

World and Nation

Orders given to shoot looters

Soldiers now patrolling Armero

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — Soldiers patrolled the town of Armero with orders to shoot looters who roamed the sea of mud, stepping on the injured in their haste to rob the dead, officials said Monday.

Victor Ricardo, president of the government emergency committee, told Caracol radio he had reports of looting in the devastated area. He said Col. Rafael Horacio Ruiz was appointed mayor of Armero and its outlying districts and told to restore order.

Mayor Isaac Rodriguez of Lerida, four miles from Armero, said on Caracol that the army "has been given orders to shoot looters."

Radio reporters said they had seen loot from Armero for sale in Mariquita, Honda and other nearby towns that survived the destruction in the valley 105 miles west of Bogota.

Five more survivors were found, including a 7-year-old boy, according to rescue workers interviewed by the Colombian radio chain RCN.

Colombia's health minister said

two cases of typhoid fever had been reported in the Andes valley farming town destroyed by last week's volcanic eruption. He said the area would be fumigated to kill flies that carry typhoid but the spraying would not interfere with rescue operations.

Officials say about 25,000 people were killed when the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted last Wednesday, melting part of its snowcap and sending a 15-foot-high wall of mud down the Languilla River and over Armero.

Juan Otorola, a fireman working with a rescue team told RCN radio Monday: "We located a little boy buried in the mud who was barely alive." He said he reached the boy by swimming through stinking mud that nearly covered his head.

Weak voices crying for help could be heard Monday in outlying areas of Armero, where the ground is higher than the devastated center of town, he said.

The three-mile-high volcano was spewing out steam and ash 3,000 to 5,000 feet above its cone.

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For more information:

- ★ Come to the Dean's Office, College of Liberal Arts, 802 Harrington Tower;
- ★ Visit with a representative from the University of Houston's London Program on Thursday, November 21, from 10:30 to 2:30 at a table in the MSC.

NOW is the time to sign up — come in right away for details!

U.S., Vietnamese soldiers begin joint search for MIAs

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Village children lined the road Monday and watched a gum-chewing U.S. soldier drive a tractor to the excavation site at Yen Thuong village on the outskirts of Hanoi, where remains of U.S. airmen may be buried.

In an unprecedented joint search, American and Vietnamese military men are to begin digging today for remains of the airmen, whom the Vietnamese say bombed their cities 13 years ago.

Workers tore down a brick kitchen building so Sgt. Michael Dixon and his 7½-ton tractor could enter the village.

Hundreds of children gathered as Dixon, wearing a baseball cap and Hawaiian print shirt, jockeyed the tractor to the village from Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport.

Dixon, from Oak Hill, W. Va., is attached to the 84th Engineering Battalion at Schofield, Honolulu.

Air Force Capt. Virginia Pribyla, spokeswoman for the U.S. team, said U.S. experts would use metal detectors to determine where and how far

"... we are encouraged by the increased willingness of the Vietnamese to cooperate" in the search.

— Virginia Pribyla, spokeswoman for the U.S. excavation team.

to dig. After the tractor clears the upper layer of earth, workers with hand shovels will probe for what the Vietnamese say may be the wreckage of a B-52 and the remains of four crew members, she said.

The 13-member U.S. military team includes explosives experts and specialists in locating and recovering human remains. Helping them will be 10 Vietnamese soldiers and civilians experienced in excavation work. The operation is expected to take 10 to 12 days.

"The significance of this first joint excavation is obvious and we are encouraged by the increased will-

ingness of the Vietnamese to cooperate" in the search for remains, Pribyla said.

Hanoi has pledged to account within two years for the 1,797 Americans still listed as missing in action in Vietnam.

U.S. officials have no independent confirmation of the crash, but long-time inhabitants of Yen Thuong said the B-52 was downed by missiles while on a bombing raid on the night of Dec. 20, 1972. Vietnamese officials said that two crew members parachuted out, were captured and later returned to the United States, and that four other crewmen probably died in the crash.

Many Vietnamese were killed or injured in the 1972 "Christmas bombings" ordered by President Nixon on the Hanoi-Haiphong area. Nguyen Thi Teo, 60, still living in Yen Thuong, said her husband and son were killed and her house destroyed when the bomber crashed.

But she said she is not angry with the returning Americans who will be digging up her vegetable garden, which Vietnamese officials say was the center of the crash.

Borrowing becoming a way of life

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nearly 13 percent of medical school seniors in the 1984-1985 class owed at least \$50,000, a situation likely to force many of them into lucrative subspecialties at the expense of primary care.

To medical students, debt has become as stark a reality as the skeleton that adorns their classrooms. No less than 87 percent of 1985's seniors owed money, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In the past six years the average of senior medical student debt has al-

most doubled to \$29,943. The percent owing at least \$30,000 has more than tripled. And the percentage at least \$50,000 in debt has risen at least eight times.

Startling when viewed by themselves, these figures from the AAMC tend to lose their shock effect when viewed as part of the larger pattern of American debt. Borrowing has become the American way. The evidence is all about.

Bank failures and huge loan writeoffs, a crisis in farm credit, rising home mortgage delinquencies and the highest installment debt burdens ever remind Americans that loans aren't without consequences.

In spite of the high numbers, economists repeatedly assert their belief that the economy can support the rising debt levels, pointing to such factors as strong employment, rising incomes and low inflation.

It is important to maintain perspective, say Richard Rahn and Graciela Testa-Ortiz, U.S. Chamber of Commerce economists. There is no "compelling evidence," they say, that the commercial banking system is in jeopardy.

Nor, say many economists, is the consumer over his head in debt. In fact, it is said over and over again, consumers were wise to grab up easy-term home mortgages.

Trial begins over safety of widely used IUD

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The first major legal battle over the nation's most widely used intrauterine contraceptive device began Monday, with an attorney telling jurors that G.D. Searle & Co. rushed the Copper 7 to market on the basis of a "fatally flawed" study.

The 17 plaintiffs, women from all parts of the country, blame the device for pelvic inflammations, sterility and other gynecological problems. They are seeking unspecified damages.

In an emotional opening to the federal court trial, eight of the

women were introduced from their front row seats as their attorney explained the medical problems he said they suffered from using the IUD. Several wept after they sat down.

The suit claims Searle was negligent, failed to adequately warn women of the IUD's dangers, knowingly withheld information about its risk, and breached an expressed warranty about its safety.

In opening arguments, Searle's attorney, Paul F. Strain, countered that the Copper 7 has "the overwhelming endorsement of the American medical community" and is prescribed a million times a year.

In the first stage of the trial, during which none of the 17 women will be called to testify, the plaintiffs will have to prove that the Copper 7 does cause the kind of problems alleged. If they can prove that, they will then have to show it was responsible for each woman's specific problem.

Searle, a unit of Monsanto Co. that is based at Skokie, Ill., has won six of nine IUD lawsuits that have gone to trial since the Copper 7 was placed on the market in 1974, a company spokesman said. It lost two cases, and a third resulted in a hung jury.

Attorneys for both sides said this case will be the first major legal test

because of the number of women involved and because attorneys have pooled resources to take on the company.

The women's attorney, Roger Pardieck, said in opening arguments that results of a test of the IUD on 16,000 women around the world, beginning in 1970, were "fatally flawed" because the company did not follow up on 31 percent of the cases.

Pardieck said Searle "felt compelled" to get its IUD to market "as fast as it could" because of competition from the makers of the Dalkon Shield, another IUD taken off the market in 1974.

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