.

Doctors have coined the shorter term MDMA to describe the white capsules. Its most recognizable name is Ecstasy.

No matter what you call it, it's a methamphetamine drug similar to LSD that is becoming increasingly popular in the United States. Users say the drug offers the emotional high of cocaine without the subsequent letdown, destroys emotional barriers, makes everyone an instant friend and enhances sex.

Two Texas A&M students who have used the drug agreed to discuss it with The Battalion on the condition that their names not be revealed.

"It's really great," says one of the students. "It makes you feel like you're speeding. You really get to feeling good about everything. It makes you want to climb trees."

"You don't want any alcohol, or marijuana. I guess you could say it is similar to cocaine or crystal (a processed form of THC, the active chemical found in marijuana), but there never is any type of letdown."

The drug is similar to heroin, pro-

viding "fantastic" hallucinations when it is taken in strong enough doses, says the other student.

Ingestion of one 100-milligram pill provides effects lasting from four to eight hours, users say.

It costs between \$15 and \$20 for a 100-milligram dose, and it's easy to get, they say. Ecstasy can be bought for \$10 each if 100 or more of them are purchased at once.

Austin, Houston and Dallas seem to be the most popular places to purchase the drug, although users say it is readily available in the Bryan-College Station area.

"It is really easy to get it (Ecstasy) at almost any party," one of the students says. "You can also find people selling it at just about any local nightclub."

Until it became illegal to sell the drug, Ecstasy was sold openly inside nightclubs in the Dallas area.

Texas A&M officials say they are aware of the drug but have received no reports of its usage here.

"We are aware of it but we have received no reports of people using it," says Robert Burnett, a pharmacist at the A.P. Beutel Health Center. Similarly, Dr. Wade Birch of the A&M Student Counseling Service says he has "heard of no one actually using it," although he is "aware of it."

On July 1 a law went into effect that subjects manufacturers and sell-

ers of the drug to a \$125,000 fine and up to 15 years in prison. The law makes it a misdemeanor to possess the drug.

Within the past week — since Ecstasy became illegal — a slightly altered version of the drug has begun to appear. It is chemically similar to Ecstasy, with only one minor hydrocarbon alteration — enough to cause the drug to be chemically different from Ecstasy and therefore legal.

In early June, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency adhered to a Schedule I classification to the drug. A Schedule I classification is a label for drugs that have high abuse potential.

DEA officials say the label was put on the drug because Ecstasy is chemically similar to MDA, a drug that got a Schedule I classification in the early 1970s after it was linked to brain damage and death.

Few studies have been done to determine the actual effects Ecstasy has on the human body, however DEA officials say Ecstasy abuse "has become a nationwide problem that poses a serious health threat."

Con Daugherty, a DEA public affairs officer in Washington, D.C., says some incidents of nerve damage have been associated with the drug's use and at least one death has been associated with the drug.

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Mexican results unofficial

Ruling party claims win

Associated Press

HERMOSILLO, Mexico — The opposition National Action Party hurled charges of fraud Monday after the government party claimed a sweeping victory in national elections.

Although official results are not expected for a week, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, said early returns from around the country showed it won a major victory.

Here in prosperous Sonora state at the Arizona border, the PRI claimed in a statement that it won a "100 percent victory" in campaigns at every level, from the governor to city councils. The races here and in Nuevo Leon, along the Texas border, had been expected to be the most hotly contested in Mexican history.

Organizers at the state headquarters here of National Action, which has not conceded, said a rally would be held later in the day to protest fraud.

In a statement issued in Mexico City, top PRI spokesman Juan Saldana Rosell said, "We can affirm that we obtained clear triumphs" throughout the country. He said the claim was based on reports from the party's poll observers and included all seven gubernatorial elections.

Jorge Trevino, the PRI candidate for governor of Nuevo Leon, claimed victory Sunday night after receiving about half the results.

But his opponent, Fernando Canales Clariond of National Action, known as PAN, said "the Nuevo Leon elections were not clean." He planned to meet Monday with party officials to determine his course of action.

"There simply weren't elections," PAN spokesman Jose Luis Coindrea told the daily newspaper El Norte in Monterrey, the Nuevo Leon state capital. "This is a monstrous fraud." Nuevo Leon is a heavily industrialized state that borders Texas.

In Sonora, Rodolfo Felix Valdes predicted Sunday night he would win by a 3-1 margin.

