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Italian leader resigns after hijacking crisis

Associated Press

ROME — Premier Bettino Craxi resigned Thursday, his coalition shattered by the way he handled the ship hijacking crisis, and he went down swinging at the United States for its "polemical tone" in the affair.

In a statement to Parliament, the Socialist premier accused Washington of making statements, "which I believe derive from an incomplete evaluation of the facts and circumstances in which the Italian government acted."

The fate of Italy's 44th postwar government, which in another month would have been the longest-lived, was sealed Wednesday by the resignations of Defense Minister

Giovanni Spadolini and two other Cabinet members from his Republican Party.

They quit over the decision to release Mohammed Abbas, a PLO official the United States accuses of directing the hijacking last week of the cruise liner Achille Lauro.

The foreign policy conflict brought down the center-left coalition, which included five parties, after 26 months in office.

Four Palestinians hijacked the ship Oct. 7 off Port Said, Egypt and surrendered Oct. 9. U.S. Navy jets from the aircraft carrier Saratoga intercepted an Egyptian airliner carrying the pirates and Abbas and forced it to land at a NATO air base in Sicily

early Friday, Oct. 11.

Craxi submitted his resignation to President Francesco Cossiga after the speech to Parliament and was asked to stay on in a caretaker capacity.

Cossiga's office said the president would begin political consultations Friday toward naming a new premier-designate.

The dominant Christian Democrat Party, one of the five parties, said it would like to see the same coalition maintained. Cossiga could achieve that by asking Craxi to try to form a new government or turning to someone else in the group.

Craxi said in his speech that the United States had asked him to get

in touch with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, at the start of negotiations for release of the Achille Lauro and those aboard.

The premier said he had lodged a protest with the United States government, charging that Italian air space had been violated. He claimed two American warplanes followed the Egyptian airliner, without authorization, when it flew from Sicily to Ciampino military airport in Rome last Friday night with Abbas aboard.

Defense Minister Spadolini, whose resignation caused the coalition to collapse, told reporters later that Craxi's account of the alleged violation by U.S. planes was accurate

"in every detail."

Craxi said, "The Italian government has decided to open an investigation and a protest was immediately filed with the Washington government."

"The polemical tone of the first reactions of the American govern-

ment could not but provoke the strongest and displeased surprise as well as a feeling of bitterness for the ignorance on the part of a friendly government of everything that the Italian government had done," the prime minister said in his 40-minute address.

Consequences of U.S. actions viewed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After basking in the triumph of the capture of the hijackers of the Achille Lauro, the Reagan administration now must deal with the unfavorable consequences, underscored by the fall of

an Italian government long supportive of American interests.

Particularly disturbing to some is that a terrorist incident could have led to the resignation of the government of Premier Bettino Craxi of

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Cisneros asks 14 AIDS victims to think twice

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The city health department has hand-delivered letters to 14 AIDS victims warning that sexual activity will result in felony charges, and Mayor Henry Cisneros says carriers of the disease should "transcend their individual rights" in deference to society.

The letters dispatched this week also order the AIDS victims to avoid exposing others to the disease through sharing needles or donating blood or plasma, and to caution physicians and dentists with whom they come into contact.

"I think most people are reasonable and that they will follow the last paragraph in the letter to accept this letter in the spirit in which it was intended and help me in my effort to protect the public health," Dr. Courand Rothe, director of the health department, said Thursday.

Rothe said he became concerned about the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome after a male prostitute in Houston, who is an AIDS victim, said he would continue to engage in sexual activity.

Seventeen people are known to have AIDS in the San Antonio area, but letters were sent to only 14, Rothe said. There is no concern about the three others spreading the disease, he said, but declined to elaborate.

Rothe said his agency is working under the authority of the Texas Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act, which allows controls on people who are health risks to the community.

Violation of the warnings could result in third-degree felony charges, he said.

"Mind you, we can only do this if there is a credible complaint from someone," he said.

Cisneros has not commented directly on the letters, but urged AIDS victims Wednesday to "transcend their individual rights so they can play roles as part of the larger society."

"Any person who has it, first of all, owes an obligation to all of us to

get themselves treated," the mayor said. "They should not lightheartedly slough off their obligation to others as human beings."

Earlier this month, Cisneros urged health officials to publish pamphlets on AIDS, which strips the body of its immunity against disease, and to hold a public forum to increase awareness.

Rothe said he received a report from a physician that one of his patients knew of at least three AIDS patients in the San Antonio area who would not limit their activities.

A&M's Olympics expand

By JUNE PANG
Staff Writer

For the first time in the three-year history of Texas A&M's Mini-Olympics, Americans also will be going for the gold.

The Mini-Olympics is an annual athletic competition among international students at A&M. But this year members of Tau Kappa, the junior honor society, will compete for the Americans in the games.

"We want to bring people from every country to know each other," said Naynesh Desai, ISA secretary and the organizer of this year's games. "By doing this, the international students have a chance to participate in an activity that most people are interested in."

