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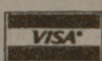
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SHOE



by Jeff MacNelly

Waste

Bureaucratic trips costing tax payers big bucks

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — State Department and U.S. Information Agency employees ran up tabs totaling \$556,232 on luxury cruise ships like the Queen Elizabeth II in a recent three-year period, congressional investigators said Wednesday. Had commercial airlines been used instead, the 102 trips between the United States and overseas assignments would have cost taxpayers \$160,047 and possibly less, the General Accounting Office told the House Government Operations legislation and national security subcommittee.

In addition, a GAO report, terming ocean and Mississippi riverboat travel an "excessive and unnecessary expense," said employees' time spent aboard ship was considered duty — not vacation — and cost taxpayers an average of \$200 a day in lost productivity.

GAO also said that because of poor accounting procedures, the State Department and USIA as of last January had given people \$12.3 million in advance travel payments

that had not been reconciled either by refunds of unspent money to the government or documentation of actual travel expenses.

John Condayan, acting deputy assistant secretary for operations at the State Department, told the subcommittee that the department on Monday issued new travel rules to end a practice he said was used by only 2 percent of the diplomatic corps. The new regulations, permit ocean travel only for medical reasons or when an employee agrees to use vacation time and pay the difference between a cruise ship and economy airfare.

In documenting 79 cruises by State Department people and 23 by those from the USIA in the 36 months ending September 1984, GAO found 48 trips at an average cost of \$6,084, nearly four times the average airplane cost of \$1,665.

All but one of the cruises were five-day Atlantic crossings in luxury class. The other one was a \$13,761, 24-day trip for two people from Bangkok to Honolulu that the GAO says could have been made by air for \$2,000 in two days.

The costliest trip cited by the GAO found a family of four on a 26-day journey, flying from Los Angeles to Colombia and taking a voyage along the east coast of South America to Uruguay. The GAO said it cost \$21,956 — \$18,396 more than a one-day flight.

GAO said it was told by foreign service officers that prior approval from superiors for ocean voyages was not required. The officers said ship travel was known to be more expensive but was considered "a fringe benefit," GAO said.

The report said the previous travel regulations were conflicting. On one hand, they permitted ocean travel. On the other, employees were required to "use the most direct and expeditious routes consistent with economy."

Joan McCabe, an associate director of the GAO, said that during the 18-month investigation "very few people tried to justify this travel on the basis of its merits. The typical rationale is, it is permitted, therefore it is allowable."

Reagan delays arms sale

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, bowing to overwhelming pressure in the Republican-controlled Senate, agreed Wednesday to delay his \$1.9 billion Jordanian arms sale until March 1, unless Jordan and Israel begin peace talks, congressional sources said.

These sources said Reagan relayed his position to Senate GOP leaders, who had informed the administration they would move on their own to sidetrack the unpopular sale. The president's plan to sell sophisticated aircraft, air defense missiles and other arms to Jordan faces massive opposition from Republicans and Democrats alike in Congress.

Only last week, Secretary of State George Shultz rebuffed Senate GOP leaders who asked the president to delay his formal notification of the sale.

The president formally notified Congress on Monday of his intention to sell the weapons to Jordan. More than 70 senators oppose the administration's proposal to make the sale unconditionally, and one senator said the president would have taken a "thrashing" if the issue had come to a vote.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters he expected the full Senate would approve the temporary ban on the sale today.

Lugar told reporters the legislation would "preserve the option for the president" of selling arms to Jordan at a later date, as well as "opponents the assurances they wanted" that the sale would not go ahead unless Jordan's King Hussein sat down at the bargaining table for "direct and meaningful peace negotiations" with the Israelis.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres earlier this week proposed direct peace talks with Hussein. The Jordanian embassy issued a statement Wednesday saying Peres' proposal was "being studied carefully by the Jordanian government."

Several senators have indicated they don't want their opposition to the arms sale to be interpreted as a slap at Hussein.

Mormon leaders deny sinister dealings

Associated Press
SALT LAKE CITY — Mormon Church leaders said Wednesday there was nothing "sinister and underhanded" about their meetings with bombings suspect Mark Hofmann regarding a purported treasure-trove of historical documents.

Responding to news accounts of two fatal bombings apparently linked to trafficking in early Mormon records, church officials held a rare news conference at church headquarters to detail their dealings with the man police describe as their prime suspect.

"In the glare and innuendo of publicity accompanying the recent investigation, a normal, though confidential, transaction has been made to appear sinister and underhanded," said Dallin Oaks, a member of the church's Council of the Twelve Apostles.

"My own contact with it has been seen as mysterious and questionable. I therefore welcome the opportunity to set the public record straight," said Oaks, who met with Hofmann on Oct. 15 just hours after the bombings.

Hofmann, 31, who had been involved in trading or selling some 40 documents to the church since 1980, was in satisfactory condition recovering from injuries sustained in a

third bombing Oct. 16, which police believe was accidental.

Police have speculated that Hofmann may have planted the bombs to hide possible forgery or double-dealing relating to his business as a respected but financially strapped

"... a normal, though confidential, transaction has been made to appear sinister and underhanded." — Dallin Oaks, a member of the church's Council of the Twelve Apostles.

dealer in historical documents. No charges have been filed against Hofmann.

Gordon B. Hinckley, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' governing First Presidency, said Hofmann offered in June to donate a collection of letters, diaries and ancient papyri he called the McLellan papers.

Hinckley said he had not been aware previously of such a collection. He said he told Hofmann he would be interested in talking further once Hofmann had acquired

the papers and paid off a \$150,000 loan he had acquired from another dealer for the transaction.

"I always had some doubt about the McLellan collection because the church's historical department knew nothing of it," said Hinckley, who runs the church's daily affairs for its President Spencer W. Kimball.

Hinckley and Oaks denied that the church had offered money for the papers of William E. McLellan, an early church apostle who was communicated in 1838. Hinckley said the church was under a mandate to acquire historical documents, but always had done so legally and from reputable dealers.

Oaks said he was approached in late June by another church official, Hugh Pinnock, about the possibility of the church loaning \$185,000 to Hofmann to buy the collection. Oaks refused, but said he authorized Pinnock to arrange a private loan to Hofmann at First Interstate Bank where Pinnock is a board member.

Oaks said he wasn't aware at the time of Hofmann's earlier conversation with Hinckley, who was then in town, or of the \$150,000 loan to Hofmann from Salt Lake coin dealer Alvin Rust.

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