PAN candidate Adalberto Rosas Lopez, who had mounted a strong challenge to Valdes, claimed there were widespread voting irregularities and said that he would protest on the street Monday.

San Luis Rio Colorado, near the Arizona border, was quiet Monday after election day violence.

On Sunday, about 200 PAN supporters threw rocks at the police station and burned five patrol cars to protest the detention of 18 youths for election-related disturbances.

The PAN activists said a ballot box they opened was stuffed with PRI votes, but local PRI leaders denied the allegation. There have been numerous charges of fraud in others states also.

The PRI has held the presidency and all governorships and dominated Congress since it was founded in 1929.

The PAN holds the other seat, along with half of the 100 seats allotted to minority parties according to the percentage of the vote they receive.

De la Madrid and other government leaders said the elections showed the maturity of the Mexican people and were carried out largely free of violence.

Official: A&M nuclear reactor unlikely target for terrorists

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

The nuclear reactor at the Texas A&M Nuclear Sciences Center would be an unlikely target for terrorists wanting to blow it up or steal radioactive fuel to make a weapon, a representative for the center says.

Donald Anderson, manager of reactor operations, says the weapons-grade reactor fuel used at the center could be used to build a nuclear weapon but would be difficult for terrorists to obtain without being exposed to the deadly radiation.

Anderson says the center is required to maintain a certain level of radiation within the reactor core which is located at the bottom of a 30-foot pool of water.

"As long as we do this, no one is going to steal fuel because if you raise it up above the surface of the pool and carry the fuel assembly off,

you would be dead before you got to town," he says.

Anderson says terrorists would have to take special precautions to rob the reactor of its fuel.

"They'd have to have some kind of a gigantic shield on a truck and several days to get it out of the reactor pool and into the shield," he says. "If they didn't maintain certain precautions for themselves, the radiation would kill them."

Anderson says since the University Police patrol the area frequently, fuel thieves would not have the time to get the fuel out and get away. He says a special system alerts the police of any intruders in the center.

"Whenever anybody opens any of the doors to the main reactor bay, an alarm occurs at the security office and the University Police come out to investigate who opened the door," Anderson says.

Although an explosion inside the

"There's no accident that could happen that would endanger anyone in Bryan-College Station." — Donald Anderson, manager of reactor operations at the Texas A&M Nuclear Sciences Center.

reactor core could cause the release of radioactive particles, the danger to the immediate area would be small, Anderson says.

"There's no accident that could happen that would endanger anyone in Bryan-College Station," he says.

Anderson says tests using a dye showed that most of the fission products, byproducts of uranium fission fuel, would be contained within the building if an explosion occurred.

"There would be a minimal hazard to the people adjacent to us at

the south end of the building," he says.

Anderson says the most likely terrorist threat would be the interception of a truck bringing new fuel to the center. The next shipment will be in about 10 years, he says.

Anderson says a terrorist has better options to choose from.

"If I were a terrorist and I wanted to build a nuclear weapon, I would get a group together and obtain a list of the plutonium-beryllium sources in the state," he says.

Anderson says 20 or 30 terrorists individually raiding these sources at

the same time could obtain the necessary materials for a weapon.

"If you got a hundred of them together, you could build a pretty nice nuclear weapon," he says.

No attempts have been made to destroy or steal fuel since the reactor began operating in 1961.

"We've never had any demonstrations or anything out here in the 24 years we've been in operation," he says.

Anderson says the reactor is used for research purposes and does not generate any power. He says materials such as gold, technetium, bromine, iron and cobalt are made radioactive by exposing them to the reactor.

The materials are lowered into the reactor pool to be exposed to the radiation emitted from the fuel elements. Fuel elements, or clads, are stainless-steel tubes which contain Uranium 235.

Medicinally, the radioactive gold is used to treat prostate cancer. The radioactive technetium is used as a tracer inside the body so nuclear pictures can be taken of vital organs.

Industries use radioactive bromine as a tracer inside of chemical processing systems. Cobalt is used as a tracer to determine thickness of materials.

Anderson says the reactor is used by industries such as Texas Instruments, M.D. Anderson Hospital, Shell Development and also by other universities within a 100-mile radius of the reactor.

The one-megawatt reactor at the University is one of eight similar reactors at universities around the nation. There are a total of about 40 reactors in the nation that have above or below one megawatt capacity.