The president of Tau Kappa, Mike Cotton, said his group is excited about participating in the games, which will be held for the next two weekends.

"One member of the club (Tau Kappa) participated in the games last year," Cotton said. "He was told that the international students were interested in getting American students involved but didn't know how to go about it." So the Tau Kappa members talked about it and agreed it would be a good idea to compete, Cotton said.

There are nine events in the Mini-Olympics: badminton, basketball, racquetball, indoor soccer, swimming, tennis, table tennis, track and volleyball. All events have both men's and women's teams, and most events have co-ed teams.

Desai, a graduate student in chemical engineering from India, said the students who organized the Mini-Olympics in the past did not keep records of the games. Since this made the planning difficult for organizers of this year's

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Photo by STEVE DAREING

Here Comes The Flood

A sudden downpour Thursday afternoon caused enough water buildup and heavy runoff at Texas A&M to form this torrent of rushing water on the University golf course — just one more water

hazard to avoid for those avid golfers tempted to play a round. A total of .31 inches of rain fell on the Bryan-College Station area from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Students will only pay for printouts

A&M to lower cost of computer use

By TAMARA BELL
Staff Writer

Texas A&M's Computer Center is implementing a three-step plan that will lower the cost of using University computers, the director of the center says.

William Lafield says that beginning Monday students will no longer be charged for computer time when working on class assignments. But he says students must continue to pay for the computer printouts to cover the cost of buying paper. The cost is 3.4 cents per page, he says.

Since the center was established in 1958, students have paid for use of

the computer, Lafield says. The amount students pay depends on the hour of day they use the computer. If the students use the computer during a low priority time, after midnight, they pay one cent per second. If they use it during the day, then it's eight cents per second.

"This is a first step toward reaching our aim for the future," Lafield says. "The cost to the student has gradually decreased since the center was established. Sure we've had to tighten our belts because of budget cuts this year, but we've weathered the cuts because we've preplanned for these increases to the center's expenses."

The second step toward reaching their goal involves an increase in computer funds available to the colleges.

"The vice president for academic affairs provides computer funds, guaranteed funds, for colleges to allocate to the professors," Lafield says. "The professor establishes an account with the Computer Center. The professor gives the students identification numbers to use the computers."

Funds available for allocation by the Computer Center has increased over previous years by 25 percent, making \$850,000 available this year, Lafield says.

The center is in the process of allocating the funds to every college except the colleges of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, which are appropriated separately, he says. Allocation of the funds will be based on the need and the requirements of each college.

The third step taken to meet the goal involves the establishment of block grants for researchers and graduate students.

Applications for the block grants of low priority computer time will be available at the end of October, he says.

Proposition 2 Non-PUF universities voice mixed reactions to recent funding changes

Editor's note: This is the third in a three-part series on the effects of Proposition 2 on spending at Texas universities.

By JENS B. KOEPKE
Staff Writer

State universities not included in the Permanent University Fund have had mixed reactions to the changes mandated in higher education funding by Proposition 2.

The passage of Proposition 2 in November 1984 modified the function of the PUF, the primary source of construction revenue for the Texas A&M and University of Texas systems.

Proposition 2 established a \$100 million Education Assistance Fund from general revenues for use by 26 state universities not in-

cluded in the PUF. The money can be spent on major repairs and renovations, new construction, land acquisition, equipment and library books.

The PUF is an endowment of oil-rich land, a percentage of which is used as collateral for construction bonds for the A&M and UT systems. Interest from PUF investments makeup the Available University Fund, which finances enrichment programs such as endowed professorships and scholarships. The UT system gets two-thirds of the AUF while the A&M system gets one-third.

From 1966-1978, state universities not included in the PUF funded new construction through the state ad valorem tax, a property tax. Other expenditures were funded by state allocations from general revenues. In the late

70s, when the ad valorem tax became unpopular with land owners, the Texas Legislature reduced the rate of taxation to almost zero, gutting the tax.

"What the Legislature did was to set it (the tax) at a rate that essentially violated the spirit and the letter of the constitution," says Eugene Payne, Texas Tech University vice president for finance and administration.

Because the tax was still a part of the constitution, the institutions could not go to the Legislature for general revenue appropriations and were left without a dedicated source of renovation or construction funding, Payne says. The fiscal dilemma was addressed by the Legislature which drafted Proposition 2, establishing the \$100 million fund.

"Proposition 2 has corrected the deficien-

cies that were created when the ad valorem tax was disbanded," Payne says. "If we had not had that (Proposition 2), we would have continued to deteriorate until there was nothing there."

However, Payne says, the university is disappointed that the Legislature, after providing non-PUF schools with the assistance fund, turned around and cut library and Departmental Operating Expense (DOE) appropriations to those schools. He says he felt it violated the spirit of the proposition, which was designed to provide funding above what already was available in state appropriations.

Texas Tech also was disappointed that non-PUF schools could not receive any inter-

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