

## World and Nation

### Achille Lauro

Victims recount hijacking of Italian liner

Associated Press

GENOA, Italy — "They brought chocolate to the children," one crew member said, treasuring the one bright fragment in a black memory of terror and murder aboard the Achille Lauro.

Those who had skipped the land tour were having a lunch as lazy as the ship's pace along the Egyptian coast. Their jaws froze at the chilling, staccato sounds outside. But they soon moved again, because it couldn't be gunfire, just someone playing a joke with firecrackers.

Then pirates with automatic weapons pushed the ship's officers through the door and fired into the ceiling. It was 1:15 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 7. The nightmare cruise had begun, and one of the terrified people in that room would die.

When the Achille Lauro docked Wednesday night in Genoa, its home port, it carried 313 crew members and 19 passengers. Most of the more than 800 passengers on the cruise

had left for a brief tour of the Pyramids before the ship was hijacked; or they had gotten off in Port Said, Egypt, after the hijackers surrendered.

This is what happened, based on interviews by The Associated Press and official reports:

The maitre d'hotel, Siro Amicone, was sitting with the chef when the hijackers arrived, clutching hand grenades, and began shooting holes in the ceiling with Kalashnikov automatic rifles.

"We had thought someone was kidding, maybe with those firecrackers that you use on holiday," Amicone said, sitting in the same dining room 10 days later. He pointed to the ceiling where some bullet holes remained, despite repair work to get the ship ready for its next cruise.

"I started to stand up, then they started to shoot at the ceiling and to shout at everybody to put their hands up and to shut up," he said. "We all sat down."

Susan Shaw of Durban, South Africa, said, "We saw the officers coming in with their hands over their heads and the terrorists with their machine guns out behind them and we realized it was for real. We all dived under the table."

More than 600 passengers had gone ashore at Alexandria for a sightseeing tour that was to rejoin the ship at Port Said. Most of the 500-odd people caught aboard by the hijackers were crew members who regularly make the 12-day run to ports in Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, Greece and the Italian island of Capri.

It was nearly seven hours before Italian authorities learned that the ship had been hijacked. A coastal radio station in Goteborg, Sweden, had picked up a ship-to-shore conversation indicating the 24,000-ton vessel was in pirate hands.

Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti then began making diplomatic contacts — with the United States,

### Black man scheduled to hang says apartheid will not survive

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The mother of a black man sentenced to die for a murder he claims he did not commit says her son would sing a hymn of praise to anti-apartheid guerrillas on the way to the gallows today.

Benjamin Moloise's last message to the world Thursday, delivered with a clenched fist raised, was "We shall overcome."

The white-minority government has dismissed pleas for a new trial and rejected calls from abroad to spare the life of the 30-year-old upholsterer, who also writes poetry.

The hanging would be the fifth in South Africa of a member or self-proclaimed supporter of the African National Congress, the main guerrilla group fighting the government.

Riots were reported in mixed-race townships around Cape Town, and in the huge black city of Soweto outside Johannesburg, where stone-throwing youths fought street battles with police firing tear gas.

Witnesses says Michael Hornsby, correspondent for The Times of London, was wounded by police shotgun fire in Soweto. Colleagues at the scene says the wounds were not serious.

Police reported no deaths Thursday, but more than 750 people have

*"We shall overcome, and tomorrow I will spill my blood for those who remained behind."*

— Benjamin Moloise, supporter of the African National Congress.

died in 14 months of violence against apartheid, the race laws that guarantee privilege for South Africa's 5 million whites and deny rights to its 24 million blacks.

Mamike Moloise, 53, says after her final visit with her son: "I found him stronger than ever . . . ready to die."

Moloise was convicted of killing a black policeman, Warrant Officer Phillip Selepe, who was cut down by automatic weapons fire outside his home in Pretoria in 1982. Moloise admits helping plan the murder and being in the area but claims he merely accompanied the killers to counter their suspicions that he was a police agent.

The ANC, which has its headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, says it ordered Selepe slain for his role in

arresting guerrilla saboteurs but Moloise was not the killer.

"Those who are leading him to his death must feel the blows of our anger . . . We shall not forget," the ANC said Thursday in a statement issued in Lusaka.

Appeals for clemency came from the governments of the United States, France and West Germany, and from the European Economic Community and United Nations.

Last year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, South African Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu, says he had sent an urgent telex to President P.W. Botha asking for the hanging to be called off.

"It will only aggravate the situation in this country," Tutu says.

Moloise's lawyer, Priscilla Jana, says of her last meeting with her client Thursday morning:

"He seemed absolutely confident that this country will be freed from the shackles of oppression. . . . As we parted, he stood up, raised his clenched fist and says to tell the whole world that, 'We shall overcome, and tomorrow I will spill my blood for those who remained behind.'"

### U.S. economy up by 3.3 percent; growth falls below expectations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy, boosted by an automobile buying spree, enjoyed a moderate rebound in growth during the summer, but the pace was still substantially below the increase forecast by the Reagan administration, the government said Thursday.

The gross national product, the broadest measure of economic health, grew at a 3.3 percent annual rate from July through September, the Commerce Department said.

This represented an upward revision from an initial estimate of 2.8 percent growth made a month ago. It was also three times faster than the weak 1.1 percent growth rate turned in during the first six months of the year.

However, the administration was

forecasting a rebound to growth of around 5 percent in the final half of 1985.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige called the smaller upturn good news, but conceded it "would be difficult" to achieve the kind of growth needed to hit the administration's target of 3 percent expansion for the entire year.

Many private analysts said the country will more likely achieve weak growth of around 2 percent this year, a rate that some analysts have termed a "growth recession," a time when the economy expands at such a sluggish pace that unemployment rises.

In a possible ominous sign for the future, the Commerce Department also said housing construction fell a sharp 9.3 percent in September to

an annual level of 1.58 million new starts, the slowest pace since last October.

Analysts were surprised by the drop, which included a 10.4 percent decline in single-family starts and a 7.6 percent fall in apartment construction. Some suggested that builders' fears of interest rate increases may have contributed to the downturn.

The GNP report showed that inflation remained well under control.

An index which measures the same marketbasket of goods increased at an annual rate of just 2.9 percent in the third quarter, the slowest pace in 13 years. Prices as measured by this index had risen at a rate of 3.9 percent in the second quarter.

G.W. Pabsf's

DIARY OF A LOST GIRL



LOUISE BROOKS



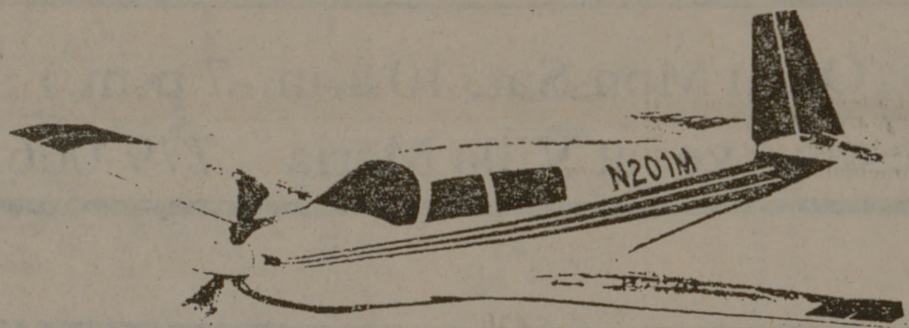
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